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Feds Call On States To
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COVER STORY

4 HTJ Pride Picnic preview
Photo: HTJ Performer Cierra Malone
Photo by Dorian Le'Grand



I've **never** taken the kind of **shit gay people take.**

—Sinéad O'Connor, pg. 14

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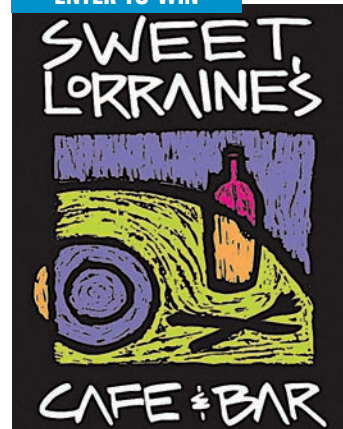
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Keep Up With Hotter Than July Coverage Online

Access daily coverage of HTJ this weekend online at Pridesource.com

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Q&A With HTJ Performer Cierra Malone



How long have you been performing?

I've been performing since 2002

What's been your most embarrassing moment onstage?

My wig coming off.

What's been the best show you've ever given and why?

I feel like every show I give is my best show. But I will say: when I performed at the Majestic, because it was a bigger stage and I was up there with some legendary girls. And the Battle of the Leading Ladies with Dickie Dior, because I got to perform with some very well-known girls.

What can folks expect from you on Saturday?

I think I'm gonna bring a little something different, because every year I bring Jill

Scott. But I'm going to give them what I always give them: entertainment.

What's the best part about the HTJ Pride Picnic to you?

Seeing old familiar faces.

- By Jason A. Michael

HTJ SCHEDULE

Hotter Than July Warms Up Detroit

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

Hotter Than July, Detroit's black gay pride festival, continues its 19th anniversary this week with further celebrations.

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.

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

See HTJ Schedule, page 8

HTJ Pride Picnic Preview

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

It's the centerpiece of Detroit's weeklong black gay pride celebration. The pride picnic, which takes place Saturday in Palmer Park, has been a crowd favorite since Hotter Than July began in 1996. It's attracted tens of thousands of people throughout the years, including everybody from famous authors (James Earl Hardy, Keith Boykin, Stanley Bennett Clay), performers (The Lady Chablis, Cyon Flare, April Summers), politicians (Kwame Kilpatrick, Benny Napoleon, Maryann Mahaffey) and porn stars (Bobby Blake, Flex Dion, Ty Lattimore).

"This year I think we have more live talent showcasing the local LGBT community," said David Nelson, co-chair of the HTJ picnic planning committee.

Nelson has booked local artists such as Logan Mario, Crystal Grundy, Izaya Cole and Imara Rhiannon this year. Also on board are Cierra Malone and Ramon Harris as hosts.

This is Nelson's second year working on the picnic. "Last year was my first year doing it under Curtis (Lipscomb, executive director of KICK, the agency that coordinates HTJ)," Nelson said. "He gave me a lot of leeway to do my thing. That's how I got to do it this year."

Nelson said coordinating the event is challenging. "You have to deal with a lot of different personalities and you have to fit in what everybody wants pride to look like without saying, 'Hey, your idea's stupid,'" Nelson said with a laugh.

But after all the planning is over, the magic happens. And Nelson is expecting a lot of it this year.

"My hope for this year's picnic is, first off, for it not to be rained out," he said. "Then my hope is for it to bring everybody together more. I want us to be able to show the community and the world that LGBT communities are not just full of drama. We're actually here to be together and work toward better lives."

What's the best part of the HTJ Pride Picnic?

“It's an opportunity to learn of so many ways to help uplift the community. I never knew just how many organizations there were that benefited Detroit's LGBT community in so many ways.**”**

- Lewis Smith



“The best thing about the picnic in the park is the display of family unity in the community.**”**

- Darius Baty



“The Palmer Park Picnic is truly a family reunion of our ever-growing LGBT community. Like the core values of Hotter Than July itself, the picnic is built to empower and unite people of all colors, genders and sexualities. It's a Detroit tradition that I look forward to every year.**”**

- Chris Sutton

LGBTs Connect At Netroots Nation Gathering

BY CHUCK COLBERT

More than 120 LGBT activists, bloggers, organizations, funders and journalists from across the U.S., Canada and Mexico gathered in Detroit this past week for a day-long discussion about the future of the LGBT movement and ways to effect progressive social change within it and beyond.

Organized by Mike Rogers, vice chairman and managing director of Raw Story Media, the LGBT Netroots Connect program, now in its seventh year, has more than doubled its size from the initial 60-people meeting, which was then called the National Blogger and Citizen Journalist Initiative.

Since 2008, Netroots Connect has done “a great job,” said Rogers, program director, in broadening the scope of the program and its participants. “Our team is no longer just bloggers, but also social media activists and more, from all over the country, engaged in social change.”

