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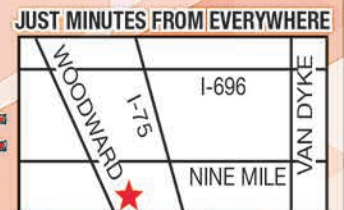
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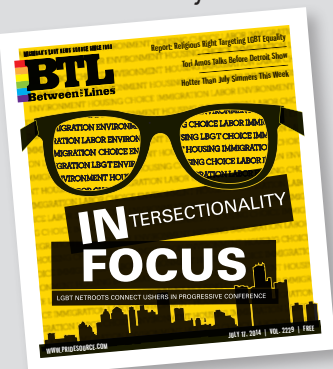
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COVER

6-10 Intersectionality focus



“ I do think a lot of my friends in the gay community keep some of their feelings very private and they protect them, so therefore music and art is a way to express those feelings. ”

—Tori Amos, pg. 20



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ONLINE XTRA



Election 2014: Aug. 5 Primary Could See Openly Gay Candidates Advance Across Michigan

With elections just around the corner, several openly gay and hundreds of LGBT-affirming candidates are running across Michigan. Keep up with the excitement online at www.Pridesource.com

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Two More Openly LGBT Candidates Announce Michigan Campaigns

BY AJ TRAGER

Two more Michigan candidates have come out of the political closet. Susan Grettenberger, running for the 8th Congressional District, and Nathan Morrish, running for 34th State House Representative seat, both spoke with BTL about their pre-primary vote campaigns.

Susan Grettenberger



Grettenberger received her Bachelors from Albion College in Psychology and Education. She has since received a Masters in Social Work from the University of Illinois, Chicago and Ph.D. in Social Work from Michigan

State University. She currently works at Central Michigan as a Professor teaching Social Work.

At the age of three, Grettenberger and her family moved to Argentina. After moving back to the States a few years later, Grettenberger's parents decided to maintain a bilingual household, a lesson that Grettenberger feels was very valuable to her upbringing and to her personhood. She self-identifies as bilingual and bi-cultural and considers education for young people crucial for development.

Keeping the political conversation open between those who make the laws and those that are affected by them is something Grettenberger wants to strengthen. She believes we need to "treat each other better."

Grettenberger and her partner have four children, all in their twenties. And for a woman who spends much of her week speaking with and educating Michigan's up-in-coming working class, Grettenberger wants to see the living paycheck-to-paycheck model disposed of. She sees many students struggling to get through college and says that the educational system needs to change so that it can be available to everyone.

"All the things fit together for me: the economy, education, equal rights..." Grettenberger said. "We need a society where people have equal footing whether it's women, people of color, LGBT people; where people can be who they are, have their

rights protected, have good jobs, have a right to healthcare, know they are going to get equal pay and not be discriminated against."

"We need to create jobs," she said strongly. "We need an environment that is good. Yet we continue to degrade the environment in the interest of getting jobs."

As a social worker, Grettenberger says she is appalled by how working poor and middle class families have been under assault. Once in office, she intends to work hard on making that change.

Grettenberger On The Issues: In addition to increasing the minimum wage to a living wage, Grettenberger will work on making job creation and job strength a priority, create policies that encourage companies to create jobs rather than ship them overseas, work with the automobile industry to keep development and production off the next generation of surface transportation, find a solution to make social security funding last longer rather than cutting it, increase healthcare for women, stand for women's rights, diminish or eradicate the wage gap, ensure accessible, high quality education for everybody, make sure healthcare is affordable and ensure children have healthcare thanks to the ACA, improve and maintain LGBT rights, keep environmental standards strong, make sure medical and social services are funded well and are accessible to veteran and get corporate money out of politics.

Grettenberger has been endorsed by both Democracy for America and the Women's Campaign Fund. She is also a member of the Michigan Education Association.

Visit her campaign website at <http://grettenbergerforcongress.com>.

Nathan Morrish



Currently working as an EMT for Lapeer County EMS, Morrish is no stranger to struggle and battling the odds. He has served on the Lake Ville Community Schools Board of Education, started and co-

chartered a Compassionate Friends Chapter, served as Community At Large Member for Flint Civil Service Commission and helped fundraise and volunteer for associations

such as Relay for Life, American Heart Association, The Special Olympics and the Mott Park Neighborhood Association Neat Street Project. Morrish is also a National Representative for the National Association of Government Employees and International Associations of EMTs and Paramedics.

Knowing that he is up against "some top runners" with name recognition and experience in the political spectrum, Morrish is keeping his platform strong, focusing on change.

"We need change. If we are going to keep voting in the same people, we are going to have the same government," Morrish said. He is trying to convey to voters that the same actions will garnish the same results. He says he's been getting good feedback.

At a recent NAACP forum with all the candidates, Morrish came out in support of marriage equality instead of just gay marriage. Him and his partner have been together for 14 years and both have daughters who, according to Morrish, are doing great. "They aren't demented," he joked.

Morrish is passionate about repealing the Emergency Manager Bill, freeing Flint and many of the other Michigan cities who currently have an Emergency manager so they can function with the representatives and city officials that were voted into office by the people.

He believed something needed to happen with Flint, but appointing an Emergency Manager was not the right course of action.

"As a voter and resident of the city of Flint, I feel democracy is gone with this guy," Morrish said. "They are totally ignoring the city's charter, they are destroying contracts with labor unions. To me, that is not a city manager; that is a dictator. I would think that they would assist the elected officials that we put into office. They get too many powers."

Morrish On The Issues: Once elected into office, Morrish will work to repeal Right to Work, The Emergency Manager Law, see that Flint is removed from the "Worst Cities in America" list, work towards marriage equality and work on bettering education.

Morrish is currently endorsed by the National Association of Government Employees, International Association of EMTs and Paramedics, SEIU Local 5000 and Michigan Nurses Association Political Action Committee.

Visit his campaign website for more information and to get connected at www.morrish4michiganstaterep.com.

BTL Strongly Endorses Statewide Candidates

BTL Strongly Endorses the following candidates this fall:

Mark Schauer for Michigan Governor
<http://markschauer.com>

Mark Totten for Michigan Attorney General
www.marktotten.com

Gary Peters for U.S. Senate
www.petersformichigan.com

Note that BTL endorsements for other statewide races will happen after the state political conventions held the weekend of Aug. 23 - 24.

BTL Strongly Endorses the following openly gay candidates in Aug. 5 primary:

Garnet Lewis is running in the 32nd District which includes Saginaw, Zilwaukee, Tidabawasse Township, Frankenmuth and Swartz Creek. Check out the campaign website www.garnetlewis.com

Jon Hoadley is running for State Representative in the 60th District which includes Kalamazoo and Kalamazoo Township. Check out the campaign website www.jonhoadley.com

Jeremy Moss is running for State Representative in the 35th District which includes Southfield and Lathrup Village. Check out the campaign website www.jeremyforsouthfield.com

Rudy Serra is running for State Representative for the 27th District which is made up of several South Oakland County communities including Hazel Park, Ferndale, and Berkley. Check out the campaign website <http://rudyserra.ngpvanhost.com>

Important Dates & Resources

Tuesday, Aug. 5 – Primary Election
Monday, Oct. 6 – Last day to register for Nov. 4 General Election

Tuesday, Nov. 4 – General Election
Check here for your current status as a registered voter in Michigan <https://webapps.sos.state.mi.us/mivote>

VOTER GUIDE 2014

BTL LGBT & Progressive Voter Guide will be compiled and distributed online at www.pridesource.com

Visit Pride Source Votes 2014 online as the election season moves forward for news and developments on candidates that will move the state forward toward full equality for LGBT citizens.

Register to receive your digital voter guide online at www.pridesource.com



Netroots Arrives

DETROIT - Thousands of progressive activists will descend on Detroit's Cobo Center this weekend for the annual Netroots Nation conference. The event features educational workshops on everything from activism to progressive political issues.

"What makes Netroots Nation unique is that it brings together people from all across the progressive spectrum," says Brad Delaney, communications director for LGBT Netroots Connect. LGBT Netroots Connect is a one day pre-conference of LGBT and ally activists." With so many issues to tackle, it is rare to see leaders from so many movements cooperating to create social change. Environment, labor, LGBT, reproductive rights and economic justice are just some of the many issues that can be found at the conference."

The gathering is about more than activism however; it's about creating spaces where various parts of the progressive community can find common ground and develop partnerships.

"Bringing people together face-to-face creates connections that can simply not be made via instant message and email," says Michael Rogers, director of Netroots Connect. "By meeting in person, we are able to build new partnerships that will ultimately lead to cross issue organizing and strengthening movements."

LGBT issues will feature heavily in this year's rotation with caucus conversations about marriage, work place equality and more.

But LGBT equality struggles are not independent of the progressive movement. Between The Lines reached out to leaders from economic justice, immigration, choice, labor and the environment to discuss how LGBT equality and those movements intersect and share common goals, ideas and tactics.

The following interviews were conducted via email, and are presented with minor grammar editing, as they were presented by the leaders themselves.

NETROOTS NATION

Conference At Cobo Hall
Thursday - Sunday See Online Schedules
LGBT Pre-Conference Netroots Connect at
Renaissance Center Wed. July 16

A lot of people think about choice issues as nothing more than abortion; for the record, can you explain what the choice movement is about?

Choice is as American as apple pie. The freedom of self-determination, autonomy and equality are the bedrock foundations of the pro-choice vision. We believe that all people deserve to be informed by appropriate and comprehensive sex education, have universal access to contraception and birth control and to be able to consult one's doctor about if or when to start a family. Choice is not just a "social issue" because these decisions are often issues of economic justice. Women especially don't have the luxury of separating their reproductive rights from their pocketbooks. Choice is part of a long list of economic equality issues that have become some of the hottest issues of our day: Equal Pay, Universal Pre-K, paid sick days and healthcare as a human right are all burgeoning movements. The biggest anti-choice elected officials are the same folks who time and time again vote against economic justice for women and all people, be it abortion rights or fair pay for fair work.

Why did you, as an out gay man, decide that you needed to work for NARAL?

There have been two coming out experiences that changed the course of my life: my own coming out as a gay man and my mother's coming out as having had an abortion. The key to any movement for social justice is the meaningful process of brave people sharing their stories with loved ones. Without that critical step, anti-equality opponents are free to paint whatever narrative they wish to stigmatize us. Once that catalyst of a loved one connecting with me about accessing abortion care occurred, abortion rights were no longer some abstract concept. I immediately became ready to engage and NARAL Pro-Choice America was there to plug me in as a volunteer, intern and later on as a staff member.

What does the choice movement mean to the LGBT community and the broader struggle for equality?

This could not be a more timely question. Our movements have always been closely aligned, and for many folks it is the same movement. This has never been truer than after the Supreme Court Hobby Lobby decision allowed bosses unprecedented control over the healthcare decisions of their employees. As NARAL Pro-Choice America said it best: "Every American could potentially be affected by this far-reaching

Choice: Closely Aligned

Travis Ballie, Field Manager, NARAL Pro-Choice America

and shocking decision that allows bosses to reach beyond the boardroom and into their employees' bedrooms. The majority claims that its ruling is limited, but that logic doesn't hold up. Today it's birth control; tomorrow it could be any personal medical decision, from starting a family to getting life-saving vaccinations or blood transfusions."

It is no coincidence that, in the wake of the Hobby Lobby case, LGBT organizations are seeking stronger protections to prohibit similar discrimination from bosses on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity. We have common enemies who use the same tactics against both of our movements. We must have common strategies and active collaboration to counter efforts to curtail our civil rights.

What does the choice movement mean to the LGBT community and the broader struggle for equality?

“ We have common

enemies who use the same tactics against both of our movements. We must have common strategies and active collaboration to counter efforts to curtail our civil rights.”

- Travis Ballie, Field Manager, NARAL Pro-Choice America

What would be your three big messages to the LGBT community about the Choice movement?

One, we are the majority. LGBT rights and reproductive rights are supported by a clear majority of Americans. Seven in 10 Americans support Roe v. Wade, the landmark Supreme Court ruling legalizing abortion rights. Among the millennial generation, 7 in 10 support marriage equality, among a host of LGBT civil rights issues.

Two, we are growing. The Millennial generation is the most pro-equality generation in American history on both reproductive freedom and LGBT rights. The Millennial generation (born between 1980 and 1991) is 77 million strong. By 2020, they will make up 40 percent of the electorate, which will be the largest age-demographic voting bloc ever recorded.

Three, Economic Justice = Reproductive Rights. Four in ten mothers are either the sole or primary source of income for their families. Sixty percent of women who access abortion care already have children. Our opponents win by framing reproductive



freedom, especially abortion rights, in a frame that completely ignores the reality of the everyday economic lives of women. Even more outrageously, these same anti-choice opponents consistently vote against other common sense programs to help advance women, be it expanding healthcare, supporting equal pay and fair wages or making more family friendly workplaces.

Please explain what NARAL does for those who are unfamiliar with the organization.

For 45 years, NARAL Pro-Choice America has served as a leader in mobilizing our nation's pro-choice majority. We put our values into action by electing candidates who share our vision of reproductive freedom and supporting pro-choice legislation at the municipal, state and federal levels.

Every day, NARAL Pro-Choice America is lobbying state legislatures and members of congress to protect and expand access through pro-choice measures. We also run campaigns against any entity that attempts to interfere with a woman's right to choose.

Environment: Only Way To Win, Work Together

Julie Powers: Executive Director, Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council



How does the environmental movement impact the LGBT equality movement and vice versa?

Just two decades ago, both environmentalists and equality activists were seen as extremists - fighting for things that today are seen as obvious: climate change, carbon footprint, marriage equality, workplace protections for LGBT people. Today, we're still fighting and, while we are moving closer to marriage equality and acceptable environmental protections, the work isn't done. So in that regard, we're all working to make the world better - our world.

I'd also say that the environmental movement impacts everyone. Everyone wants to breathe clean air, drink clean water, live in cities that are vibrant, have a voice in community planning, ensure that our children are protected from unsafe playgrounds and/or exposure to chemicals that are hazardous. It's also true that a larger percentage of the LGBT community (especially the transgender community) have lower incomes and more health issues that can be directly attributed to environmental factors. For example, communities with high asthma rates are generally lower income and experience significant health issues, loss of work, poor school attendance, increased hospitalization rates and so forth.

The equality movement has impacted the environmental movement as well - there are a lot of shared lessons about community engagement that have been learned and integrated into how we approach policy development. For example, many communities have successfully passed Human Rights Ordinances with support from the business community. The environmental community has done much the same thing with the passage of the Complete Streets ordinances (and now state law). Business leaders see having a vibrant and diverse pool of potential employees as an important part of their growth plan - as much as they see having connected transportation systems for all transit mode users.

Why is the environmental movement something the LGBT equality movement should care about as an aspect of its equality movement?

Every movement is about having your voice heard - being at the table where decisions are made. Environmentalists, like LGBT activists, are marginalized and left out of many big decisions and so we've had to get creative, creating networks and using the media (social, traditional) as a way to get



Brandon Kawalec, outreach coordinator for Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council, works with Julie Powers, the group's executive director, to identify various animals living in the Red Cedar River in East Lansing. The assessment is part of the ongoing monitoring of the health of the watershed.

our perspectives heard. We have much to learn from one another and the only way to "win" on our issues is to do it together. When unlikely partners band together to address an issue, you tend to get a lot of attention - from the media, from elected officials and from regular citizens. Why WOULDN'T the environmental community work with the LGBT community to find a common space for us to achieve a great goal is my question?

Why did you get involved in environmental activism and leadership?

I've worked and/or volunteered in nearly every progressive movement, from LGBT to reproductive choice to affordable housing, because these movements reflect my personal values which are informed by my family, my faith and my experiences. Why be an environmental leader? They needed me. I'm loud, I'm proud and I don't back down from a fight. My goal is to connect people with their passion, movements with resources and issues with the media - it's like a massive game of "connect the dots" in my head sometimes.

“ *The equality movement has impacted the environmental movement as well - there are a lot of shared lessons about community engagement that have been learned and integrated into how we approach policy development.* **”**

- Julie Powers, Executive Director, Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council

What are the three big take aways about the environmental movement you want the LGBT community to know and understand?