“What’s really important,” he said, is “intersectionality,” the connecting of LGBT concerns with broader progressive issues such as economic justice, immigration reform, the labor movement, reproductive rights, affordable health care, religious liberty and the environment, among others.

Enabling people to make personal connections, the face-to-face networking not possible through email exchanges and instant messaging, is also paramount, Rogers said, explaining, “My strength is the schmooze.”

LGBT Netroots Connect was held on Wednesday, July 16, just one day before Netroots Nation (July 17-20), the annual political convention for American liberal-to-progressive activists, including mostly Democrats.

LGBT Protestors Interrupt Biden’s Speech

The three-day convention drew 2,000 to 3,000 attendees to the Motor City’s Cobo Center, including Vice President Joe Biden who addressed the gathering on Thursday afternoon.

“This is one of those moments that people get a chance to bend history just a little bit,” he said. “And there are fundamental changes taking place.”

Biden’s speech touched on a number of LGBT themes: the importance of marriage equality, non-discrimination, full equality and more.

Sure enough, the vice president’s remarks fell on receptive ears. “Because of you, we’ve recognized basic fundamental rights in the LGBT community,” he said.

During Biden’s speech, however, several immigration-reform advocates stood and

chanted for a short time, “Stop deporting our families,” before convention security and secret-service personnel escorted them out.

The protestors were from the activist groups United We Dream and GetEqual.

Netroots Connect participants said that Biden impressed them in his handling of the incident.

“I appreciate the vice president’s hearing what was said,” explained Todd Allen, an ordained Southern Baptist minister and Mississippi LGBT activist. “How many times does a politician have protestors hear what they are saying,” and in effect say, “I feel your pain.”

Sean Howell of San Francisco, founder and CEO of Hornet, a gay men’s social network, said Biden’s empathy touched him.

Howell was referring to the vice president’s

acknowledgment that he shared the protestors’ sentiments, going so far as to give a personal story about “how terrible it must be to come home from school and wonder if you parents have been deported,” Howell said.

That Biden said everyone should applaud the protestors resonated poignantly with Howell.

Netroots Nation also drew Massachusetts U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, who delivered the keynote address on Friday morning. She was a big hit among attendees and received spirited applause after speaking.

Sounding notes of unity and populism, Warren told attendees, “If we join together, we win.”

The convention also drew the Rev. William Barber, the fiery African American preacher behind North Carolina’s Moral

Monday movement, a grassroots response to a conservative Republican take over of the state’s executive and legislative branches of government. Barber’s Thursday evening opening plenary keynote speech focused on economic justice as a moral issue.

In addition to educational workshops, training sessions and panel presentations on a wide range of progressive causes, this year’s Netroots Nation featured a full platter of LGBT-focused content, including caucuses for queer people of color, LGBTs and allies. Other relevant caucuses featured talks on equality legislation, as well as sessions about the labor movement, sex-positive talk, transgender military service, fighting religious exemptions and fake (or junk) science.

See Netroots, page 12

Progressive Detroit Talks On The National Level: Netroots Closeup

BY AJ TRAGER

DETROIT – Last week, Netroots Nation brought thousands of liberals and progressives to downtown Detroit. They took to the city at night, protested the water shutoff Friday afternoon, watched Vice President Joe Biden and U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren speak on equality and bettering the future for upcoming generations and attended caucuses and panels surrounding LGBT concerns. National issues were also in focus, such as the student debt levels, voting rights, environmental concerns, sexuality and public school reform. But most of the attendees were from outside of Michigan, along with the organizational representation in the exhibition hall of the conference. So how did those from Michigan feel the state and city were received on the national level? Every local organization that spoke to BTL believed the state and the city were well-received. Extremely well, in fact.

“It’s wonderful that we can have a group of progressives meet in Detroit; I didn’t think that would be possible. And it is so great to see the diversity in age groups, even. It’s great to see the swarm of folks who have one common goal and that is to better the world that we live in,” Liz Kranz, the creative director of the Michigan House Democrats, said.

This was the first year that the Netroots Nation was brought to Detroit. In previous years, the convention was held in larger cities like Las Vegas or San Jose, Calif. Most of this year’s exhibitors were from out of town, many of which are located in Washington D.C.



From left, Abdulla Alhassani, Ryan Covert, Garrett Arwa, Al Williams II and Josh Pugh from the Michigan Democratic Party. BTL photo: AJ Trager

Kranz was there with Joe Clark, a writer in the communications office of the Michigan House Democrats. They were volunteering their time, making connections with national organizations to work at engaging on the national level.

“We have had people from different states come to us and talk about what is going on in Michigan and with our candidates. We have people signing up for emails and newsletters from Las Vegas and California,” Clark said. “They are interested. We have had several people spend a good amount of time talking to us because they are interested in what we are doing.”

With Detroit slowly moving past possible bankruptcy and a big protest march to Hart plaza happening on the same day as the convention, attendees were able to see that Detroit is fighting and improving on a daily basis. That the city and its people stand up to inequality and are pushing forward for a better Detroit could really be felt in every room throughout the conference.

“Detroit is a fighting city and the city gets kicked around in the media, sometimes in local media, but people around here don’t care about that. They know that the city has

See Progressive Detroit, page 8

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 the Aug. 5 primary:

Garnet Lewis is running in the 32nd District which includes Saginaw, Zilwaukee, Tittabawassee 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

Feds Call On States To Revamp HIV Criminal Laws, MDCH Evaluating DOJ Guidelines

BY TODD A. HEYWOOD

The U.S. Department of Justice issued new guidance July 16, calling on states to consider modernizing their HIV-specific criminal laws.

“The guide will assist states to ensure that their policies reflect contemporary understanding of HIV transmission routes and associated benefits of treatment and do not place unnecessary burdens on individuals living with HIV/AIDS,” a press release from the DOJ says.

Currently 33 U.S. states and territories criminalize certain behavior for those living with HIV. Most of the laws were adopted in the late ‘80s and early ‘90s at the height of the HIV epidemic. Michigan’s law was adopted by the state legislature in 1988 and went into effect in 1989.

“While initially well intentioned, these laws often run counter to current scientific evidence about routes of HIV transmission and may run counter to our best public health practices for prevention and treatment of HIV,” said Acting Assistant Attorney General Jocelyn Samuels for the Civil Rights Division. “The department is committed to using all of the tools available to address the stigma that acts as a barrier to effectively

“*The HIV-positive monster in many people’s minds is a product of stigma and has no basis in reality.*”

- Trevor Hoppe, who graduated this spring with a PhD in sociology from the University of Michigan. His dissertation evaluated criminal prosecutions under Michigan’s law in the past two decades.

addressing this epidemic.”

The laws have come under increasing criticism over the years as evidence has emerged showing the prosecution of people living with HIV may be causing a minority of people at high risk of infection to avoid being tested or discuss their risk behavior with medical professionals. The laws have also been criticized for criminalizing behavior that does not transmit HIV – such as spitting or biting – or prosecutions wherein the behavior did not pose a significant risk of

transmission. In very few cases prosecuted in the U.S. has intent to transmit the virus been a factor in the prosecution.

That, the new DOJ guide says, should change.

“The majority of these laws were enacted at a time when far less was known about risk, likelihood, and mode of transmission of the virus and at a time when the quality of life and lifespan of an individual with the virus was vastly different than it is currently,” the guide says. “As a result, certain of these laws do not accurately reflect the current science of transmission, do not account for risk reduction behaviors and medical protocols that greatly reduce transmission risk, and do not reflect that, with testing and treatment, HIV may be a manageable medical condition.”

Recommendations

The guide goes on to provide recommendations.

“First, states may wish to retain criminal liability when a person who knows he/she is HIV positive commits a (non-HIV specific) sex crime where there is a risk of transmission (e.g., rape or other sexual assault). The second circumstance is where the individual knows he/she is HIV positive and the evidence clearly demonstrates that individual’s intent was to transmit the virus and that the behavior engaged in had a significant risk of transmission, whether or not transmission actually occurred.

“For states that choose to retain HIV-specific criminal laws or penalty enhancements beyond these two limited circumstances, the best practice would be to reform and modernize them so that they accurately reflect the current science of risk and modes of transmission, the quality of life and life span of individuals who are living with HIV, account for circumstances where the failure to disclose is directly related to intimate partner violence, and ensure they are the desired vehicle to achieve the states’ intended purpose in enacting them initially or retaining them in modernized form.”

Michigan Reacts

Michigan advocates hailed the guidance.

“The DOJ’s recommendations are an important step towards reforming these outdated and problematic laws. As I found in Michigan, many of the criminal cases brought under such laws involve sexual behavior that is not actually blameworthy,” says Trevor Hoppe, who graduated this spring with a PhD in sociology from the University of Michigan. His dissertation

“*These existing criminal HIV laws are an undue burden on people living with HIV, they are counterproductive to the important goal of ending the HIV epidemic.*”

- Bryan Victor, victim advocate at Equality Michigan.

evaluated criminal prosecutions under Michigan’s law in the past two decades. “In Michigan, I could not find a case in which it was clear that the defendant maliciously intended to infect their partners. While defenders of HIV-specific criminal statutes often invoke stories of malicious offenders who wreak havoc by attempting to infect as many innocent, unwitting partners as possible, this narrative does not accurately reflect the cases brought under these laws. The HIV-positive monster in many people’s minds is a product of stigma and has no basis in reality.”

Hoppe was not alone.

“The U.S. Department of Justice issuing these guidelines makes clear the modernization of criminal HIV laws to reflect the most up to date science and best practices on HIV prevention and treatment, is both common sense and mainstream,” says Bryan Victor, victim advocate at Equality Michigan.