One, we need your voice in environmental protection and planning. You are wanted and welcome at the table but sometimes you have to shout to be heard over the big voices in the room.

Two, we're all connected on this planet. Every drop of water on this Earth is what has always been here and always will be here. It's basically dinosaur pee. So protect it like it's gold - don't pour your leftover paint or motor oil or diet Coke down the storm drain. That goes directly into our rivers and then we end up drinking it.

Three, the environmental movement is fragmented by geography, area of interest, level of interest - just like the LGBT movement. You don't have to be the perfect environmentalist to get involved or to work on an issue. A lot of people are passionate about recycling or making sure communities are walkable/bikeable or that our air is safe to breathe. Pick the thing(s) that you care about and look at it from an environmental lens.

For those who are unfamiliar with your agency, please tell us who you are and what you do. Feel free to highlight any recent wins you have had.

The Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council is part of a statewide network of environmental advocacy organizations that work to translate your environmental concern into action. Our focus areas are land use, water quality, green transportation and sustainability - issues that apply to every Michigianian.

We've successfully passed the state's first

Complete Streets ordinance, which requires that when roads are built and/or rebuilt, municipalities have to take into consideration the needs of both vehicles and pedestrians and bicyclists. The City of Lansing's ordinance has spurred a statewide (and now national) movement, and the State of Michigan adopted a Complete Streets law in 2011. The City of Lansing also passed a landmark bike parking ordinance that we crafted which requires bicycle parking in much of the city, and we worked on a snow and ice removal ordinance to ensure that people who use sidewalks can have safe passage during cold weather months. (In the 10 years prior to the ordinance, 10 people were killed or injured because they were forced to walk in the street as property owners failed to remove snow and ice. Since the ordinance was passed, ZERO people have been killed or injured. #winning)

We're also the watchdogs of the Mid-Michigan waterways. When our local utility had an industrial accident, spilling 800+ gallons of hydraulic fluid into the Grand River in 2013, we were on the scene and served as the media spokesperson for the event. Just recently, we brought an illegal dumping issue to the attention of the media (after a year of being ignored by the city) and now there's a criminal investigation. We just recently completed a four year walkability audit of the City of Lansing (732 miles of sidewalk analyzed) and that data is being used to develop a priority repair/replacement program. The same program is now being implemented in Williamston and likely East Lansing. Walkable neighborhoods are a top priority when homebuyers are ranking properties - better sidewalks/connectivity = increased property values and perceived safety.



HOUSING: 'We Are All In This Together'

Curtis Hertel Jr.: Ingham County Register of Deeds

You took office as the Ingham county register of deeds as the economic crisis really began to crush the community. Please discuss how you saw the crisis impact the LGBT community.

The biggest lesson learned from the foreclosure crisis is that we, as a community, are all in it together. The crisis affected everyone regardless of race, gender or sexual orientation. Those of us who were not foreclosed on directly still experienced significant economic loss and a decrease in our quality of living. According to the Congressional Budget office, every foreclosure in your neighborhood reduced the value of your home by \$2,500 dollars. Local governments lost millions of dollars in tax revenue. This led to severe cuts in services and quality of life in all of our communities. Ingham County lost a billion dollars in taxable value alone, in large part due to the foreclosure crisis. Of course, because of the lack of rights in Michigan for LGBT citizens, this crisis hit them disproportionately harder. The lack of job protections, legal discrimination and marriage inequality all led to LGBT citizens being more susceptible to the crisis.

In your role as register of deeds you have the opportunity to talk to many citizens and have heard their stories about inequity in our current system. Can you explain some of those inequities, and how they impact the LGBT community specifically?

One of the most painful calls I have received as Register was from a person who had lost their partner and was also facing the loss of their home as a direct result of the inequality in our marital laws. It seems ridiculous, but under current state law, a distant relative has more rights than a committed partner, even a partner married in another state. I was proud to be the first Register of Deeds in the State of Michigan to record a Marriage Certificate from a same-sex couple - they were married legally in another country, and we recorded the certificate along with an affidavit alleging full property rights. It is my hope that these documents can be used in court one day to challenge Michigan's marriage and property laws. Even after the Supreme Court strikes down Michigan's ban on same-sex marriage, I believe that these inequalities will still exist because of the ways Michigan's property laws are written. I have already done a review of these laws, and will have language ready once the Supreme Court rules.



“ *We as a progressive movement have to realize that we are all in this together. The attacks on workers' rights, the lack of equal pay for women, the lack of investment in our core cities - these affect us all.* **”**

- Curtis Hertel, Jr. Ingham County Register of Deeds

Why have you become so engaged in the economic rights and issues movement?

I grew up in a middle class family, and I am a white straight male. Because of that, I was given opportunities that would not necessarily have been available to others. I believe that to whom much is given, much is expected. I have a duty to make sure that all people in our state have equality of opportunity. This means quality schools, affordable higher education and an end to discrimination based on gender, race and sexual orientation.

All of this became more real to me when I became Register of Deeds. In a typical year, 400 to 500 families would lose their homes to foreclosure in Ingham County. Those

numbers had more than tripled in the years right before I took office in 2009. We began an intensive program, working with housing counselors to educate citizens about the ways to avoid foreclosure. Then in 2011, we began to learn about foreclosure fraud. Major banks were using forged documents to steal time and due process from our citizens. Michigan's foreclosure laws provide little protections for home owners. We found people that were foreclosed on in spite of making every payment. We found people who had signed modifications that were never honored. We found people who were serving in our military in a time of war that were foreclosed on illegally. I had a moral obligation to fight against these injustices. I created a foreclosure fraud hotline, hired an attorney to handle individual cases of

to change our laws and provide real job protections for LGBT citizens.

Second, we as a state have to decide whether we are going to invest and compete for the best jobs available in our economy. The current legislature, and our current Governor, believe that the answer to a successful economy is to cut taxes and regulation. The problem with this strategy is that it has come at the expense of investing in our future. Employers do not want to locate in areas with failing schools, an unqualified workforce and crumbling infrastructure. We need to invest to compete in today's economy.

Third, we as a progressive movement have to realize that we are all in this together. The attacks on workers' rights, the lack of equal pay for women, the lack of investment in our core cities - these affect us all. In order for us to succeed as a movement, we must all work together to take back this state. We must invest in people and do so with full and equal rights for all.

For those folks who do not know what the Register of Deeds does, could you please explain? Also, please feel free to highlight your accomplishments in this area.

The Register of Deeds is responsible for keeping the land records of the County safe and accurate. This is essential to any capitalist system. Public information about land ownership, and land interests, makes investment and legal transfer possible. When I took office, I knew that we could do even more for our citizens, beyond keeping accessible records. Along with my work fighting illegal foreclosures and keeping people in their homes, I have also created the Property Fraud Alert System, which helps prevent fraud by giving citizens real-time access to land transactions. I invested in new technology to make recordings faster and more accurate so that business could move faster in Ingham County. I believe that every job is what you make of it. We have made the Register of Deeds office a place that fights for people and the integrity of their land records.

fraud and sued the major banks to get back tax dollars that I believed they illegally avoided paying.

What three big take aways would you like the LGBT community to have on economic issues as a movement?

First, we as a state are suffering economically from our lack of equal rights. Young people don't want to live in a state where discrimination against themselves or their friends is legal. I believe we are losing a generation of talented young people, and business agrees. For the first time as a state, we have a coalition of businesses fighting

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is my

SHIELD

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IMMIGRATION: Out Of The Shadows

Carlos Padilla: Program Coordinator, Queer Undocumented Immigrant Project United We Dream

How do the immigration movements and LGBT equality movements intersect?

The lived experience of LGBTQ people is complex; most people live in the intersection of oppression and issues. The LGBT Equality Movement and Immigration Movement confront unjust laws through political, legal and cultural campaigns. Most self-identified LGBT people in the United States have been institutionally oppressed due to their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. Undocumented and documented immigrants share a similar experience. Both movements have had to come out of metaphorical shadows or closets in order to address the issue that is oppressing their constituencies and to begin their journey for liberation. Intersectionality gives movements the opportunity to comprehensively address issues that harm LGBT and immigrant people and everyone who is connected to these individuals. Most importantly, 904,000 LGBT immigrants live in the United States.

What does it mean politically for LGBT equality activists to be engaged in the immigration fights, and why should they take up the banner?

LGBT equality activists can become engaged in the immigration fight three different ways: resources, action and support.

Resources: Investing in the fight monetarily or by providing access to certain networks, tools and opportunities. They can also help by providing services and intentional advocacy for LGBT immigrant issues.

Action: By engaging in direct actions that seek to improve the lives of LGBT immigrants. It's essential to keep a unified message that speaks to both movements' goals and to create an environment that values the personal story of LGBT immigrants in order to move political targets.

Support: It's essential for allies to educate themselves in order to speak about the needs of immigrants. Build intentional access to opportunities for immigrant folks to speak for themselves by uplifting their stories. But do not limit their capacity to only story telling; challenge hostile/unaware environments to continue creating safe spaces for all members of the community.

Taking these steps is important due to the current political, legal and cultural attitudes. Currently the country is highly polarized and taking an intersectional approach will bring back stability and keep both issues relevant.

The Progressive movement will have a higher impact if we create a shared agenda for change.

Please share with our readers why you, as an out member of the LGBT community, are working on immigration equality.

I immigrated to the United States at the age of two, witnessed my family live in the shadows for more than a decade, and it wasn't until I decided to come out of the shadows as undocumented and out of the closet as a gay, that my family's vision for a better future became clear. The sense of empowerment that



these actions created for me as an individual and for those who surround me provided us with a sense of security. I was finally directly addressing the issues that have limited individuals like myself to fully participate in America. As I grew older, I witnessed the rise of these two movements reach their full force. My experience in my everyday life also informed my decision to work on both issues. I know that if these two movements remained separate, politicians would take advantage of their vulnerability to frame scenarios that would put one movement against the other. This would have only further excluded members from our community. In 2010, this became an issue when Don't Ask Don't Tell and the DREAM Act were put up for a vote, and as someone who identifies as a member of both communities who was organizing locally to win both battles, I observed these

divisions first hand. The reality was the LGBT and immigrant rights movements were not aligned. This is one of the reasons why we only passed the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell. This time around, we have built enough solidarity to achieve victories for both LGBTQ and immigrant communities.

What are your three big messages to the LGBT community about the immigration equality movement?

One, the LGBT community must care about stopping all deportations because everyday 1,100 people are separated from their families. The LGBT

various identities first and then allow for the numbers and policy to roll in.

Please explain what United We Dream does for those who may be unfamiliar with the organization.

United We Dream is the largest immigrant youth-led organization in the nation, a powerful nonpartisan network made up of 53 affiliate organizations in 26 states. We organize and advocate for the dignity and fair treatment of immigrant youth and families, regardless of immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender

“ *The LGBT community must care about stopping all deportations, because everyday 1,100 people are separated from their families. The LGBT movement fights for the recognition of same-sex families; we understand the pain of being separated from our loved ones whether it's by a border or a legal document.* ”

movement fights for the recognition of same-sex families; we understand the pain of being separated from our loved ones whether it's by a border or by a legal document.

Two, we must support immigration equality movements so we can achieve legal status in this country in order to end legal limits to our full participation in society. We should seek policies that shed light into shadows or closets to liberate people and strengthen our movements.

Three, it's crucial to diversify your analysis and to advocate with inclusivity. Regardless of if you are speaking about the school to prison pipeline, workers' rights, religion, healthcare etc... the more you challenge yourself, the greater impact you will have on the entire community and the closer you will be to achieving your ideal goals. People do not live single issued lives, let's address the

expression. We seek to address the inequities and obstacles faced by immigrant youth and believe that by empowering immigrant youth, we can advance the cause of the entire community—justice for all immigrants.

We're driven by and accountable to our thousands of members across the country who make up our sustainable and robust grassroots network. We believe we can build power by organizing at the local, regional and national levels and aim to provide tools and resources to support our leaders and member organizations, as well as create meaningful alliances with other advocacy organizations.

Utah Will Appeal Same-Sex Marriage Ruling To High Court

BY BRADY MCCOMBS

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) -Utah has decided to go straight to the U.S. Supreme Court to argue against gay marriage, meaning the nation's highest court will have at least one same-sex marriage case on its plate when it returns in October.

The office of the Utah attorney general announced Wednesday that it would bypass a full appeals court and take the gay marriage case to the Supreme Court instead.

If the U.S. Supreme court decides to take the case, it will be the first time the top court considers gay marriage since justices last year struck down part of the federal Defense of Marriage Act. The high court is under no obligation to take the case, and it could wait for rulings from one or more of the five other appellate courts with gay marriage cases pending, legal scholars say.

Utah's appeal is of a June 25 ruling from a three-judge panel of the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver, which found states cannot deprive people of the fundamental right to marry simply because they choose partners of the same sex. The panel immediately put the ruling on hold pending an appeal.

The Utah case is certain to pique the Supreme Court's interest, but the justices usually look for cases that involve split rulings from federal appeals courts, said Douglas NeJaime, a University of California-Irvine law professor.

The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals heard arguments about Virginia's ban in early May, and a ruling is expected soon. Arguments are scheduled for August and September in two different courts for cases out of Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Nevada and Idaho.

"My best guess is that the court will hang onto this for a while and see what happens," NeJaime said. "There are so many cases now, it will have a pick."

William Eskridge, a Yale University law professor, also doesn't expect a quick decision from the high court. The Supreme Court is under no deadline to make a decision and knows other appellate decisions are coming, he said.

Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes' office said in a statement the appeal will be filed in the coming weeks, to get "clarity and resolution" on the matter. The decision to go directly to the Supreme Court means a review from the entire 10th Circuit Court is off the table, no matter what the high court decides.

Gov. Gary Herbert has said the state already budgeted for a need to defend the law before the Supreme Court. It is expected to

cost another \$300,000 to have three outside attorneys handle the case – the same amount it cost to take the case to the federal appeals court.

The Supreme Court's landmark ruling last summer allowed married same-sex couples to receive the same federal benefits as other married people, but did not specifically address whether gay marriage is a constitutional right.

Since then, lower courts have repeatedly cited the decision when striking down gay marriage bans. The latest such ruling was Wednesday, when a state judge struck down Colorado's gay marriage ban. That ruling is on hold pending an appeal.

In the Utah case, the 10th Circuit upheld a

“ We are one step closer toward having our families recognized in our home state. It's definitely a case our Supreme Court needs to hear. The faster we can move on this, the better for all of us. ”

- Plaintiff Plaintiff Moudi Sbeity

lower court's decision that overturned a 2004 voter-approved gay marriage ban. More than 1,000 same-sex couples wed in Utah after the ban was struck down and before the Supreme Court issued a stay.

The same thing happened in Indiana, where several hundred same-sex couples married during a two-day window in June. On Wednesday, Indiana state officials said they won't recognize those marriages – the same decision Utah made.

The conservative Sutherland Institute of Utah applauded the state for appealing to the highest court, saying in a statement that it gives states the chance to “defend marriage as society's way to encourage a married mother and father for every child.”

Plaintiff Moudi Sbeity called the decision to take the case to the Supreme Court “wonderful news.” He and his partner, Derek Kitchen, are one of three couples who sued over Utah's gay marriage ban.

“We are one step closer toward having our families recognized in our home state,” Sbeity said. “It's definitely a case our Supreme Court needs to hear. The faster we can move on this, the better for all of us.”

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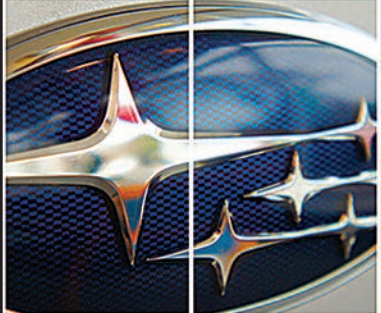

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Comic Legend Archie Andrews Takes Bullet For Gay Best Friend

BY AJ TRAGER

LOS ANGELES - Famous freckle-face comic book icon, Archie Andrews, will see his final moments in this week's issue. Readers will see the beloved and inspirational redhead die as he takes a bullet for the attempted assassination of his best friend, Kevin Keller, the series' openly gay character.