“Equality Michigan applauds the Justice Department for bringing to light the urgency to update these laws given that the HIV epidemic remains as real a crisis as ever. The verdict is in, and not only are these existing criminal HIV laws an undue burden on people living with HIV, they are counterproductive to the important goal of ending the HIV epidemic.”

Michigan Department of Community Health began evaluating Michigan’s law in 2012. The process was suspended at the end of November, despite internal drafts of a report showing the state was prepared to advise lawmakers on removing the current law.

Angela Minicuci, spokesperson for MDCH, says the state is evaluating the new DOJ guide. “We are exploring the issue to see if it will be picked back up.”

Obama Signs LGBT Workplace Non-Discrimination Executive Order

BY LISA KEEN

WASHINGTON, DC – In a brief ceremony in the East Room of the White House, with a scattering of “Amens” from the 300 or so LGBT activists gathered, President Obama signed an executive order July 21 prohibiting contractors who do business with the federal government from discriminating based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and adding to existing protection (which includes sexual orientation) for federal employees a prohibition of discrimination based on gender identity.

“It doesn’t make much sense, but today in America, millions of our fellow citizens wake up and go to work with the awareness that they could lose their job, not because of anything they do or fail to do, but because of who they are - lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender. And that’s wrong. We’re here to do what we can to make it right – to bend that arc of justice just a little bit in a better direction,” President Barack Obama said in opening.

Importantly, the new executive order neither expands nor removes a relatively narrow exemption put in place by President George W. Bush that exempts “a religious corporation, association, educational institution, or society, with respect to the employment of individuals of a particular religion to perform work connected with the carrying on by such corporation, association, educational institution, or society of its activities.”

“President Obama is showing strong leadership taking this historic action to advance equality in our country,” said openly gay U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin, in a statement Friday after details of the executive order were released. “By signing this executive order banning workplace discrimination against employees of federal contractors and the federal government, we will ensure millions of American workers will be protected from discrimination simply because of who they are or who they love.” Baldwin was on the front row for the event.

But the order, because it does not create an LGBT-specific religious exemption, also hands a major victory to LGBT political and legal activists. In recent months, they have united in a pushback against efforts



President Barack Obama delivers remarks before he signs an executive order regarding further amendments to Executive Order 11478, Equal Employment Opportunity in the Federal Government, and Executive Order 11246, Equal Employment Opportunity, to protect LGBT employees from workplace discrimination, in the East Room of the White House, July 21. Official White House Photo by Pete Souza.

“By signing this executive order banning workplace discrimination against employees of federal contractors and the federal government, we will ensure millions of American workers will be protected from discrimination simply because of who they are or who they love.”

- U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin

by religious conservatives to carve out new exceptions to existing non-discrimination laws in order to discriminate against LGBT people, especially same-sex couples seeking to marry.

The focus on religious exemptions had also grown following the June 30 U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling, in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby*. The decision said closely held for-profit companies could claim a religious exemption from a mandate of the Affordable Care Act to provide health insurance coverage for contraceptive services. Some LGBT legal activists called the decision “radical” and “dangerous,” saying it could open the door for companies and other entities to seek religious exemptions for LGBT-related matters.

On July 1, a group of 14 religious leaders urged President Obama to include a “robust religious exemption” in his pending executive order for federal contractors. In a July 15 letter, 69 groups – including more than two dozen religious organizations – urged against such an exemption. The latter noted that religious entities already have an exemption, provided by an executive order from President George W. Bush. Although the pro-LGBT groups asked President Obama to remove the Bush religious exemption, the new executive

order does not.

Before signing the document, President Obama noted that there are now more states with marriage equality than there are prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation, President Obama diverted from his prepared remarks to urge the audience to take a moment to reflect upon all the progress on LGBT issues the administration has made in the past five years.

The Human Rights Campaign heralded President Obama’s executive order as a “profoundly consequential” document that “dramatically underscores President Obama’s own LGBT legacy of achievement unmatched in history...”

It is estimated that federal contractors employ 14 million people.

President Johnson signed Executive Order 11246 in 1965 that prohibits federal contractors and subcontractors from discriminating in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin. Four years later, President Nixon issued Executive Order 11478 to bar discrimination against federal employees based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability and age. Although President Clinton signed Executive Order 13087, adding sexual orientation to Nixon’s non-discrimination order protecting federal employees, he did not sign an order regarding employees of federal contractors. President Obama’s order adds gender identity to President Nixon’s order and both sexual orientation and gender identity to President Johnson’s order.

BRIEFS

ANN ARBOR

Mark Schauer To Visit /aut/BAR

Mark Schauer, Democratic candidate for the Michigan Governor’s race, takes his campaign to /aut/BAR in a fundraising and awareness event this Thursday.

Schauer lives in Battle Creek with his family and is a former Rep. for Michigan’s 7th District in the House of Representatives.

Hosts of the event include Keith Orr and his partner, Martin Contreras, who own /aut/BAR and Common Language, an LGBT bookstore located in the same facility. They’ve been together for 27 years. The couple married back in March and, like many LGBT married couples in the state, are waiting to hear the 10th Circuit Court’s ruling that will decide if their marriage will be legally recognized in Michigan.

Other hosts include Francyne Stacey, Joan Binkow, Barb Fuller, Mark LaChey, Bryan Hoffman, MI Good Guys and the MI List.

As a supporter of LGBT rights and Marriage Equality, Schauer believes that both women and the LGBT community are being left behind as more and more legislation is passed prohibiting rights from being universal for all in Michigan. Schauer is committed to building a stronger Michigan for everyone and supports amending the Elliott-Larsen Act to include LGBT protections from discrimination in the workplace.

Come to the /aut/BAR to meet Mark Schauer and the rest of his campaign at 5 p.m. on July 26. To register for the event, call Matt Phelan at 810-923-2307 or email him at Matt@markschauer.com.

The /aut/BAR is located at 315 Braun Ct. Get more information on Schauer and his campaign by visiting his website at <http://markschauer.com>

Study: PrEP, Taken Regularly, 100 Percent Effective

Scientists at the International AIDS Conference in Sydney, Australia, released the results of an open label study of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis this week, which found that regular dosing of the drug Truvada is 100 percent effective in preventing HIV-negative people from becoming infected with the virus.

AIDS Map reports the study, released in *The Lancet* medical journal in conjunction with the report on the study at the conference, found that people had blood concentration levels equivalent to taking Truvada at least four times a week. That, researchers say, resulted in 100 percent protection from HIV infection.

The study did find adherence to taking the drugs was low - only one-third of participants had a blood level equal to four or more weekly doses. Adherence was also lower in younger men who have sex with men, a key demographic in need of the drug, experts from both the CDC and the World Health Organization have said.

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► Progressive Detroit

Continued from p. 5

been through so much and people are going to keep fighting," Clark said. "It's going to be a better place because people care about it. That's what the convention is about. We have these causes, and we're up against similar issues."

It comes as no surprise that an event like Netroots Nation is mainly Democratic in its alignment. Executive Director of the Michigan Democratic Party, Garrett Arwa, was there with other staff members and said that the traffic flow at his organization's table was steady and had a good mixture of Michigan attendees and those from outside the state, too.

"I think it's good to engage folks in Michigan who might not be engaged with the party but are engaged with progressive movements and progressive principals. It's also good to see people from other states who are aware of some of the horrible things that have happened over the past four years with Republican control of both the legislatures and also in Washington D.C. It reminds us that some of the things we are doing here is more than just Michigan. People are watching," Arwa said.

For a lot of people who have never been to Detroit, Arwa believes them to be impressed. There is a part of Detroit that some will take away, he said, like what the average Detroiter is going through.

"They are things like the water crisis, wanting to make sure that they have proper city services, how big the city is, areas that the city needs to condense itself. Those are some of the real problems that Detroiters deal with on a daily basis. And it is a lot of the same problems that a lot of these organizations here

are fighting on behalf of," Arwa said. "They will take with them that this is a city on the comeback."

"I think, personally, Netroots is a wonderful blend of both the ideals that we espouse whether they are progressive, democratic or ideals of the LGBT and African American communities and so on and so forth," Arwa smiled.

"I think it is good for us to be able to celebrate those and also for us to discuss



U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren addressed the gathering on Friday. BTL photo AJ Trager

how we progress on these issues," Arwa said. "And part of the progression is how to we engage people through different tactics and different levels. And there are a lot of great tech companies here who are on the cutting edge of how we get that message out to people. It has got to be that combination. We agree that we stand for this and that we want to do something. How do we get the people who are not paying attention to start on that engagement ladder?"

That question is what conventions like Netroots Nation are trying to approach. This year, it was Detroit who was on the front lines of making connections and furthering representation.

► HTJ Schedule

Continued from p. 4

Friday events, beginning at 9 p.m. Woodward Bar & Grill is located at 6426 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Admittance is \$10 until 11 p.m.

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").

Also on 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.

Hotter Than July closes out on July 27, beginning with a special **Worship Service at 11 a.m.** The free service will be held by WHOSOEVER Ministry at 2940 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 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 and times are subject to change. To keep tabs on events, or for more information, call 313-285-9733 or visit www.hotterthanjuly.org.

Keep up with all Michigan pride events with BTL's Pride Guide at www.pridesource.com/prideguide.html.

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Bavel's Rolero Redux



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

At my age, I fidget after five minutes exposure to certain quote/unquote cultural happenings. Harpsichord recitals. Accordion extravaganzas. Art song evenings. “Gilligan’s Island” reruns. Lower body piercing demos. Televised Irish flaming feet of anything dancing.

I squirm through Beethoven’s Pastoral Symphony (w/w Disney cutesy satyrs), Tchaikovsky’s 1812 Overture (w/w cannons), Puccini’s “Nessun Dorma” (w/w Adam Lambert), Maurice Ravel’s Bolero (w/w a stop watch).