Archie's death was first announced in April and will conclude the series focused on grown-up renditions of Archie and his Riverdale friends. Archie dies as one would expect, heroically and selflessly, said Jon Goldwater, Archie Comics publisher and co-CEO. The character will continue to live in other comic incarnations.

"We wanted to do something that was impactful that would really resonate with the world and bring home just how important Archie is to everyone," Goldwater said. "That's how we came up with the storyline of saving Kevin. He could have saved Betty. He could have saved Veronica. We get that, but metaphorically, by saving Kevin, a new Riverdale is born."

Kevin first joined the storyline in an Archie Comics spin-off "Veronica" in 2010 and then appeared in his own solo title. In this comic world, Kevin is a newly elected senator and married military veteran who is pushing for more gun control in Riverdale after Kevin's

husband is involved in a shooting.

As of now, Goldwater and the Archie team haven't spoiled who the killer will be, but fans are poised and ready for the event. The subsequent issue will jump a year ahead and focus on how the gang honors the legacy of their former friend.

Background

Archie first premiered in a 1941 publication of Pep Comics, Issue #22. For years, the series has been known for the love affair between characters Archie Andrews, Betty Cooper and Veronica Lodge. The characters were created by publisher and editor John Goldwater, written by Vic Bloom and drawn by Bob Montana and based in part on people Goldwater met in the Midwest during his U.S. travels. CEO Jon Goldwater is the son of Archie creator, John L. Goldwater.

It is said that 1930s heartthrob, Mickey Rooney, inspired Archie's creation with his appearance in the Andy Hardy movie series. The series appeared on a radio show played on NBC called "The Adventures of Archie Andrews."

Readers have seen Archie go through many changes over the years. In the "Silver Age of Comic Books," the 1960s Archie was done in campy humor like the Batman TV show. In the 1970s, Archie launched a short-lived fantasy and horror imprint followed by a superhero imprint in the 1980s. The comic brand

kept changing and, in 1991, DC Comics launched "Impact Comics" which highlighted Archie and friends.

Archie himself has had many faces over the years. In 1966, he became a superhero named Captain Pureheart, a Superman-like character with strength and the ability to fly using jet-boosters. Then in 1973 an artist named Al Hartley got permission to use Archie in a series that depicted Archie and friends undergoing evangelical hijinks. Archie had an animated TV show that ran in 1986. And in 1990, "To Riverdale And Back Again" aired on NBC where Archie, played by Christopher Rich, goes to his 15-year high school reunion, runs into trouble along with Betty and Veronica and is then forced to choose between the girls, a decision Archie has been trying to make since 1941.

Archie has covered a great deal of social territory at various stages. Along with superheroes and a look into evangelical Christianity, Archie has covered topics such as teen homosexuality, gay marriage, privilege, breast cancer, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and the Occupy Wall Street protests. Writers have folded these themes and more into the stories and will continue to do so in future issues.

"We've been building up to this moment since we launched 'Life With

See Archie, page 17

New Report Exposes Deceptive Religious Right Strategy Targeting LGBT Equality

BY CHUCK COLBERT

Within in a few short years now, legal same-sex marriage has arrived in 19 states and the District of Columbia. The armed forces' "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy and federal law, which barred openly gay military service, has been repealed. And for all the Religious Right and social conservatives' efforts to block such progress, equal rights for LGBTs, it would appear, are advancing in significant ways.

Far from it, however, detractors of gay rights are declaring a truce in the culture wars. A new report highlights a stepped-up strategy as anti-LGBT activists claim their opposition to full equality for gays and reproductive choice amounts to oppression of their religious beliefs and liberties.

"Religious Right leaders hold themselves up as the victims," said Michael B. Keegan, president of People For the American Way's (PFAW), which released its findings last month. "This is a powerful talking point, even if not true. We need to expose these distortions for what they really are — an attempt to protect the Right's ability to discriminate and push its policy preferences on the rest of us."

PFAW is a non-profit liberal to progressive advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C.

The organization's nine page report, "The Persecution Complex: The Religious Right's Deceptive Rallying Cry," documents how Religious Right activists and elected officials attempt to portray the increasing unpopularity of their stances on a number of cultural issues — same-sex marriage, public prayer and Christmas celebrations among others — as evidence of their oppression as they represent themselves as societal bulwarks against a culture run amok with immorality.

Some examples — or dire myths — from the PFAW study point to the tactics and strategy:

Two middle-school girls are forced into a lesbian kiss as part of an anti-bullying program.

An Air Force sergeant is fired because he opposes same-sex marriage.

A high-school track team is disqualified from a meet after an athlete thanks God for the team's victory.

A man affixing lights to a Christmas tree falls victim to a wave of "War-on-Christmas" violence.

Reality, however, tells a different narrative.

"None of these stories is true," the PFAW report states. "But each has become a stock tale for Religious Right broadcasters, activists and, in some cases, elected officials. These myths



Left: University of Pennsylvania law professor Tobias Barrington Wolff. Right: Jay Michaelson, Ph.D., visiting scholar at Brown University.

— which are becoming ever more pervasive in the right-wing media — serve to bolster a larger story, that of a majority religious group in American society becoming a persecuted minority, driven underground in its own country."

The Religious Right and social conservative are "reframing political losses as religious oppression," PFAW's study suggests, in an "attempt to build justification for turning back advances in gay rights, reproductive rights and religious liberty for minority faiths."

And while "the religious persecution narrative is nothing new — it has long been at the core of the Right's reaction to secular government and religious pluralism," the report notes, the persecution meme "has taken off in recent years in reaction to gay rights and reproductive freedom and to an increasingly secular and pluralistic society."

The Religious Right's "frantic warnings" have gone so far, claiming that "conservative Christians are losing their right to free speech" and "that the U.S. is on the verge of instituting unconstitutional hate speech laws" — and even "that religious faith itself might soon be criminalized," according to PFAW.

The organization's report takes aim at both myths and mythmakers, including "the most prolific manufacturer and promoter," Fox News reporter Todd Starnes, host of Fox News & Commentary, heard on hundreds of radio stations.

Take the case of Air Force Sgt. Phillip Monk, who, according to Starnes, was "relieved of his duties after he disagreed with his openly gay commander when she wanted to severely punish an instructor who had expressed

religious objections to homosexuality."

Monk's story struck a resonate chord with social conservatives dismayed over the 2010 repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

By 2013, the Religious Right had spun Monk's alleged aggrievement into reverse discrimination "that Christians were now the victims of a new 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy," according to PFAW.

During a Values Voter Summit panel on the alleged development of anti-Christian persecution, Monk, through a video produced by the anti-gay Family Research Council, told viewers how he was "reassigned by his commander because of his belief that marriage is the union of a man and a woman."

An Air Force investigation, however, found that "Monk was not removed from his position, but rather moved as scheduled to another Lackland unit, an assignment he was notified of in April," according to Military Times.

Similarly, PFAW debunks the myth of the forced middle-school lesbian kiss and the athlete disqualified for thanking God. "The middle school girls were never required to kiss," PFAW notes. "The track athlete admitted he was disqualified for taunting and disrespecting a referee."

Altogether, "gay rights" serve as "the moral test for our time," the report notes, "warning that every advance in the rights of LGBT people detracts from the rights of people of faith who have religious objections to homosexuality."

PFAW's findings are similar to those of Jay Michaelson, Ph.D., in his 2013 report for Political Research Associates' "Redefining

Within in a few short years, legal same-sex marriage has arrived in 19 states and the District of Columbia. The armed forces' "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy and federal law, which barred openly gay military service, has been repealed. And for all the Religious Right and social conservatives' efforts to block such progress, equal rights for LGBTs, it would appear, are advancing in significant ways.

Religious Liberty: The Hidden Assault on Civil Rights," which highlights the deep roots of the persecution narrative that lay at the core of religious conservatives' response to desegregation, prayer in public schools and abortion rights' advances in *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court landmark decision.

Furthermore, Michaelson along with a growing number of national and statewide LGBT organizations, have come out against the proposed Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), saying that while it bans workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, the federal law also would allow religious organizations to discriminate against LGBTs even in non-ministerial or pastoral capacities.

Advocates for LGBT equality maintain the proposed religious exemption, unprecedented in civil rights legislation, would in effect gut ENDA's non-discrimination protections.

Equality advocates also voice concern about social conservatives' efforts to empower discrimination against LGBTs, including Michaelson, who is a visiting scholar at Brown University.

"Employment non-discrimination is vitally important, but at what cost?" Michaelson asked. "Hopefully, progressive members of Congress will insist on an appropriate, narrow exemption for churches and religious functionaries, while rejecting this over-broad one that would leave hospital orderlies, school cafeteria workers and shopping mall security guards without protection."

More recently, the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in its *Hobby Lobby* decision has prompted one LGBT legal activist to say it

See New Report, page 17

Heard on Facebook

Facebook Reacts to Return Of HIV In Formerly ‘Cured’ Child

A Mississippi girl famously “cured” of HIV last year has been found with detectable levels of the virus again. The unfortunate news left many on Facebook reacting with emotions ranging from anger to sadness to hope.

“Well I don’t know why this is a big deal. They taught us in health class once you have it you have it. I know it can get to a degree that’s undetectable... but it can always come back up.”

“Well that sucks.”

“Hey at least [we] found something to make it dormant! Its a start!”

“They never said it was cured certainly. They said they found no traces of it but had to wait for more observation to see if it will resurface, which it did.”

“Did nobody mention that the mother stopped the treatment for the baby midway through it?”

“If only the baby was a rich and famous NBA player named Magic Johnson.”

“Over my lifetime; I can’t think of any major disease that has been cured. Only preventions and treatments on top of more preventions and treatments. Where’s all this money for research going? I think the system’s corrupt; there’s more money in treatments than cures. General public is f*****. No cure for the 40 different strains of HPV? Something that seems so simple. How do you think they’re going to cure something as complex as AIDS?”

“We WERE SO CLOSE!!! Come on LETS IRRADIATE this S***.”

“Sad. But still hopeful.”



BTL Editorial The Real Detroit Reflects Vision For A New America

A world where our environment is clean.

A world where people who contribute to our society and culture are valued and not hunted down over documents.

A world where economic inequity is kept in check.

A world where no one has to go hungry or make the painful decision between dinner and life-saving drugs.

A world where employers treat employees with respect and as partners.

A world where the color of your skin, your religion, your gender or gender expression or your sexual orientation do not matter to society – rather, society values you for your contributions and encourages you to fulfill your full potential.

A world where schools are about education, not prison pipelines.

And so much more.

That, in a nutshell, reflects much of the progressive vision of the world. And that vision will be on display in its full glory this week here in Detroit.

This week *Netroots Nation* comes to the Renaissance Center. We strongly encourage you to attend, if you can. This is the largest gathering of

progressive thought leaders, politicians, media, internet activists and so many more. This is the intersection of the progressive movement and once a year this conference pops up in one city or another. It has been described as the left’s family reunion.

But it is so much more. It is a chance for people from around the country to connect and share ideas. It is a chance for us to celebrate successes, mourn our losses and plan the next year and our political goals.

This issue you will hear from both allies and members of our community working hard in key progressive arenas: choice, immigration equality, labor rights, the environment and economic inequality.

We reached out to advocates we know who are doing incredibly important work – but we are more than aware that they are representative of many in our community who work day in and day out to make this country and this world a better place. *Netroots Nation* is your chance to connect with brethren from around the country. To think bigger. To act bigger. To discover.

For those who are visiting Detroit and reading this editorial – welcome. Take

time while you are here to discover the real Detroit. Not the one of ruin porn and headline grabbing bankruptcies. Instead, find the growing local food movement. The investment in neighborhoods by the city in auctioning off houses. A city on the verge of a renaissance.

Ask yourself: How do I tell people about the real Detroit? Certainly, the city has its struggles. From a still troubling bankruptcy proceeding to mass water shut offs to crumbling infrastructure. Those are obstacles, true. But they can be overcome.

How?

With progressive values and a commitment by our fellow community members to talk about the innovation happening in Detroit. The reimagining has just begun and you are invited to the table.

And Michigan residents can do the same. Together, we can make Detroit a beacon of hope. We can show America and the world that challenges do not shut us down: challenges allow us to rise and overcome. Challenges allow us to shine and to show that our progressive values and vision will bring a new America.



Viewpoint

BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

The Yin Yang Of PRIDE: Much Is Given, Much Required

Hard to believe June is over, we're halfway through July and I have just one PRIDE – Hotter Than July – left to attend. We've raised our rainbow flags across the country, marched and partied like there's no tomorrow – no tomorrow when we go back to being second class citizens, separate and not equal.

We've had so much to celebrate as our Equality Train has left the station and is gaining momentum state-by-state, month by month.

It feels good, really good, especially for me this year. Instead of going from city to city wishing and hoping, I've just been happy, walking hand in hand with my lady love believing, BELIEVING, that yes it would happen in my lifetime.

“We've received such good news of late, made such progress and seen changes that most of us never thought we would see in our lifetime – much has been given. But now is not the time to sit on our laurels, be complacent and do nothing – much is required.”

Every PRIDE from Ferndale to Grand Rapids to Chicago this year, WE were celebrating the change that seems to finally be arriving.

And it wasn't just at PRIDES where you could sense the change. At restaurants, coffee shops, hotels and resorts in states where discriminatory laws had been overturned and even where they were still in place, you could sense the difference.

Visibility in the media, high profile coming outs, legal victories - just about every week there's been another reason to celebrate. But with the celebration, there has also been the nagging reminders that we still have a long way to go.

Even though we are winning in the courts, the sobering reality is that our rights are still under assault from a well-funded, politically savvy enemy with a powerful secret weapon in their arsenal – Us!

Us? Yes! You, me, LGBTQ, friends, families who party through PRIDE, wrap ourselves in progressive mantles, but through our apathy have allowed out-of-touch, xenophobic, trans/homophobic conserva-fools to take over state houses, governor seats, the congress and allowed the creation of a Supreme Court that has granted corporations the same rights as people, ala Citizens United, which tip the scales against equality.

While we have danced at our weddings, religious fundamentalists continue to flex their muscle attacking women's reproductive rights state by state. The recent Hobby Lobby Supreme Court ruling not only bolstered this attack on women but, by once again giving a corporation's religious views the same gravitas as an individual's constitutional rights for religious protection, it has now put an already tenuous ENDA in jeopardy.

The same bigots leading these attacks and spreading hatred “in the name of the father” are using their influence not only here, but internationally, exporting trans/homophobia overseas especially in Africa where death for

See PRIDE, page 16

Same-Sex Couples And The Marriage Penalty

BY MICHAEL EINHEUSER

The June 2013 U.S. Supreme Court's ruling struck down one section of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), but upheld another section creating a legal quandary for some couples. States are no longer prohibited from recognizing same-sex marriage. But states are also not required to recognize same-sex marriages of other states or governmental jurisdictions. The legal consequences of same-sex marriage varies depending on the state where a couple celebrated their marriage and where they reside.

On Aug. 29, 2013 the U.S. Department of Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service issued Revenue Ruling 2013-17 regarding same-sex marriages that pronounced how it will apply its law to certain facts.

The IRS applies the “state of celebration” standard to define valid marriages. Specifically the ruling states:

“For Federal Tax purposes, the term ‘spouse,’ ‘husband and wife,’ ‘husband,’ and ‘wife’ include an individual married to a person of the same sex if the individuals are lawfully married under state law, and the term ‘marriage’ includes such a marriage between individuals of the same sex.”

Same-sex Michigan couples with marriages valid in other states must file their federal tax returns as married filing jointly or married filing separately. This includes the 300-plus same-sex couples married in Michigan on Mar. 22 before the Court of Appeals stayed Judge Bernard Friedman's ruling in the DeBoer case.

In the literature on marriage equity, some have sounded the cautionary sentiments of “be careful what you wish for.” The income tax marriage penalty is one reason to be cautious.

The marriage penalty refers to the fact that the income tax liability of married couples in certain situations is greater than it would be if they filed separate single returns. The penalty is usually greatest when both spouses have good incomes.