Let me jiggle the conductor’s baton a little. I’ll give Bolero another try when my testosterone level drops below zero, and, why not? Gay composer Maurice Ravel said that his popular musical warhorse has a “musico-sexual element” (and a good beat for a pacemaker).

When Bolero debuted in 1928, a blue-haired member of the audience stood up, shouted “Help the madman! Help the madman!” Quipped Maurice, “Madam really understands my music.”

He was very much a walking rainbow ahead of his time.

Ravel joked that Bolero was his masterpiece. “Too bad there’s no music in it,”

he confessed. “It has two tunes.” He called the contrapuntal combo too erotic to be played on Sundays and boasted its climax was like “cutting off your head abruptly. Just the ticket for movies!”

Paramount Studios paid Ravel big American bucks for screen rights, only to discover Bolero isn’t an opera, has no plot, has no story line, and depending upon who conducted its score, is just 13 to 16 minutes long until orgasm.

Paramount stroked it into a B- movie that included World’s Fair burlesque diva Sally Rand – looking like an ostrich in heat – doing a fan dance.

Fortunately, Ravel was in French Morocco at the time doing his own thing at Hollywood’s expense. From his hotel balcony he was eyeing stevedores and sailors, amazed to hear one actually whistling the Bolero music. No doubt a come on.

When Ravel traveled, he haunted out-of-the-way streets, chain smoking as he searched for sailor bars. (In France he kept his taste for fruits-de-mer to himself.) He was straight-laced among compatriots, though he once did ballerina drag for school chums. He was also vain and obstinate, causing a scandal by refusing a coveted Legion d’Honneur in 1920.

He toured America for four months in 1928, with a piano soloist appearance at the Detroit Institute of Arts, sponsored by Pro Musica Society. His tour fee was \$10,000 (about \$100,000 now), a small sum even back then.

He brought along 22 pairs of pajamas, dozens of bright vests, ties, gloves, spats and monogrammed handkerchiefs, refusing to perform without the latter. A yellow evening coat “stopped traffic” wherever he sashayed in Detroit’s cultural center. He was very much a walking rainbow ahead of his time.

His masterpiece? I’ll take his Daphnis et Chloe ballet, or his Concerto for Left Hand. (I like the weekday exercise implications.) A bientot! Soyez-sage. Mais pas trop straight.

Charles@pridesource.com



Transmissions The Long, Hot Summer



OPINION BY GWEN SMITH

On the 3rd of June, the body of Kandy Hall, a 40-year-old transgender woman of color, was discovered in a field on the northeast side of Baltimore. While the police have been tight-lipped with details, we know that she was stabbed, and her body experienced severe trauma.

A week or so later, on the 12th of June, Zoraida Reyes’ body was found behind a Dairy Queen in Anaheim, California. The 20-year-old Hispanic transwoman was a local activist. There were no signs of foul play, but her death is still being investigated as suspicious.

Another week passed, and on the 19th of June, Yaz’min Shancez, a 31-year-old transwoman of color known to her friends as “Miss T,” was found burnt to death. Her body was disposed of behind a dumpster at a Budget Truck Rental in Fort Meyers, Florida. Police are investigating it as a homicide, but are not considering it a hate crime yet.

One more week, one more death: on the 26th of June, Tiff Edwards, a 28-year-old transwoman of color, was found dead. She

was discovered in the middle of the road by a sanitation worker in Walnut Hills, Ohio, a suburb of Cincinnati. She was shot to death.

Most recently, on the 16th of July, the body of 26-year-old Mia Henderson was found on the Northwest side of Baltimore. Like Kandy Hall, Henderson was a transwoman of color. Her murder also bore other similarities to that of Hall – although police are not yet ready to directly connect the two murders.

That’s five transgender deaths in just a bit more than a month. Four of them have been declared homicides, and it sounds like the fifth is as well. All are transgender women of color.

I want to be more shocked by it all, but I also know that this is not nearly as uncommon as it should be.

We need to consider that what someone calls us is irrelevant in the face of death. We need to worry less about how one should be a transgender advocate and more about doing the work. We need to educate our allies and help them help us – not automatically slap their hands away.

I’m sure there were plenty of others between the 3rd of June and the 16th of July – particularly outside of the United States.

All of these women ended up dead and discarded. They were tossed behind a dumpster, left in the middle of the street or dumped in a field. Whoever was responsible for these deaths had little respect for their victims in death and clearly had no respect for their lives.

Over the last few months, we have seen transgender visibility explored. Actress Laverne Cox, a recurring cast member of the hit show “Orange is the New Black,” has been spotted on the cover of TIME magazine and is currently nominated for an Emmy. Janet Mock has topped the New York Times bestseller list with her

See Transmissions, next page

Quoted



“ In fact more states now allow same-sex marriage than prohibit discrimination against LGBT workers, so I firmly believe it’s time to address this injustice for every American. ”

President Barack Obama July 21 when signing LGBT workplace non-discrimination Executive Order
BTL story, p. 7

Editor’s Note: In Michigan, a person can still be fired from their job for being LGBT. The current form of the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act protects against workplace discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion and national origin but not sexual orientation or gender identity. Find out how you can work to change this at www.dontchangeyourself.com.

► Transmissions

Continued from p. 10

autobiography “Redefining Realness.” All of a sudden we’re seen everywhere.

Yet even with this visibility, we’re still dying at an alarming rate – and while all transgender people are affected by anti-transgender violence, we cannot ignore that the most vulnerable among us are transwomen of color.

Meanwhile, the mainstream transgender community is focused elsewhere. We are still arguing over the use of a term that is alternately an anti-transgender slur and a term of affection. Some have taken this argument into even further toxic territory, claiming one group is focused on “victimhood” while others are turning it into a generational battle between transgender activists of the 1990s versus those of today.

There’s more, too. We’re also in the midst of scores of cross-community and intersectionality issues facing the transgender community and its allies. This column is just too short to delve deep into the many types of mire we are stuck within.

What is important to me is this: none of those arguments saved a single one of the lives listed above. Indeed, they seem to only keep us distracted and provide additional fuel for those who seek to harm us.

We urgently need to look at what we are doing to each other. We need to learn to focus on what is important here. Can we get outraged

over who said what about whom? Sure, I suppose. Can we argue about who said what to whom? Why yes, if that flips your switches.

But we need to look beyond all of this. We need to consider that what someone calls us is irrelevant in the face of death. We need to worry less about how one should be a transgender advocate and more about doing the work. We need to educate our allies and help them help us – not automatically slap their hands away.

There could be someone in Baltimore that is targeting transgender people.

An up and coming activist in and around Orange County, California was found dead and the police aren’t willing to call it a homicide.

Another transwoman is dead in Ohio, one of many killed over the last few years.

A transgender Floridian was burnt to death and tossed behind a dumpster, yet police aren’t willing to classify this as a hate crime.

Five more transgender people get to be honored in November at the Transgender Day of Remembrance – five more out of hundreds.

This is what we should be outraged at. This is what we should be focused on. We need to amplify the voices and the needs of our transwomen of color, we need to speak out about their deaths and we need to look for ways to avoid it happening all over again.

It’s a long, hot summer – and it’s only half way over. It’s time for us all to move forward, and it’s time for us to all get to work.

Gwen Smith is really, really tired of death. You can find her at www.gwensmith.com

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Creep of the Week

D.J. Dolce

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Did you hear the news? Just over two percent told the CDC that they're gay, lesbian or bisexual.



D.J. Dolce

And people are freaking out. Some people are arguing that the number is too low. After all, if we want to get technical about it, the survey really

found that 2.3 percent of the people they surveyed were cool with coming out to a stranger doing a survey.

Other people might argue that the number is too high because gays could just pray the gay away if they loved Jesus enough.

And some are arguing that the number is just right and proves that LGB people have too much power and are actually insignificant and we should just stop acting like they deserve equal rights or something.

That's essentially the argument in D.J. Dolce's July 21 segment of "News! News!", World Net Daily TV's attempt at humor. The video is titled, "Huh? 'Gays' Only 2% of U.S. Population" and subtitled, "D.J. Dolce reveals why homosexuals get all the attention."

The video segment features D.J. Dolce in the foreground standing behind a microphone like a stand up comic, her image pixelated like she's just walked out of a comic strip. Her delivery is also supposed to sound off the cuff and is paired with an obviously canned laugh track just in case you didn't get the whole "this is supposed to be funny" message. And you wouldn't, because it isn't.

"Despite prior projections, the total homosexual population in the U.S. is a paltry 2%," she informs us.

She continues in mock outrage, "Two percent? But liberals told us that it was more like 15 to 20%."

For the record, the number I've most heard thrown around is the Kinsey estimate of 10%. But whatever.

She continues, "Two percent? That's like the same as Armenian Americans." Cue big laugh track as the background picture changes into what looks like children in traditional Armenian costumes dancing. Why is this funny? I do not know. Actually, I should be clear that it isn't.

"And that makes me wonder," she

The fact is, this isn't a numbers game. Just because heteros outnumber gays doesn't mean it's okay to deny gays civil rights. You can't tell me that my family doesn't matter because we haven't met some make-believe significance quota.

says, "Why aren't Armenians in the news as much as the gay community?" Her face is the face of someone trying very hard to convey humor where there is no humor, all exaggerated sass with pouty lips and a scolding finger. I have to remind myself not to feel embarrassed for her because she's doing this to herself.

She asks, "Why don't Armenians get shout-outs from every other musician when they receive awards? Why don't Armenians get billions and billions of dollars from Washington D.C. to set up Armenian appreciation centers on campuses nationwide?"