Tax rates are set on a graduated

scale. The greater your income, the higher your marginal tax rate. The IRS engages in the fiction of income splitting for married couples. The total incomes of both are attributed to each equally. If you marry someone in a higher bracket than yourself, you will likely incur a marriage penalty and your spouse is likely to incur a marriage bonus. His income brings you into a higher tax bracket and yours brings him into a lower tax bracket.

The married couple that most

per year, and his partner Nick, an attorney who earns \$190,000, the picture is very different. As individuals, Terry's tax is \$54,759 and Nick's is \$43,534 for total taxes of \$98,293. When they file as a married couple their tax liability goes up to \$108,450 creating a marriage penalty of \$10,157.

Another component of the marriage penalty is the decision to itemize deductions or to take the standard deduction. One can deduct charitable contributions,

The marriage penalty refers to the fact that the income tax liability of married couples in certain situations is greater than it would be if they filed separate single returns. The penalty is usually greatest when both spouses have good incomes.

benefits from the concept of income splitting are one-income couples like Ward and June Cleaver. Regardless of how much Ward earns, half of it is attributed to June, lowering their marginal tax bracket. But income splitting has the opposite effect if June goes out and gets a job. Anything she earns provides additional income that is either taxed at their highest marginal rate or worse, pushes them into an even higher tax bracket.

Consider Michelle and Annie. Michelle is a business executive who earns \$240,000 and Annie is an artist with an income of \$13,000. As a single tax payer, Michelle's tax liability is \$59,709. She falls in the 33 percent marginal tax rate. Annie pays \$286 because she is in lowest tax bracket – 10 percent. The total amount of taxes for both of them is \$59,995.

When they file as a joint married couple Michelle benefits from Annie's low tax bracket. Their joint tax is \$52,696 creating a marriage bonus of \$7,299.

But if we look at Terry, a chiropractor earning \$225,000

state and local taxes and real estate interest on a personal residence from one's income. In 2013, the standard deduction was \$6,100. If one partner has deductible expenses of \$10,000, she will itemize and get a deduction for the full amount. If the second partner has no deductible expenses, she will take the standard deduction of \$6,100. When they get married, they must either take the standard deduction or itemize. They will choose to either itemize the \$10,000 or each take the standard deduction (\$6,100 x 2 = \$12,200) but will lose the combined deduction of \$16,100 they had when they were single.

Anyone curious about a potential marriage bonus or penalty can find some very easy to use marriage penalty calculators on the web.

Next time – estate planning issues for same-sex couples.

Michael Einheuser is an estate and retirement planning attorney in Bingham Farms who specializes in helping families preserve their wealth, reduce potential taxes and eliminate the uncertainties of probate.

BTLWEDDINGEXPO.COM

Michigan BTL Same-Sex Wedding Resources

Pride Source Media Group produces an annual LGBT Wedding Expo each Spring. In 2015, the Fifth Annual LGBT Wedding and Anniversary Expo will take place Saturday, March 21 at the Southfield Civic Pavilion from 1 - 4 p.m. The website below has dozens of resources for readers to tap when party planning for an LGBT friendly event.

>> www.btlweddingexpo.com

Creep of the Week

Bob Frey

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI



Bob Frey, a Republican candidate for the Minnesota House of Representatives, was recently in the news for saying some really unhinged, not to mention

scientifically inaccurate, things about how AIDS is transmitted.

When it comes to homos, Bob told the MinnPost, "It's not about the gay agenda but about the science and

And it's true. AIDS is expensive to treat. But Bob Frey is treating gays like they are no more than gaping orifices on the prowl for sex rather than, you know, human beings capable and worthy of love.

Sometimes the apple doesn't fall very far from the tree. And sometimes both the tree and the apple are equally obsessed with, and totally ignorant about, anal sex and AIDS.

That's where Mike Frey comes in. You see, Mike, also of Minnesota, is Bob's son. And last year Mike testified in front of a legislative committee in opposition to a marriage equality bill

Hence the acronym AIDS, which stands for, in the case of Bob Frey, "Am I Dumb? Sure."

the financial impact of that agenda. It's more about sodomy than about pigeonholing a lifestyle."

Now, whenever a Republican claims to be concerned about the "science" of anything, especially sodomy, you know shit's getting real. As in real crazy. So allow Bob Frey to explain.

"When you have egg and sperm that meet in conception, there's an enzyme in the front that burns through the egg," Bob told MinnPost. "The enzyme burns through so the DNA can enter the egg. If the sperm is deposited anally, it's the enzyme that causes the immune system to fail. That's why the term is AIDS – acquired immunodeficiency syndrome."

Got that? Each little sperm is like a tiny burning torch ready to incinerate its way into some lady eggs, but if that sperm ends up in a butt, well, it'll burn an immune system to the ground. Hence the acronym AIDS, which stands for, in the case of Bob Frey, "Am I Dumb? Sure."

Bob continues to explain, "It's about sodomy. It's huge amounts of money. AIDS is a long term illness, causing pain, suffering, death, a long-term illness that's very expensive to treat."

In other words, Bob Frey is running on the Cost of Gay Sex is Too Damn High platform.

in the state saying the same loony thing about sperm enzymes and gay sex and AIDS.

It was wrong then, and it is still wrong now. Which leads one to wonder, where did the Freys get this crazy idea? And why, after Mike vomited this garbage into a microphone last year, is Bob spewing the same shit now?

The answer: the liberal media. It's got to be. Folks like Rachel Maddow and Anderson Cooper are conspiring to keep secret the awful truth about blowtorch sperm.

One need look no further for evidence of sperm's destructive tendencies than our nation's sperm banks. There's a reason why sperm banks keep their "donations" stored in liquid nitrogen tanks. It's not to keep the sperm from dying, it's to keep the sperm from exploding out of the specimen jars and igniting the carpet and window treatments on their search for eggs to penetrate. Will no one think of the curtains?

And then there's the warning stickers on gas pumps: Shut off engine, extinguish cigarettes, turn off cell phone, zip up pants. You can never be too careful.

So let's thank Bob and Mike Frey for the many lives their crusade against gays will undoubtedly save. To be this brazenly ignorant, it takes balls. It certainly doesn't take brains.

► Pride

Continued from p. 15

LGBTQ individuals is the law.

But that's Africa and we have weddings to plan, right? Well, these hate-filled chickens are coming home to roost with even greater global implications by the election of Sam Kutesa, a supporter of Uganda's anti-gay law, as President of the U.N. General Assembly.

The U.N. is the most representative inter-governmental organization in the world today. Although it's effectiveness may be debatable, the United Nations' role in world affairs is irreplaceable by any other international or regional organization and now its president is a supporter of some of the most repressive anti-gay laws – laws written by leaders who were suckled at the breast of U.S. fundamentalists.

And what's to become of the thousands of Ugandans and others seeking asylum and immigration by coming to America? Will they find a country welcoming "the tired, the poor, the huddled masses yearning to breathe free" or face immigration legislation that is far from welcoming, being influenced by a legislature we elected even if we cast our vote merely by staying home and not going to the polls.

Luke 12:48 says (yes, I googled it) "To whom much is given, much will be required." Growing up, I always thought that meant if something good happened to you, you passed it on, paid it forward. When my mom won the lottery, she always tithed a portion to church. When I get something new or have extra, I share the blessing. You probably have heard of similar practices. But I've been thinking about it differently these days.

We've received such good news of late, made such progress and seen changes that most of us never thought we would see in our lifetime – much has been given. But now is not the time to sit on our laurels, be complacent and do nothing – much is required.

In many states we can be married, time and the courts seem to be on our side, but we

still can be discriminated against in hiring and employment on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. ENDA remains in jeopardy even more so following the Hobby Lobby decision.

The clock is being turned backwards for women, taking

We live in troubled urban areas, struggling rural areas.

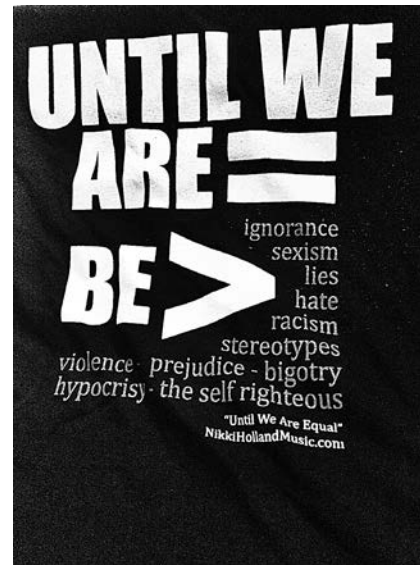
We share an environment of dwindling resources and growing threats of pollution, global warming, etc.

Much is required from each of us whether LGBTQ or A.

At Motor City Pride, singer-songwriter Nikki Holland was sporting and selling a t-shirt. It said "UNTIL WE ARE =, BE > ignorance, sexism, lies, hate, racism, stereotypes, violence, prejudice, bigotry, hypocrisy, the self-righteous."

So now that the official PRIDE celebrations are just about over, be joyful for all that we have achieved and been given in these changing times, but remember much is required. Much is required from each of us to keep these freedoms, ensure that they will be extended to everyone and be there for future generations.

Your first task is GET REGISTERED TO VOTE. Vote in the August primaries and show up at the polls in



Your first task is GET REGISTERED TO VOTE. Vote in the August primaries and show up at the polls in November. Let's not give them the U.S. Senate and return the Congress to those who would take away rights not expand them to all. And at the state level, let's vote in the change we want to see for ourselves, our families and our future.

us back to the days of "back-alley" abortions and unplanned/unwanted pregnancies with no protection, even in the case of rape and incest. Contraception and family planning is more than just a health issue for women, it's an economic issue. The earning capacity of women is already lower than that of most men; taking away and diminishing reproductive rights will only plunge more women and children into poverty.

Despite higher visibility, our transgender sisters and brothers are still targets for violence. Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender youth and those perceived as LGBT are at an increased risk of being bullied.

And we don't live in a little gay bubble; we live in a world where the gap between the haves and the have nots continues to grow.

November. Let's not give them the U.S. Senate or give the Congress to those who would take away rights, not expand them to all. And at the state level, let's vote in the change we want to see for ourselves, our families and our future.

Progress comes through change. Change can cause anxiety and fear. Fight back! Fight for equality! Fight for humanity by being greater than ignorance, sexism, lies, hate, racism, stereotypes, violence, prejudice, bigotry, hypocrisy and the self-righteous.

Remember to whom much is given, much will be required. Step up community!

Michelle E. Brown is a Public Speaker, Activist and Author. Follow her at www.facebook.com/mychangeiam and www.twitter.com/mychangeiam.

► New Report

Continued from p. 13

is “a dangerous and radical departure from existing law that creates far more questions than it answers,” according to Keen News Service quoting Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

“Thankfully, however, the majority recognized that even under its sweeping new rule, corporations cannot rely on claims of religious liberty to evade non-discrimination laws,” he explained. “That limitation is extremely important and means that employers cannot exploit today’s decision to justify discrimination against LGBT people or other vulnerable groups, but we will need to be vigilant to make sure that principle is respected and enforced.”

The Court ruled by a 5 to 4 majority on June 30 that federal law may not require a closely held commercial employer to provide health-insurance coverage for contraception if that employer claims that to do so violates his or her personal religious beliefs.

In a similar vein, University of Pennsylvania law professor Tobias Barrington Wolff offered his perspective. “In the wake of the Hobby Lobby decision, opponents of LGBT equality are trying to reverse the progress we have made on workplace protections,” he said in email correspondence. “As Chris Geidner [legal editor at the online news organization BuzzFeed] reports, a group of advocates including Rick Warren have published a letter

seeking to pressure the White House to insert a broad and unprecedented religious exemption in the forthcoming Executive Order on federal contractors, and they point to Hobby Lobby as one principal justification. It is important to understand that Hobby Lobby in fact rejects the argument that religious exercise can be an excuse for invidious discrimination,” such as anti-gay and anti-transgender bias.

Wolff pointed to a key passage in the Court’s decision, which he said “was inserted specifically to respond to the suggestion that its ruling could authorize discrimination in the workplace.”

That passage reads: “The principal dissent raises the possibility that discrimination in hiring, for example on the basis of race, might be cloaked as religious practice to escape legal sanction. See post, at 32-33. Our decision today provides no such shield. The Government has a compelling interest in providing an equal opportunity to participate in the workforce without regard to race, and prohibitions on racial discrimination are precisely tailored to achieve that critical goal.” As Wolff explained, “In the days ahead, it is important that advocates and leaders strongly push out the message that the Hobby Lobby decision strongly supports the enforceability of anti-discrimination laws, even in the face of religious exemption arguments,” adding, “Hobby Lobby represents a vindication of the principle that anti-discrimination protections should trump religious objections in the workplace.”

► Archie

Continued from p. 12

Archie five years ago, and knew that any book that was telling the story of Archie’s life as an adult had to also show his final moment,” Goldwater said.

Other titles in publication of Archie include: Afterlife with Archie, Archie, Archie’s Funhouse Comics Digest, Archie Comics Digest, B & V Friends Comics Digest, Betty and Veronica Vol. 2, Betty and Veronica Comics Digest, Jughead and Archie Comics Digest, Kevin Keller, Life with Archie and World of Archie Comics Digest.

Kevin Keller

In 2010 Archie comics made history introducing its first gay character, Kevin Keller. It promptly sold out and the Archie Comics ordered its first reprint ever in the series’ 69 year history. In 2011, Archie Comics gave Kevin his own series, making him the first gay male with a solo series in mainstream comics.

Outrage circulated when the company announced that Kevin would marry his

boyfriend, Clay. Goldwater, Archie Comics’ relatively new co-CEO, defended the integration of Kevin Keller, saying the character had a long future in the comic.

“As I’ve said before, Riverdale is a safe, welcoming place that does not judge anyone. It’s an idealized version of America that will hopefully become reality someday. Kevin Keller will forever be a part of Riverdale, and he will live a happy, long life free of prejudice, hate and narrow-minded people,” Goldwater said.

Archie’s passing isn’t just a publicity stunt but also a lesson on gun violence and a declaration for furthering diversity in the new age of Archie Comics. The issue will be written by Paul Kupperberg, with art by Pat and Tim Kennedy and Fernando Ruiz.

“Archie is not a superhero like all the rest of the comic book characters,” Goldwater said. “He’s human. He’s a person. When you wound him, he bleeds. He knows that. If anything, I think his death is more impactful because of that. We hope by showing how something so violent can happen to Archie, that we can - in some way - learn from him.”

“Life with Archie” No. 36 will be on comic book shelves July 16.



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Twinkling Of The Inner Eye ...



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

I'm sitting on my front porch during the twilight 9 o'clock hour. These early July evenings are both warm and occasionally, as now, delightfully cool. The temperature is 70-something or other. Caressingly mild. Motor City quiet and contentment. For a change.

Street traffic's light. No loud music from rushing car windows menacingly rolled down for all to hear the bombast of boom and bass. Like it or not. My mood's nostalgic. Slightly hypnotic with a sense of briefly eternal timelessness. Flashes of my seven-decades life recalled.

Above tiny swallows are busy sweeping insects from the humid pressure zones of rising air. Their acrobatic flight's swift, exuberant, choreographed with lightening, relentless, daredevil speed.

They circle; turn up-and-over; over-and-out again, and again. A summer ballet of sudden - watch us! would-you-believe-it! - flights of fancy.

Below me in the tangle of nameless garden variety vines that web and menace my rusty iron fencing, fireflies dance their millisecond sparkle steps and fade so, so quickly. Catch

us if you can. What fun! What frolic! they innocently flash. And to what purpose these unheeded, sentinel lights? Who really gives a damn? Who gave me ticket and front row seat to this rare, evanescent spectacle?

I'm sure in times long gone by such insect creatures were mistaken for fairy tale minions. They sparkled in imitation of stars above. How else could they magically light? How else could they signal wonderland realms hidden from all but children's eyes?

Fireflies! Little, humble, touches of fragile flame. This evening curiously timed to the fireworks sounding and upstaging in nearby streets of unending Fourth of July weekend celebrations. Nature's pre-ordained miniatures of art and artifice. So, what, big guys?

Suddenly I'm lost in my thoughts of times it seems now so long gone by. Of family. Of friends. Of places visited. Images of my youth six decades ago. Of laughter. Tears. Shared moments of intimacy. Games played. Gifts given. Partings unexpected and sadly lived through. Youths robbed of manhood hopes, expectations. Uncounted losses.

Perhaps, drawn by my own mercurial reflections of a lifetime now out of tangible reach - its highlights and intimate details now only mental reruns - a few of these little curious lights are suddenly now floating and blinking at arm's length away from me.

Three or four in twinkling number, they settle on building vines nearby. They flash and briefly code the now darkening shadows of this day's end. I'm sure if I chose - so close they are - I could spoil their rendezvous with a gentle shake of vine, loud clap of hand, or, a weary, "Hey, guys! Why me?"

Instead, I'm grateful for the unexpected show of little lights that for one aged dreamer's sunset night alone, fill his mood with wonder, amusement, gratitude for a life, though at times sad, troubled, concerned, has given hope and sparkling dreams enough to keep on going. (And, kind thanks to my unseen exhibition patron and benefactor.)

Charles@pridesource.com

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Hotter Than July 2014 Preview

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

Hotter Than July, Detroit's black gay pride festival, celebrates 19 years this month with a week long event from July 22-27. The theme of this year's festival is "Happy Together."

A Candlelight Vigil at the Bruce Spruce Memorial Tree in Palmer Park, Detroit will begin the pride fest. The free event runs from 6 p.m. until dusk.

Boat Ride

A celebratory Boat Ride comes the following day on the 23rd, with boarding at 6:10 p.m. and sailing promptly at 7 p.m. The boat will be docked at Rivard Plaza on Downtown Detroit's Riverwalk. The three hour cruise includes a dinner buffet, cash bar, dancing and more. Tickets are \$55 per person. That night, Menjo's Complex will host a free House Party from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Menjo's is located at 928 McNichols Road, Detroit.

Film Fest

HTJ's famous Film Festival runs from 5:30 p.m. to 12:20 a.m. on July 24 at Cinema Detroit, 3420 Cass Ave. Featuring the best in black LGBT cinema, the event will run movies like "Friend of Essex," premiering for the first time in Michigan. "Still Black: A Portrait of a Black Transman" is a candid 2008 documentary, "Stud Life" is the story of a British stud lesbian and her gay "pretty boy" best friend and "The Young and Evil" is a short film of a sexually promiscuous black gay teen pursuing HIV through unprotected sex. Other short films will include "Echoes," examining sexual identity and personal power, "On The Low," exploring the emotional consequences of a secret relationship between two African-American high school boys and many more. Tickets are \$20 per person.

Annual Gathering

The Annual Gathering for LGBT Issues runs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on July 25. The event, with suggested registration of \$20 and free for students with required ID, features



Community activist Cornelius Wilson, then Mayoral Candidate Mike Duggan and KICK Executive Director Curtis Lipscomb at last year's HTJ event. BTL file photo

dignitaries, a keynote address, panel discussion, special recognitions, workshops and continental breakfast and lunch. According to KICK Executive Assistant, David Nelson, Jr., this is one of the key highlights of the entire Hotter Than July roster, featuring a gathering of LGBT, young and old, to share their stories and experiences.

The gathering will be at Michigan State University Detroit Center, 3408 Woodward Ave. Friday Night Heat at the Woodward finishes Friday events, beginning at 9 p.m. Woodward Bar & Grill is located at 6426 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Admittance is \$10 until 11 p.m.

Picnic

HTJ's Palmer Park Picnic begins at 9 a.m. on July 26 in Palmer Park, Detroit. The free event attracts many LGBT and allies every year and features a variety of events. Performances include Abigail Stauffer, Natural Muse Agency, Logan Mario, Crystal Grundy and more. Cierra Malone and Ramon Harris host.

A highlight of the picnic is the "Status Sexy Ball." Open during the picnic, the ball features competitions open to anyone (OTA). The categories for the event include: Best Performance, Sex Siren, Runway, Realness which includes "just bringing it!" and Sneaker

vs. Sneaker, which is less about labels and more about looks. Additional OTA categories include Face, Best Dressed, Virgin Vogue (wearing white with a touch of red) and Virgin Runway ("bringing it in all black with a touch of red").

Saturday Night

Also on that Saturday, HTJ will run "Saturday Night Swagg at the Woodward." With \$10 admittance until 11 p.m. that day, the event will be at Woodward Bar & Grill, 6426 Woodward Ave., Detroit.

Worship

Hotter Than July closes out on July 27, beginning with a special Worship Service at 1 p.m. The free service will be held by WHOSOEVER Ministry at 2940 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Also at 1 p.m. is Sunday Brunch. The event is \$40 per person or \$70 per couple and will be held at They Say, 267 Joseph Campau Ave., Detroit. A Tea Dance will be held at the same location and date at 3 p.m.; tickets are \$5.

Dates are subject to change. To keep tabs on events, or for more information, call 313-285-9733 or visit www.hotterthanjuly.org.

TIMELESS TORI

Songstress Talks Gay Fan Affinity,
The Disney Song She Inspired
& Still Rocking At 50

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

“**L**ighting, sweetie, *lighting!*” is Tori Amos’ theatrical retort to my compliment about how she’s still looking as radiant as she did at the launch of her career just over three decades ago.

Amos is now 50, and with her 14th album, “Unrepentant Geraldines,” she’s facing age head-on. Candor isn’t unusual for the composer; from rape to religion and even her MILF status, she’s approached a bevy of topics too controversial for most artists.

That same directness extended to our recent conversation, during which Amos chatted about the LGBT influence on “Promise,” a duet with her daughter; being the muse for the big “Frozen” ballad, “Let It Go”; and the gay fans who share their “traumatic experiences” with her.

How did your last several projects – “Midwinter Graces,” “Night of Hunters” and “Gold Dust” – reenergize the contemporary songwriting heard on “Unrepentant Geraldines”?

All of them fit into giving me fresh perspective. Starting with “Midwinter

Graces,” I was thrown into the deep end, studying carols from the last few hundred years and just immersing myself in a different genre. It’s almost as if it became a baton hand-off, from “Midwinter Graces” to “Night of Hunters” and “Gold Dust,” back and forth with “The Light Princess” (a musical written by Amos), which was floating between all these projects, because she’s been in development for five years. All of them were giving inspiration to the other. Each one was giving some kind of spark.

The spark linking all of those works is very evident.

They’re very interconnected, and “The Light Princess” cast recording – I’m producing that for Mercury Universal. That will be out globally in early 2015, and we’re making the record on the tour, so this album (“Unrepentant Geraldines”) will be affecting

that. They all gift each other something. I don’t always know what it is when it’s happening; you just get energy from one that propels another.

(For “Unrepentant Geraldines”) there was a freshness, a new perspective, that I was able to bring to contemporary writing because of all these other projects that had shown

me different possibilities in structure and different possibilities in line. In that way, I feel like I’ve been rejuvenated by these other projects. When these songs were coming, they were coming not for me to make a record; they were just coming so that I could process what I was going through. And I didn’t share them with anybody. They were



Amarpaul Kalirai / Mercury Classics

for my own private notebook.

What do you think people expect from you at this point in your career? Do you keep tabs on that?

No, because you can't keep tabs on that. You have to stay true to the muses, and you have to push yourself. I think to be a visionary means you have to keep pushing yourself, and you don't even know sometimes in which direction you're pushing. How can you and I know? You don't know what book you're gonna write in two years' time. You don't know what you're gonna write, but you trust that you're committed to making exciting art, and that is your priority. Your priority cannot be success. Your priority has to be greatness.

Which direction are you currently pushing in?

Along with the 80-city tour and the new album, what we're doing is recording the cast recording for "The Light Princess" while we're touring. I wanna do something on the level of "Jesus Christ Superstar," when it came out in the '70s.

When I hear how they do cast albums, I say, "Yeah, no. We're making records. We're making rock fucking records! That's what we're doing!" And everybody's just, "Well, there's no budget for it anymore." But you know, who cares.

My husband is on my team, so that's just what it is – we're gonna work during this tour. While we're doing these shows, we'll be working on the other record because that is the way that it has to be done. That's just the way the music business is now. There's no luxury to take a few months out and make that type of record unless you're doing another project. So, we did the orchestra Easter weekend in London for 19 hours, and then we're gonna be picking up the recordings of the actors as we travel, then editing them and mixing it in September and October.

There's so much baton-twirling going on right now in your life.

But that's the thing that you and I are talking about: Being an artist is a discipline and a devotion. You're devoted to it, and you serve the muses.

And sometimes the muses serve other people. According to Gregory E. Miller, who interviewed Kristen Anderson-Lopez for the New York Post, you were the inspiration behind the "Frozen" megahit she co-wrote with her husband, "Let It

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Go." They had you in mind when they wrote it.

Oh, really? That's so great. How wonderful is that type of exchange? You don't even realize that that's happening, and I think that's when art is really working – when the muses are working. I get inspired by something that I'm hearing or seeing, and then it's that baton passing like you and I talked about. We're tapping into this force that's creation – the muse creative force – and it gets passed around, so the well never gets dry. You see, the well keeps getting filled up because people keep giving back to it and energizing each other. It's really

“Your priority cannot be success. Your priority has to be greatness.”

great to be a part of that type of process. Thanks for telling me that. That's a great feeling.

I'd like to talk about how you're 50 but look 35. How much pressure do you put on your looks?

Well, first, thank you for saying that. I have had really great people around me. Kevyn Aucoin – he was part of the gay community (Aucoin died in 2002) – was talking to me years ago about skincare. This was well over 15 years ago, and so I am very disciplined. Also, my husband has kidnapped me on and off for the last 15, 16 years, so I don't get to see the sun much. And it rains all the time in England! I'm very disciplined, if I'm honest with you. I really watch what I eat too – except I did have two pieces of pizza today! I feel like, "Oh my god, it was my cheat day."

See Tori Amos, page 23

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FRANKLIN
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7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Einheuser Legal, P.C.
31000 Telegraph, #200

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Tuesday, July 29
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
GPW Community Center
20025 Mack Plaza

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A Free Seminar on the Legal and Tax Consequences of Same-Sex Marriages in Michigan

by Estate Planning Attorney **Michael Einheuser, Ph.B., J.D.**

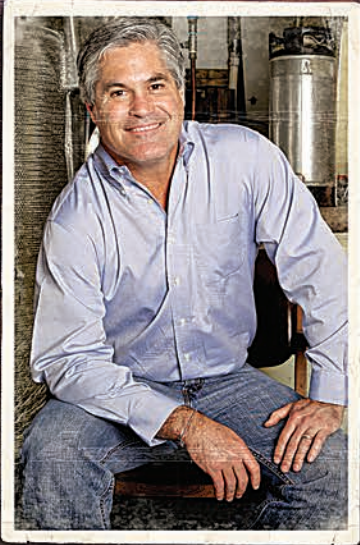
- Will it help or hurt our tax situation ?
- What happens to medical insurance & other benefits ?
- Can we avoid expenses & uncertainty of probate ?
- Is a divorce better or worse than a breakup ?
- What happens to Social Security & other pensions ?
- What rights do we have in and outside Michigan ?

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Thursday, July 31
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Community Center
3179 Livernois Rd., #301

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Photo: Mercury Classics

► Tori Amos

Continued from p. 21

You're allowed maybe one cheat day a week.

But that's all we get. Those French women, man...

They eat?

Yeah, but only meals. They don't graze. They just have their meals.

To many people in the gay community, you've been a source of strength – a lifeline, even. What parallels do you draw between you and the gay community? How do you explain this affinity?

Well, I write a lot about emotions and things that I might not say or be able to say to somebody directly. In a song, though, I'm able to talk about things that I'm not able to talk about in linear terms, just because they're too personal. I do think a lot of my friends in the gay community keep some of their feelings very private and they protect them, so therefore music and art is a way to express those feelings.

I've always been fascinated by the stories that I'm told. I am told a lot of stories and written a lot of letters from the gay community, from females as well as males. It shocks me sometimes some

of the traumatic experiences (I hear about) – the abusive situations that some of the gay guys have told me that they've been through, being taken advantage of and getting involved in over their head, if you see what I'm saying. Not realizing what they're getting involved in, thinking that they're being appreciated for who they are and in reality they're kind of being groomed for god knows what situation. I've heard quite a bit of these stories from young men. Then they're quite shattered and have to go through the shame of what they've been through.

They have to find their spirituality and their sexuality and a balance in that, they have to find how to integrate those two and how to forgive the self. How to forgive the self for getting involved in a situation that they didn't realize would be perverse – perverse to their soul. Some people don't realize that they're getting involved in situations whereby they're not loved at all; they're just desired and manipulated. I get a lot of letters about young men coming to a big city and having to realize how to protect themselves, how to protect their soul, how to look after themselves.

There's a line on one of the new songs, "Promise," that you share with your daughter Tash: "Promise not to judge / Judge who you love." Was that written with the gay community in mind?

Yeah, she and I talked a lot about that. We talked a lot about her friends who are gay and having issues being accepted within their family structure. We were talking about the difference between what somebody has to go through when they're not supported by their family, and why does this have to happen? If a parent really has unconditional love, that *has to* mean unconditional love. It was something thereby we were realizing with each other – and she was teaching me! You

know, as she does so much. Because it's about sharing. It's not about, "I'm the parent so I know." No – I'm the parent and I can learn as well. So we were saying how there aren't a lot of relationships that are unconditional, where you say "I love you, not because of this or that." We were talking about that with friends, peers groups, teenagers – it can be quite something. So, we did talk about the idea of being gay. Tash and I have been talking about that for years because we have gay and lesbian people in our crew.

When we chatted a few years back you told me Tash said to you, "Mom, I'm not a lesbian. Black guys are hot."

Yeah, she thinks black guys are hot. That's what she said: "Black guys are hot." All the gay men (on our crew) were saying, "Right on, Tash." But I think "Promise" is really about, "Can we listen to each other even though we think we know the answer for ourselves? When do we realize what's right for me is not right for anybody else but me? And when do I not need to think that I know what's right for you?" My god, the arrogance in that! So we were beginning to really turn over stones based on what kind of promises we wanted to make to each other.

Musically speaking, you're known for eliciting some pretty intense emotions. What's a song of yours that still makes you cry?

The truth is, it depends on the mood. And sometimes it depends on if somebody's asked me to play something and they've told me their story – then I hear it in a completely different way. I see it from their perspective, and I hear the song for the first time even though I've played it hundreds of times, and that's the exchange.

At this point in your career, are you able to reflect on what you'd call your best work?

No, I can't. I'm too close to it. I have no objectivity. Run into me in 20 years when I'm doing my granny rock...

Granny rock – how exciting!

Yeah, and in heels! That's what Tash says: "Come on, you're only 50 – go rock! When you're a granny, you gotta do granny rock, but you're not a granny, so no." But we made a deal: not too much flesh on this tour and no interpretive dance. That's the promise. (Laughs)

So, get back to you in 20 years and you'll tell me what you think is your seminal work?

Maybe.

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Staging An Evolution

Former Detroit Drag Queen's Play Looks At LGBT Issues Through African-American Lens

BY EMELL DERRA ADOLPHUS

Demetris Dennis Taylor's new stage play, "No Time for the Pain," is gay melodrama in two acts, a fusion of Spanish telenovela and fairy tale, and rife with evil queens, monsters, angel dust and bar flies.

"What do you do (as a heterosexual woman) when you find out that your fiancé of seven years has been having an affair with your twin brother for five of those seven years?" says Taylor, before adding the twist: "Your twin brother finds out he's HIV positive, and you find out you're pregnant and HIV positive."

Running July 25-27 at 1515 Broadway in Detroit, the stage play is 23 years in the making for Taylor, also formerly known as drag performer Samantha Stephens Divinity. As Taylor, he might turn a few heads with "No Time for the Pain." His intention, he says, is to create a dialogue regarding the issues that affect the LGBT community: HIV, drug abuse and racism.

"The situations that we are dealing with (in the stage play) are absolutely incredible," says Taylor, 44, a native Detroiter who now lives in Atlanta. "We are taking LGBT culture and looking at it from an African-American standpoint. So, we have a number of different scenarios going on as life usually does, and we have a group of people and everybody is dealing with something differently."

He gleefully adds: "This is my baby coming to life ... finally!"

The main character, played by local drag performer Fantasia Dior, is modeled after Taylor's personal history in the black Detroit LGBT community. Making his debut as a drag queen in 1993 in the Ms. Amateur Gigis pageant, Taylor says he became a matriarch figure to chronically homeless gay youth. After seeing many gay teens die from poor decisions, he says, the stage play is his opportunity to pass on some wisdom and open the community to discussion.

"The play is a vehicle to help remove some of the 'isms' and the phobias that we have," Taylor says. "When you look at the

situations, the situations are the same (across all communities). We deal with health issues. We deal with the fact that someone may be an enabler and can't take care of their own life."

The play is also a lesson, explains Taylor, in how issues that are perceived strictly as "gay problems" are actually universal problems.

"The issues are still so relevant," he says. "I want to promote discussion. I want to take a look at LGBT living, particularly when we have heterosexual people coming and seeing that everything is the same in the types of people we deal with."

The LGBT community, Taylor explains, is stagnant on progressing beyond issues such as HIV and drug abuse because wisdom from elders falls to deaf ears, as elders are slighted by a community that values youth.

"LGBT is a young culture. Over 35 and it's downhill. Child, once you cross 40, it's almost over if you let it be," he says, noting specifically the slighting of the transgender community.

"As you well know, the 't' of the LGBT community is constantly being overlooked," says Taylor. "So stage plays like this are crucial and paramount to the evolution of what we want to see in LGBT culture, so we can remove a lot of the stigma. Every character in this play, someone will say I know someone like that. Everybody who comes — straight, gay, bi, tri — will know someone or say this reminds them of somebody."

The universal familiarity is people struggling to deal with life's obstacles.

"Everybody deals with things differently, and once we see that the issues are the same, it's just how we approach them, that's the difference. (And then) we are able to understand one another."

"No Time for the Pain" is an official Hotter Than July sponsored event and will run 8 p.m. July 25-26 and 2 p.m. July 27 at 1515 Broadway in downtown Detroit. All seats are \$20. For more information, call 248-688-5178.



Taylor

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The Frivolist Hot In Herre

Making The Most Of Steamy Summer Nights



BY MIKEY ROX

When the mercury rises, so should your creativity. Consider these nine ways to beat the heat – and add a little sexy time to your life while you’re at it.

Make a batch of adult popsicles

First things first: If it’s too hot outside to breathe – let alone move – it’s time to break out the blender and get physicle. Start with a pitcher of margaritas (or your favorite summertime cocktail with a kick) and pour the liquid into ice-pop molds. Molds are abundantly available these days in all sorts of (unintentionally phallic) forms, like the rock-shaped ice pop molds from Tovolo, available on Amazon. When the hooch sets, enjoy instant refreshment (and perhaps satisfaction) that’ll not only cool you off but also help you perfect your form... if you know what I mean.

Use a rainstorm to act like a kid again

My mom never let me play in the rain – perhaps out of fear that I’d get struck by lightning (good lookin’ out, lady) – but I’m a grownup now with the power to make all kind of

stupid decisions. While playing in the rain may not be the wisest choice you can make (especially if you’re hearing cracks and booms nearby), it can be a lot of fun if all that’s in the forecast is harmless precipitation. Slip on your swim trunks and a pair of old sneakers, grab your lover and frolic in a summer shower like a modern-day Gene Kelly.

Take a cool shower together

If you’ve been with your partner for a while, chances are the spontaneity has somewhat waned lately. Which is why a sweltering summer day is the perfect excuse to reignite some of that lost intimacy by cooling off with your clothes off in an invigorating shower. Of course, if you’re a ‘G’ in LGBT, a too-cold shower can present a problem that’s not conducive to the endgame of this activity, so be sure to regulate the



temperature carefully.

Invite your friends over for a wet undies contest

One of the best things about being LGBT – in my humble opinion, at least – is that we generally don’t subscribe to the social norms of our hetero counterparts. Basically because they’re boring. Case in point: It’s easier to round up our best LGBT guy and gal pals for an impromptu wet-undies contest in the backyard that will, if you’ve got really good friends, result in an afternoon of sopping-wet flirty fun with endless possibilities.

Hop on your bike and head to the ice cream parlor

Not everything you do to beat the heat has to be tainted with sexual innuendo and opportunity, of course. A super simple and surefire way to rejuvenate your sun-worn body from the inside out is to hop your bike and take a leisurely ride to your local ice cream parlor or stationary ice cream truck for a cool-and-creamy treat.

Drop trou and go skinny dipping

If you have the good fortune to have access to a pool – preferably one surrounded by a privacy fence lest you want to end up with a court date for indecent exposure – there’s absolutely no excuse why you shouldn’t be shimmying out of whatever you’re wearing when the sun goes down to take a dip in the buff. If your partner is hesitant, do it the hard way – toss ‘em in fully clothed (sans valuables in the pockets) to remind them that’s it OK to play every once in a while.

Get the full list online at Pridesource.com.

Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and blogger whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world. He lives in Manhattan with his husband and their cuddle-buddy furbaby. Connect with Mikey on Twitter @mikeyrox.

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SHOP LGBT

Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, July 17

\$6 at 6 a.m. 6 a.m. Cash only or class passes. Tickets: \$6. Namaste Yoga, 309 S. Troy St., **Royal Oak**. 248-339-9642. Namaste-yoga.net

Detroit Elders 5 p.m. Discuss and address issues specific to the LGBT community as we "age in the D." Detroit Elders, 4750 Woodward, **Detroit**. 313-833-1300. belcrest5440@yahoo.com

Polyamory Network 7 p.m. Open and inclusive community of people living polyamorously, people interested in polyamory and people of, friendly to and curious about polyamory. Welcomes diversity of sexual orientation and gender identity. Meets the third Thursday of every month. Polyamory Network, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. jimtoycenter.org

Friday, July 18

Home & Garden Soiree 6 p.m. Strolling supper and tour of home and garden. Tickets: \$75. Detroit's Historic Palmer Woods Garden Tour, **Detroit**. Palmerwoods.org

Lake Effect Pride 6 p.m. Pride in July. DJ Dance party with wedding bells. OutCenter, 201 Graham Ave., **Benton Harbor**. 269-925-8330. Outcenter.org

Movie Night 7:30 p.m. Movies of an LGBT nature. Free. Battle Creek Pride Resource Center, 16 E. Van Buren St., **Battle Creek**. Battlecreekpride.org

Saturday, July 19

Garden Tour 10 a.m. Refreshments at each garden. Tickets: \$15-20. Detroit's Historic Palmer Woods Garden Tour, **Detroit**. Palmerwoods.org

Greenfield Village Exploring 10 a.m. Tickets: \$17. 50-24. Metro Detroit LGBT Gun Owners, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., **Dearborn**. Meetup.com/Metro-Detroit-LGBT-Gun-Owners

Ann Arbor Art Fair Trip 11 a.m. Women of Color Same Gender Loving 40 & Up, **Ann Arbor**. Meetup.com/Women-of-Color-Same-Gender-Loving-40-UP

Storytime with HSHV 11 a.m. This program pairs children ages 2-5 with animal interactions, as well as stories, activities and crafts. Humane Society of Huron Valley, 2513 Jackson Ave., **Ann Arbor**. 734-662-0600. Nicolassbooks.com

Tigers vs. Cleveland 7 p.m. Tickets: \$33. GOAL, 2100 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

Sunday, July 20

General Membership Meeting Meet the Third Sunday of Jan., April, July and Oct. Dignity Detroit, 8425 W. McNichols, **Detroit**. 313-278-4786. Dignitydetroit.org

Ninth Annual Netroots Nation Conference Each year, thousands of bloggers, newsmakers, social justice advocates, labor and organizational leaders, grassroots organizers and online activists for four days of thought-provoking panels, practical trainings and fun networking opportunities. Plus, some of the brightest minds in progressive politics go to Netroots Nation to speak with (and hear from) people just like you. Tickets: \$275-850. Netroots Nation, 1 Washington Blvd., **Detroit**. Netrootsnation.org

Windover Women on Wheels Porker Run Meet at Affirmations then ride to women only camp ground. Fees

apply. Dykes on Bikes, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Dykesonbikesdetroit.com

Three Parks-Beautiful Rolling Hills 10 a.m. Meet at second lot on right about 1.5 miles into park. Tulip Tree picnic area. Lunch at McNasty's. Get Out Bike, 17385 Haggerty Road, **Belleville**. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

Meetup at Como's 1 p.m. Please RSVP. Gay Single Men Over 21-Metro Detroit & Canada, 22812 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. Meetup.com/GAY-SINGLE-MEN-OVER-21-METRO-DETROIT-CANADA

Pet Loss Support Group 1 p.m. Colleen O'Brien, founder of Blue Dog Counseling, is an expert at developing creative therapeutic interventions to support individuals, couples, families, and other groups with grief. Does not require an RSVP. Humane Society of Huron Valley, 3100 Cherry Hill Road, **Ann Arbor**. 734-662-5585. Hshv.convio.net

Monthly Support and Program Meeting 2 p.m. PFLAG, 306 N. Division, **Ann Arbor**. 734-741-0659. Pflagaa.org

Bisexual Peer Group 4 p.m. Our group meets monthly on the third Friday & discussion relates to bisexual identity. Building is handicap accessible using ramp to rear entrance. Bisexual Peer Group, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-678-2478. Biprideannarbor@gmail.com Facebook.com/groups/110918256984/

Sistrum Sings at Fellowship for Today 5:30 p.m. Sistrum, 2400 E. Lake Lansing Road, **East Lansing**. Sistrum.org

Tuesday, July 22

Aff Action Night 6 p.m. Educating others about how to make Michigan an equality state. Pizza provided for volunteers. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Candlelight Vigil 6 p.m. Free. Hotter Than July, Palmer Park, **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. Hotterthanjuly.org

Circle of Life: Pet Ownership Discussion and Support Group 6:30 p.m. Led by a licensed counselor. Share stories, frustrations, grief and successes. Tail Waggers' 1990, 28402 Five Mile Road, **Livonia**. 734-855-4077. Tailwaggers1990.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

Should We Get Married? 7 p.m. A Free Seminar on the Legal and Tax Consequences of Same-Sex Marriages in Michigan. RSVP. Einheuser Legal, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-4665. Einheuserlegal.com

Transgender Life Support 7 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Wednesday, July 23

LGBT Summer Film Series Different film each date. Affirmations & GOAL, 200 N. Main St., **Royal Oak**. 248-414-1000. Facebook.com/murrayandpeterpresent

Stepping Stones Through Grief Support Group 9:30 a.m. Registration required. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 1-800-832-1155. Goaffirmations.org

Summertime, And The Spoofing Is Easy



Joe Bailey and Richard Payton will crack you up (and each other) in the summertime gender-bending treat, "Whatever, Baby Jane!"

BY CAROLYN HAYES

Not content to go dormant between mainstage seasons, The Ringwald has made an annual practice of throwing a bonus comedy production just as

these lazy, hazy, crazy days reach their peak. Fittingly, the theater refers to this tradition as "summer camp." This year's selection, penned by Dyan Bailey and Brandy Joe Plambeck and directed by the latter, lovingly

Free to be Me Group 12:30 p.m. This is a support group for people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning. The Jewish Gay Network of Michigan (JGN), 6600 W. Maple Road, **West Bloomfield**. 248-432-5467. Jgnmi.org

Boat Ride 6:10 p.m. Tickets: \$55. Hotter Than July, Downtown Detroit Riverwalk, **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. Hotterthanjuly.org

Should We Get Married? 7 p.m. A Free Seminar on the Legal and Tax Consequences of Same-Sex Marriages in Michigan. RSVP. Einheuser Legal, 31000 Telegraph, #200, **Franklin**. 248-

398-4665. Einheuserlegal.com

Hotter than July House Party 10 p.m. Free. KICK, 928 McNichols Road, **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. Hotterthanjuly.org

Thursday, July 24

Calling all Lesbians in Traverse City! Interested in starting a social group for area lesbians living in or near Traverse City? Group will be geared for gay women, singles or couples, 50 to 70 years of age, but all ages are welcome. If you have an interest, please email. Once we achieve a critical mass, we'll hold our first meet and greet.

Traverse Lesbians, **Traverse City**. traverselesbians@gmail.com Website

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

Film Festival 6 p.m. Tickets: \$20. Hotter Than July, 3420 Cass Ave., **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. Hotterthanjuly.org

Free HIV Testing 6 p.m. The AIDS Service Organization, **Lansing**.

Toastmaster's International

INFO

Whatever, Baby Jane!

The Ringwald Theatre
22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale
8 p.m. July 12, 14, 18, 19, 21, 25, 26, 28,
Aug. 1, 2, 4
3 p.m. July 13, 20, 27, Aug. 3
1 hour, 20 minutes; no intermission
\$10-20
248-545-5545
www.theringwald.com

lampoons a cult classic diva horror film just dripping with satiric potential. Dust off the matronly Joan Crawford fright wig and slather on the Bette Davis pancake stage makeup – it's time for "Whatever, Baby Jane!" to storm the stage.

As with any parody, the 1962 original, "What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?," is recommended viewing in order to get the most of the stage experience. Still, newcomers will gain a quick story foothold: An opening video segment by Dyan Bailey appropriates scenes from the movie to trace the backstory of vaudeville sensation Baby Jane Hudson (Joe Bailey), whose childhood fame receded into the shadow of her ascending movie-star sister, Blanche (Richard Payton). After witnessing a mysterious car accident, the viewer catches up with the sisters decades later, living together in a desolate Hollywood mansion – Blanche confined to her upstairs bedroom in a wheelchair, with Jane the resentful and withholding caretaker.

Scenic designer Alexander Trice uses a multitude of DIY innovations to tiptoe past the gravel and peep through the stucco walls into a visually dissonant interior, not to mention generating locales beyond the house and manifesting pianos seemingly out of thin air. This flexibility allows the adaptation to hew close to the original, jumping

See **Whatever, Baby Jane!**, page 38

SpeakOUT! Club 7 p.m. Toastmasters will show you how to listen more effectively, think on your feet and speak confidently Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. Jimtoycenter.org

Friday, July 25

Artistic Women's Entertainment 1 a.m. AWE is female entertainment group in SE Michigan (largely lesbians) who sing, dance, perform spoken word and more. The show is a chance for women of all skills to get on stage with a supportive audience AWE, **Inkster**.

See **Happenings**, page 32

Hear Me Out

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Best of 2014 ... So Far



Sia, '1000 Forms of Fear'

Sia's come a long way since "Breathe Me," a song so emotionally vulnerable, it's overwhelming. No wonder premier pop starlets have been knocking on her door, hoping for a piece of her songwriting genius (just ask Rihanna and Beyoncé). Luckily, though, Sia held onto some of her gems for her first release in four years. The moving-on mantra "Burn the Pages" is a glorious circus of sounds, while soaring ballads "Big Girls Cry" and "Eye of the Needle" take her to new heights. A stunning full-blown pop achievement, this album should do the same.



Against Me!, 'Transgender Dysphoria Blues'

Against Me!'s sixth release is a deeply personal outpouring as necessary – both to now-frontwoman

Laura Jane Grace and the band's fans – as it is empowering. An open diary exploring internal and external struggles with identity – but also, acceptance and love, fear and loss – the complex, often-tremendous "Transgender Dysphoria Blues" triumphs at acknowledging one's differences and the power that can be had when we embrace them.

Miranda Lambert, 'Platinum'

While Miranda Lambert's restless peers

stray from the purity of the country genre to achieve mainstream acclaim, the "Nashville Star" alum has been widely popularized by sticking to her guns. She's known for slipping one in her back pocket should she need to pop an abusive lover, but what's more, Lambert's not leaving the house that built her. At least not any time soon, as demonstrated by yet another feather in her cowgirl hat with the irresistibly witty, hit-heavy "Platinum."



Lykke Li, 'I Never Learn'

It's hard not to wish eternal sadness upon Lykke Li – her gloom inspires greatness. Thankfully, then,

the Swedish songstress is in a bleak place on "I Never Learn," an emotional reflection of fragility and isolation that abandons almost all sense of hope – and also almost all sense of pop. Li is better for it: The intimacy she strikes on "I Never Learn" is a portal into her broken heart.



Mariah Carey, 'Me. I Am Mariah ... The Elusive Chanteuse'

The title is insane. The retouched album art, even more so. So how is it that Mariah Carey's

14th album defies expectations, making for one of the diva's best? Simply put: She. She is Mariah. And from the surprisingly low-key lead-in, "Cry," to the glass-shattering gospel stunner "Heavenly (No Ways Tired / Can't Give Up Now)," Carey affirms that when you've survived "Glitter," anything is possible.

Sharon Van Etten, 'Are We There'

Affecting without any of that sentimental preciousness, there's a transparency to Sharon Van Etten's latest that daringly exposes the visceral emotions of the end of a relationship. A stunningly sad truth-telling about two hearts that have grown apart, "I Love You But I'm Lost" cuts deep. "I Know," too, is simple poignancy told potently. This fourth album from Van Etten is a work of soul-baring genius.



The Antlers, 'Familiars'

An enveloping soundscape of crescendos and thoughtful literary reflections, the Brooklyn band's

fifth album is, at its core, concerned with catharsis – particularly having to do with mortality. That universal certainty is threaded throughout "Familiars." Void of singles, its intention is to be heard as a full narrative. Conjuring one endless dream with its majestic lacing of twinkling pianos and wistful horns – on "Palace," particularly, it sounds like the sky is opening up – The Antlers know that even in death, there's life.



Tori Amos, 'Unrepentant Geraldines'

Tori Amos is reinvigorated on "Unrepentant Geraldines," a compelling return to

the back-to-basics sound of her '90s zenith. "Invisible Boy," an obvious standout, 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.

Lana Del Rey, 'Ultraviolence'

Lana Del Rey's follow up to her claim-to-fame, "Born to Die," is such a convincing piece of mainstream-defying art that it's easy to write off that "Saturday Night Live" flub. Fleshing out the persona introduced on its 2012 predecessor, Rey's follow-up feels like a hallucinatory acid trip – it could levitate you to the sky on its feathery sound pillows.

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'Week After Art Fair Song Fest' Showcases Musical Melting Pot



Martha Guth

at the historic Mariner's Church in Detroit.

The Week After Art Fair Song Fest will begin with a series of classical concerts. The July 22 performance features soprano Martha Guth and baritone Jesse Blumberg, as well as Bylsma and Schoonmaker Rodgers. Tickets for the special evening of song are \$5-30.

On July 23, a free classical concert will again feature the talents of Rodgers and Bylsma. The directors will be joined by Emily Benner, soprano; Monica Swartout-Bebow, mezzo soprano; Allen Schrott, bass baritone; Christopher Scholl, tenor; and Ellen Scholl, mezzo soprano. The

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

Ann Arbor's illustrious art fair is this weekend, but Kerrytown Concert House keeps the summer spirit singing with the "Week After Art Fair Song Fest." The four-day long concert event celebrates its 20th anniversary this year on July 22-25.

General director Jane Schoonmaker Rodgers, and artistic director and pianist Kevin Bylsma, take the reigns for this year's festival. Schoonmaker Rodgers is a soprano with a long list of concert, recital, choral and stage performances from around the world, including shows in New York, London, Vienna, Prague, Toronto and many Great Lakes cities. Currently an associate professor of voice at Bowling Green State University, the singer/director has recently performed or recorded with the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival, Toledo and National Polish Radio Symphonies, Moravian Philharmonic, American Composers' Alliance, Mid-American Center for Contemporary Music and the Society for New Music.

Bylsma, an accomplished vocal coach in addition to his skills with the piano, is known in the Midwest for his work in oratorio, opera and art song. His work in Michigan has included directing the Lyric Chamber Ensemble of Detroit and the Papagena Opera Company of Ann Arbor. Bylsma has also served as principal keyboardist with the Adrian and Greater Lansing Symphony Orchestras, and currently he serves as the assistant organist

evening bills itself as an evening of "Schubert, Schumann, Brahms, Wolf and many other well-loved Saxons, Teutons and Hebrews."

Wednesdays group of performers returns to the stage on July 24 for "Che Bella Luna: Songs of the Night." Considered a favorite theme of the concert house, the program is devoted to the beautiful things all around people, or "gorgeous songs about gorgeous things like the moon." The Thursday night event is also free.

Friday rounds out the concert festival with a cabaret: "Rock 'em Sock 'em Cabaret: Songs to Knock Your Block Off." The cabaret, Kerrytown Concert House's annual act featuring a wide-ranging repertoire, will showcase everything from baroque to pop, Weill to Sondheim, standards to jazz and more. In addition to these talents, the July 25 cabaret will also host Bryan Pfaltzgraff, tenor; Robert Peavler, baritone; Patrick Scholl, tenor; Daniel Schuetz, counter-tenor; Laura Reaper, mezzo-soprano; Jennifer Hilbish-Schuetz, mezzo-soprano; Renee Claire, mezzo-soprano; and many more. Tickets are \$5-25.

Showtimes for each performance are at 8 p.m. July 22-25. The concert house is located in the heart of the historic Kerrytown District of Ann Arbor at 415 N. Fourth Ave. For more information, call 734-769-2999 or visit www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com.

Keep up on LGBT concerts, festivals and more in the Ann Arbor area at BTL's Cool Cities page at www.pridesource.com.

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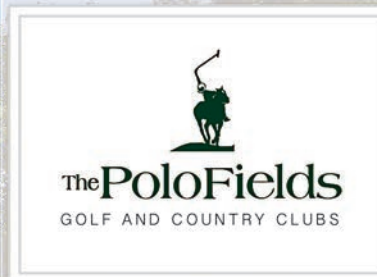


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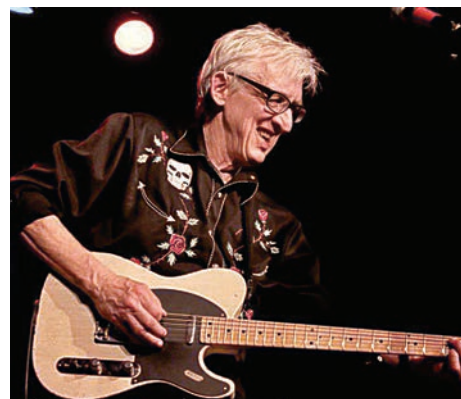
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Guitarist Bill Kirchen Performs Hometown Show July 31

Guitar Player Magazine dubbed him the “Titan of the Telecaster.” Rolling Stone said he’s “an American treasure” and “one of our best.” No matter what you call him, Bill Kirchen is a founding father of the Americana movement. Now at the peak of his impressive career, he’ll return to his hometown of Ann Arbor with his band (David Carroll on bass and Rick Richards on drums) at 8 p.m. July 31 at The Ark.



Kirchen was originally known as co-founder and lead guitarist of Commander Cody and His Lost Planet Airmen, one of the first and only rock ‘n’ roll bands to infuse their honky-tonk sound with pure, blood-and-guts country roots and western swing. It was Kirchen’s indelible guitar licks that drove their hit, “Hot Rod Lincoln,” into the Top 10 in 1972; the song eventually took on a post-Cody life of its own. Today, Kirchen’s extended version of “Hot Rod Lincoln” is his universally loved signature masterpiece, a pumped up joyride through

the last 60 years of guitar-god history, described as “epic” by Rolling Stone.

In 2001, Kirchen received a Grammy nomination for his instrumental “Poultry in Motion.” The following year he was inducted into the Washington Area Music Association Hall of Fame, neatly sandwiched between John Phillip Sousa and Dave Grohl. Kirchen has recorded and/or played guitar live with a who’s who of Americana and Roots Rock ‘n’ Roll, among them Gene Vincent, Link Wray, Bo

Diddle, Hazel Dickens, Doug Sahm, Hoyt Axton, Emmylou Harris, Maria Muldaur, Dan Hicks and Nick Lowe. Bill is pretty sure that he is the only person to have, in a single year, stood on stage and played with both Ralph Stanley and Elvis Costello.

Kirchen has released 10 albums on his own; the latest, “Seeds and Stems,” debuted last summer. It’s a studio album that manages to capture the essence and vibe of Kirchen’s shows: his astounding guitar virtuosity and near-magical, joyous connection with his audience. Featured are some perpetual crowd-pleasers from the Cody days, his sublime, poignant take on Dylan’s “It Takes a Lot to Laugh, It Takes a Train to Cry,” and an amusing bonus track with old friend Jorma Kaukonen, finger-picking through a tune that asks the musical question, “Are you talking ‘bout love, or are you talkin’ ‘bout chicken?”

Thursday night promises to be a homecoming show you won’t want to miss, a breathtaking display of Telecaster mastery covering the gamut of Americana roots influences.

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Editor's Pick

KICK's annual Hotter Than July festival kicks off this week, featuring multiple events. The Hotter Than July Film Festival is one such event, featuring the best in black LGBT cinema. Seating is limited.

Some films to be featured in the film festival are "On the Low," "The Young and Evil" and "Crossover," among many more. "Crossover" celebrates black lesbian motherhood by dealing with a future where schools are segregated by economic class.

The film festival lasts from 6 p.m. to midnight on July 24. All films will be shown at Cinema Detroit, 3420 Cass Ave. Tickets are \$20 per person. For more information, call 313-285-9733 or visit www.facebook.com/htjfilmfestival.

▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 26

248-943-2411. lindacbrin@gmail.com
Artisticwomensentertainment.org

Pub Crawl Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), **Ferndale**. Michiganaidcoalition.org

Annual Gathering on LGBTQ Issues 8 a.m. Free with required registration. Hotter Than July, 4707 St. Antoine St., **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. Hotterthanjuly.org

SCA Farmer's Market 9 a.m. Those wishing to sell fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, and eggs, including baked goods, cheeses, honey products, flowers, and related food products made regionally or by the vendor should apply. A limited number of hand-crafted items can be included; goods that relate to the serving or enjoyment of food products will be given priority consideration in this category. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., **Saugatuck**. 269-857-2399. sc4a.org

Old Town Farmer's Market 3 p.m. Old Town Farmer's Market, Corner of E. Grand River Ave. and Center St., **Lansing**. lloveoldtown.org

Wild Beasts, Wild Wine 6 p.m. The event will allow guests to sample wine from more than 40 local and national wineries and vineyards while enjoying the Detroit Zoo's award-winning habitats at twilight. Tickets: \$35-40. Detroit Zoo, 8450 W. 10 Mile Road, **Royal Oak**. Detroitzoo.org

Friday Night Event 7 p.m. Hotter Than July, **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. Hotterthanjuly.org

Friday Night Socials at the AFF 7 p.m. Join us every Friday 7pm-9pm. Euchre-First & Third Fridays. Open Mic-Second & Fourth Fridays. Hosted by Michelle Brown. Everyone Welcome! Food & Drink available. The AFF Store & More, 290 W Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. rckh@bsumi.com GoAffirmations.org

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

Saturday, July 26

Palmer Park Picnic 9 a.m. Free. Hotter Than July, **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. Hotterthanjuly.org

Saturday Night Swagg at the Woodward Tickets: \$10 until 11 p.m. Hotter Than July, 6426 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. Hotterthanjuly.org

2014 Summer Beer Festival 1 p.m. The 17th Annual Summer Beer Festival features approximately 800 different beers from more than 80 Michigan craft breweries. Food will be available for purchase inside the festival, and guests will enjoy live music from a variety of Michigan bands. Michigan Brewers Guild, **Ypsilanti**. Mibeer.com

Spritz 5 Boat Cruise 1 p.m. Tickets: \$25-35. Spritz Boat Cruise, **Windsor**. Wepridefest.com

X the Line-Peer Educators 2 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. dsmith@goaffirmations.org Goaffirmations.org

Lez Read Ann Arbor 4 p.m. We read fascinating books on all lesbian topics, including books of local authors. And our discussions are always lively and provocative. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. Jimtoycenter.org

Drag Queen Bingo 10 p.m. A fun alternative to your usual weekend hot spots. Shows get out just early enough for you to hit the local clubs or bars! Refreshments from our full coffee bar (coffees, teas, smoothies), sodas, water, and more. Tickets: \$20. 18+. Five15, 515 S. Washington Ave., **Royal Oak**. 248-515-2551. Five15.net

Sunday, July 27

Harsen's Island-A Fan Favorite 10 a.m. Meet at grocery store parking lot. Get Out Bike, 2600 Pointe Tremble St., **Algonac**. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

Worship Service 11 a.m. Free. Hotter Than July, 2930 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. Hotterthanjuly.org

Outpouring 12:30 p.m. LGBT-affirming service. Non-denominational Christian. Affirming Love Ministries, 9550 Oakland Ave., **Detroit**. Affirmingloveministries.webs.com

Sunday Brunch & Tea Dance 1 p.m. Brunch at 1 p.m. with tea dance at 3 p.m. Tickets: \$5-70. Hotter Than July, 267 Joseph Campau Ave., **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. Hotterthanjuly.org

Monthly Dinner Outing-Como's on the Patio 4 p.m. Please RSVP before July 23. Black and White Men Together-Detroit, 22812 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. bwmtdetroit@sbcglobal.net

TransCend TransCend provides support

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

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

Euchre Tournament 7 p.m. Battle Creek Pride Resource Center, 16 E. Van Buren St., **Battle Creek**. Battlecreekpride.org

Regardless Of (Narcotics Anonymous Meeting) 7 p.m. This is a closed meeting for addicts or those who think they might have a drug problem. This may be a Common Needs meeting, but any addict seeking recovery is welcome! The time has come that any addict seeking recovery in the Washtenaw area can find it. The more diverse the fellowship, the more members we are able to reach! The goal is to make the message of recovery available to all so that any addict can come to NA and feel that they too belong in this fellowship! Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. jimtoycenter.org

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Blind Pig "Hollow and Akimbo" With special guest Tunde Olaniran. 18+. Tickets: \$8. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9:30 p.m. July 25. 734-996-8555. Blindpigmusic.com

Cranbrook Art Museum "Modern / Moderna: Amie Siegel and Terence Gower". Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. June 21-Aug. 31. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookart.edu


Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Civic Jazz Orchestra & the Detroit Tigers". Comerica Park, Detroit. 1 p.m. July 20. Detroit.tigers.mlb.com

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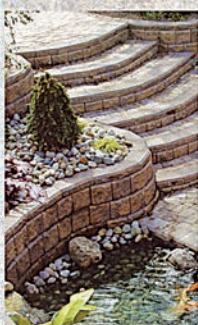
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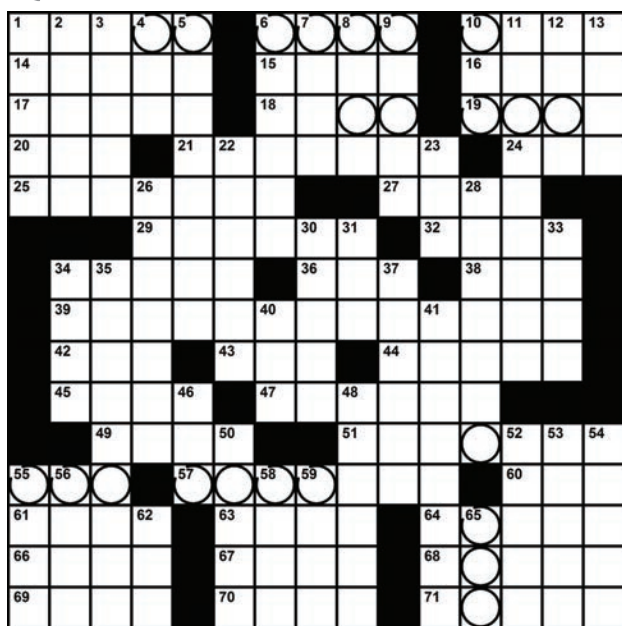
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MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993

Q Puzzle Well-Rounded Films



Across

- 1 Puccini opera
6 Like many a Mapplethorpe model
10 Cry before getting off
14 Where the elated walk
15 "If ___ I Would Leave You"
16 Butch Janet
17 One with a big bag of money
18 Basketball analyst Rebecca

- 19 Bring down
20 Not in the pink
21 Alberta's anthem
24 Point between "gay" and "com"
25 Without a doubt
27 Lanchester of "Bride of Frankenstein"
29 Franklin and Jefferson, religiously
32 Gillette razor product
34 B. D. Wong, for one

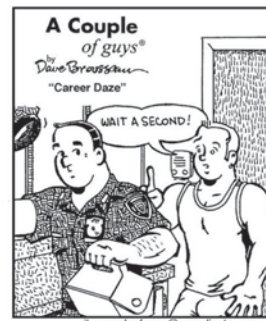
- 36 Western treaty grp.
38 Meat source Down Under
39 Category of the words spelled out in the circles
42 Lacto-___ vegetarian
43 Vote of support
44 Are able to, to Shakespeare
45 Kiss from Kahlo
47 Broadway star Stritch
49 Enjoy Forster
51 Gator relatives
55 Pee-___ Herman
57 Boy toy?
60 Ben Hur_ novelist Wallace
61 "Understood" to Ginsberg
63 One with a foamy head
64 Free, in France
66 Buster Brown's bulldog
67 _Now and ___ _
68 Prop for "I have a headache tonight"
69 Big top, e.g.
70 Drinks slowly
71 What you shoot off at in the air

Down

- 1 Gin diluter
2 ___ fours (doggy-style)
3 Liberace's choice of fur
4 AFL counterpart
5 Like a family tree?
6 Ignores, as an order
7 Bard's river
8 "Queen of Country" McEntire
9 Eat away at
10 Broadway bio

- 11 Cops in gay Paree
12 Prefix with China
13 12-inch
22 Like insecure people
23 Home st. of Harper Lee
26 Fatty
28 Ms. magazine co-founder
30 The bottom line
31 Pop star Harris
33 Czech Rep. neighbor
34 "She ran the gamut of emotions from ___" (Dorothy Parker)
35 Queen, for one
37 Like Jane Addams' activism
40 One who goes after your honey
41 Some pudding flavorings
46 Symbol of sturdiness
48 Nuts of a tall one
50 You have them when you're in the hole
52 _Three Tall Women_ writer
53 Balls
54 Like Neil Diamond's Caroline
55 Ice queen Katarina
56 _Nurse Jackie_ star Falco
58 Old fruit drink
59 Bottomless
62 Porter's "I ___ a Kick Out of You"
65 Variety

Solution on pg. 36



A Tension Getter

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Classifieds

01-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AA MEETINGS

Ann Arbor-Friday

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

Bloomfield Hills-Sunday / Tuesday / Thursday

8:00 pm, 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

Diversity Wednesday Al-Anon Family Group

Wednesday 8pm
St. Luke's Parrish Hall (in basement)
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Go After Your Serenity (G.A.Y.S.) Al-Anon Family Group

Saturday's 8pm
Drayton Ave. Presbyterian Church (in basement)
Pinecrest & Drayton, Ferndale
Closed Meeting

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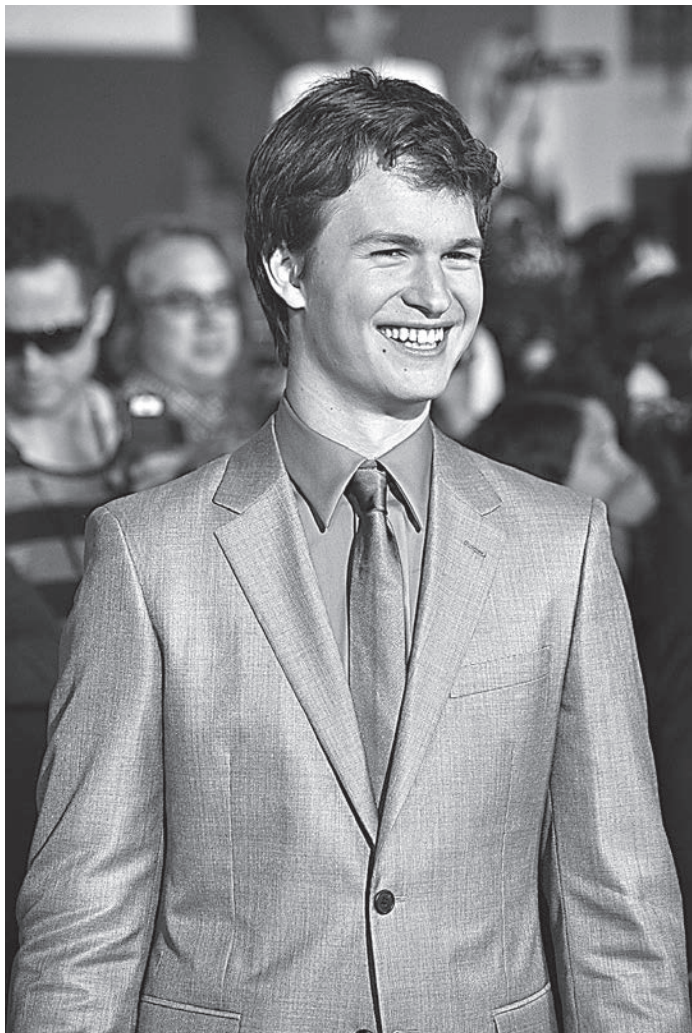
BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

'Fault In Our Stars' actor takes up piano

Not ready to be typecast just yet, hot property Ansel Elgort, currently making tweens cry nationwide in "The Fault In Our Stars," is about to play a quiet, gay, Baptist piano master in "Van Cliburn." He may no longer be a household name, having stopped performing publicly in 1978, but the late Cliburn, a Texas native, became an overnight star during the Cold War 50s when, in 1958, he won the Tchaikovsky International Piano Competition in Moscow. He went on to great acclaim, the anti-Liberace, if you will, and now the annual Cliburn Competition, sponsored by the Van Cliburn Foundation, keeps the legacy alive. Elgort's a great choice for the role. He's tall and lanky like Cliburn was, and he won't need any hand doubles to take on the role – with a script based on Howard Reich's biography, "Van Cliburn" – because the young actor already knows how to play piano. And if anyone can convince the little girls to go see a period film about a gay classical pianist, it's this guy.

'Out In the Night': the injustice system on display

The vital "Out In The Night," from director Blair Doroshwalther, is not a feel-good documentary. It is, in fact, terrifying and enraging. It's the story of four African-American lesbian friends (Renata Hill, Patreese Johnson, Terrain Dandridge and Venice Brown) who were attacked by a man (who allegedly threatened to "fuck them straight") and who defended themselves violently. For this act of self-defense they were sentenced to between three and 11 years in prison. They were also characterized in the media as a "bloodthirsty" "lesbian gang." The



Ansel Elgort. Photo: Shutterstock.com

documentary that follows their case, the trial and its aftermath shines a harsh light on the treatment of queer women of color in the media and in the court system and demands to be seen by thinking people everywhere. It had its premiere at the Frameline LGBT Film Festival in San Francisco and will soon play at Outfest in Los Angeles, before finding its home on cable/on demand where it will have the biggest chance for audience impact. See it as soon as you can.

Sundance TV sees the future

Watching television has changed for good. Limited-run shows like "Top of The Lake" and short, concentrated seasons for offbeat, critically acclaimed, ongoing series are available for streaming and able to be watched at any time, inviting viewers to binge on entire seasons at once. And the networks with vision have responded. Case in point: Sundance TV, the newcomer that helped bring the well-reviewed "Rectify"

to audiences, is moving forward with an entire slate of programming, a lot of it queer-themed. A series based on Chad Harbach's baseball novel, "The Art of Fielding," which had a gay storyline, is in development from producer Todd Field; Alan Cumming will produce an unnamed project inspired by the life of AIDS activist and restaurateur Florent Morellet; Joe Landsdale's detective novels will find themselves transformed into "Hap and Leonard," a comic buddy-detective piece set in the 1960s featuring a white Southerner and a gay African-American Vietnam vet; and "A Visit From The Goon Squad," a story of a group of friends in 1980s San Francisco, will be adapted from the Jennifer Egan novel of the same name. You're going to need a bigger DVR.

'L Word Mississippi: Hate The Sin' promises no lipstick

The title alone, with its "Hate The Sin" bump at the end, kind of gives you pause, doesn't it? Weren't we all pretty much aware that it's not exactly great to be queer in rural America? But then there's that first part: "L Word." That "L Word"? The guilty pleasure lesbian fantasy of art-collecting, skateboarding, tons-of-sex-having, Prada-wearing, Sapphic sophistication? What exactly does "L Word" have to do with Mississippi? Well, everything, now that a reality show with that name is coming to Showtime in August. It follows the lives of a group of women in the Deep South, white and black, femme and (very) butch, all making their home uneasily in the swamp of American religious fervor, where dealing with people who claim to love and hate you at the same time is just a routine part of daily life. And because this is an opportunity to show a side of lesbian life the media's not really interested in, let's hope the series keeps it authentic and pulls no punches, rather than resorting to the usual reality show fakery of nonstop interpersonal fighting. Leave that to the "Real Housewives," OK, Showtime?

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Eastern Michigan University LGBT Resource Center	734-487-4149
Equality Michigan	313-537-7000
Flint Crisis Line	810-257-3740
HIV AIDS/Resource Center Toll-Free	866-HIV-TEST
Jim Toy Community Center	734-995-9867
Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center (KGLRC)	269-349-4234
Karibu House Community Center for LGBT Persons of Color	313-865-2170 ext. 3
Lansing Area AIDS Network	517-394-3719
Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC) Toll-Free	888-A-CONDOM
Oakland County Health Division Toll-Free	888-350-0990 ext. 85416
OutCenter	269-925-8330
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PFLAG Detroit	248-656-2875
PFLAG Genesee County	810-496-8302
PFLAG Lansing	517-332-4550
PFLAG Tri-Cities Bay City/Saginaw/Midland	989-941-1458
Stonewall Bar Association (LGBT lawyers and allies)	313-578-6812
The LGBT Network of Western Michigan	616-458-3511
Transgender Michigan Help Line	517-420-1544
Unity Michigan	269-290-1427
Wellness AIDS Services	810-232-0888

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▶ Whatever, Baby Jane!

Continued from p. 26

among sisterly standoffs, intrusions by nosy neighbors and concerned housekeepers, and excursions to carry out plot developments. Although all the remaining characters are played by just two actors (Dyan Bailey and Joel Mitchell), very few scenes are impossible to reproduce, so that the show is by and large a reproduction with ample commentary.

And indeed, the meta, editorial voice continues almost nonstop. While the writing skews blue in more than a few dips into depravity, and some story incongruity is cleverly heightened or otherwise underlined, the production as a whole plays like a catalog of unrelated – albeit hilarious – bits and rejoinders, many germinating entirely in the moment. Nothing is above an aside, be it one of the many obliquely

garish sound cues (by designers Dyan Bailey and Plambeck) or lighting excesses (also by Plambeck), which are wedged in from all sides as added comic fodder, but just as often serve as springboards for more ad-libbed silliness.

Of course, the show's real draw is in reanimating the Hudson sisters, transforming two male actors in all their grotesque, glamorous glory. While costumer Bailey Boudreau and assistant Tanner Murray exhibit fine character work in the matronly – the dumpy, the out-of-fashion, and the bizarrely inappropriate – the pièce de résistance here is from the neck up, in the form of devastating wigs (by Buddy VanLoon) and outrageous feats of makeup (by an uncredited mad drag genius). The looks do justice to the core impression work, from Joe Bailey's bitten-off Bette Davis speak to Payton's condescending Joan Crawford propriety. What's more, the pair's

rapport onstage consistently has the feel of a double-dog dare, with each surprising and one-upping the other, and both trying desperately to hold character through pauses for deafening laughter.

With snappier writing, stricter adherence to script, more attention to timing and relationship, and better integration of effects with live action, this "Whatever" might have been a keener send-up of its source material. Yet the production's conscious decision to instead dig down for the kind of spontaneous, immediate comedy that can only happen with live theater yields an experience all the rarer, certainly wilder, and exhibiting an unconventional – but no less impressive – skill set. This kind of pure-sugar indulgence is a superb capper to a carefree summer day, giving audiences their sweet fill of laughter and sending them off with the best kind of bellyache.

▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 35

The Last Romance \$18.50-42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Aug. 30. 734-433-7673. purplerosetheatre.org

The Matchmaker \$15. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. July 18 - Aug. 8. 616-395-7890. hope.edu/hsrt

The Sound of Music \$15-30. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through Aug. 7. 616-395-7890. hope.edu/hsrt

Whatever, Baby Jane \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through Aug. 4. 248-545-5545. theringwald.com

Woody Sez: The Life and Music of Woody Guthrie \$30-35. Three Oaks Theater Festival at The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. July 18 - 19. 866-811-4111. Threeoaksfestival.com

[title of show] \$31-33. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. July 18 - Aug. 3. 269-343-2727.

farmersalleytheatre.com

ART 'N' AROUND

Art Detroit Now "3rd Thursday After Party". Cass Corridor Collective, 10022 Joseph Campau, Detroit. 9 p.m. July 17. Artdetroitnow.com

Art Detroit Now "3rd Thursdays in Detroit" 45+ local galleries and retail locations stay open until 9 p.m. to offer the best in contemporary art. Multiple. Detroit. Aug. 15-Oct. 16. Artdetroitnow.com

Detroit Institute of Arts "Detroit -- Bruce Weber" Photographs. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 20-Sep. 7. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

Downriver Council for the Arts "Adult Oil & Acrylics Class" Tickets: \$10. Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. Jan. 7-Nov. 25. 734-720-0671. Downriverarts.org

Flint Institute of Arts "About Face: Portraiture Through Time". Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. July 8-July 20. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.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

Henry Ford Museum "Maker Faire"

The family-friendly Faire features everything from technological inventions to homemade crafts to kid-engineered robots. Henry Ford Museum, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. July 26-July 27. Makerfairedetroit.com

HotWorks.org "12th Annual Orchard Lake Fine Art Show" Juried fine art & fine craft show. All artwork is original and personally handmade by the professional artist in the show. All artwork is for sale including paintings, clay, glass, sculpture, jewelry, photography, wood, fiber, and more. HotWorks.org, West Bloomfield. July 26-July 27. 248-684-2613. Hotworks.org

Level One Bank "ART Exhibit Featuring Anthony Bacon" Mr. Bacon presents Images depicting Detroit & S. E. Michigan. The artists opening will be on Friday, May 30 from 3-6 p.m. The artist works vary in style and range from abstract to realistic. Many music & techno related themes will be shown. Level One Bank, 22635 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. May 30-July 28. 248-414-6500.

MOCAD "Midwestern Voices and Visions". Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 13-July 27. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

One 313 Workshops "Sole Searching (Painting/Symbolism)" For ages 4+. Free. Number House, Heidelberg Project, 3632 Heidelberg St., Detroit. 12 p.m. July 19. 313-974-6894. Heidelberg.org

Pewabic Pottery "Education Studio at Maker Faire". Pewabic Pottery, 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit. July 26-July 27. 313-626-2000. Pewabic.org

River's Edge Gallery "Hidden by the Underground" Brings two unlikely artists together: Johnny Bee Badanjek, from the world of rock, and Amy Chenier, originally from the world of sports and statement art. River's Edge Gallery, 3024 Biddle, Wyandotte. July 1-Aug. 31. 734-246-9880. Artatthedge.com

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "The Lake Effect: Contemporary Art at Ox-Bow". Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. June 12-Aug. 23. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

Scarab Club "Bugs Blooms, Beasts exhibition" Featuring artwork "Winged Pharaoh," by Charles Alexander. The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. May 22-July 27. 313-831-1250. <http://scarabclub.org/>

What Pipeline "S. O. A. P. Y. Stage III: Detroit". What Pipeline, 3525 W. Vernor Hwy., Detroit. July 14-July 19.

Solution to puzzle from page 34

T	O	S	C	A	B	A	R	E	T	G	I	F
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