I was unaware that "I'd like to thank the gays" was a trend at music award shows, but I haven't watched the Grammys in years. And I have doubts that "billions and billions" of dollars have been funneled from D.C. to LGBT centers on college campuses. But I don't have a built in laugh track, so what do I know?

D.J. Dolce answers her own hypothetical question with the following: "Oh, I know why! Armenians are Christian, and Christians are the enemy!"

Ha ha ha? That's probably the worst punch line in history.

It is also a stupid argument.

Christians aren't the enemy and sure as hell aren't a persecuted minority in the U.S.

The fact is, this isn't a numbers game. Just because heteros outnumber gays doesn't mean it's okay to deny gays civil rights. You can't tell me that my family doesn't matter because we haven't met some make-believe significance quota. This isn't a joke; it's my life. But hey, maybe I just don't have a good sense of humor.

► Netroots

Continued from p. 5

Altogether, Netroots Nation and LGBT Netroots Connect infused attendees with new energy and enthusiasm heading into the 2014 mid-term elections.

Collaboration Key For Netroots Connect Participants

"For me, the best part is the connecting with fellow LGBT journalists and activists," said transgender activist Rebecca Juro, media correspondent for Advocate.com and a Gay Voices contributor at The Huffington Post. At LGBT Netroots Connect, she said, "I participated in a group discussion on being fierce without being frightening, which was definitely a highlight for me."

For Juro, more effective advocacy for equality comes from uniting and working together.

That take away message resonated with Shannon Cuttle, managing director of Anti-Bullying Initiatives for Garden State Equality, a New Jersey-based LGBT advocacy and civil rights organization.

"Seeing so many activists from all over the country, grassroots and grass tops" along with "bloggers and journalists together in the same room was inspiring, impactful and powerful and speaks to the progress our movement is making," she said.

For Cuttle, in her work, a key take-away point from Netroots Connect is how "we are all in this together." She added, "That's true and has resonated through the whole conference."

Yet another attendee offered her take on the importance of the daylong gathering.

"My concerns that the LGBT activist community is fixated on marriage equality were, happily, dispelled by the Netroots Connect meeting," said Sue Fulton, a former Army officer and West Point graduate, who serves on the board of Sparta, a LGBT military organization. "I got to be part of spirited planning discussions about transgender military service, Southern strategy, immigration reform and countering myths about bisexuals."

Jason Parsley, associate publisher at South Florida Gay News, shared Fulton's outlook.

"It was refreshing to participate in a discussion that wasn't dominated by gay marriage and be able to explore other topics that face the community right now like immigration reform, LGBT youth, homelessness, and PrEP, among others," he said.

"I really enjoyed the interactivity of the day-long event. It kept me interested and engaged throughout the day," Parsley added. "As a member of the LGBT media, it just re-enforced the idea that there is still a need for vibrant and dynamic LGBT media outlets. There are so many issues the community is facing, and will be facing, that it's important for the gay media to be present and able to report and tell these stories."

Religious Liberty/Religious Exemptions Raise Concerns

The U.S. Supreme Court's Hobby Lobby decision, a religious exemption in the federal Employment

Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), and legislative attempts at the state level in Arizona, Idaho, Kansas, Oregon, Tennessee, South Dakota and Mississippi by social conservatives and the far right that would enable persons to discriminate against LGBTs and same-sex couples based on religious beliefs opposed to homosexuality — all served to raise the level of concern among Netroots Connect participants about the harm religious exemptions cause in advancing LGBT equality.

At one session, 25 people voiced their concerns and discussed actions that ranged from education and outreach about First Amendment rights to adamant opposition to any exemptions that wall off LGBTs from non-discriminatory laws or policies.

In *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores Inc.*, the Court ruled 5-4 that the Department of Health and Human Services regulations requiring employers to provide their female employees with no-cost access to contraception violate the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

In addition, advocates for LGBT equality maintain that the proposed religious exemption included in the current version of ENDA is unprecedented in civil rights legislation and would in effect gut the non-discrimination protections.

And a Mississippi law, which went into effect July 1, allows people to discriminate against LGBTs and others if they feel their religious convictions are at all compromised.

Jeff White-Perkins, president of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Lesbian and Gay Community Center, said "his general feeling as a Mississippi activist, of being alone in the work, has been lessened" by Netroots Connect and conference conversations over religious exemptions.

"I truly saw that, though Mississippi has a long way to go, we are being seen as somewhat the endgame for most of the issues that stand today from equality to even women's rights," he said. "That idea has me very excited."

"There has been a real awakening in the community about how religious exemptions affect our lives and the lives of people we care about, the women in our lives, and the ramifications go far beyond what we ever understood until this year," said John Bare of San Francisco, who serves on the board of directors for GetEqual and chairs its governance committee.

"Now we are understanding that our own bill [ENDA], the one we've been fighting for 40 years, has those religious exemptions," which "are really quite obnoxious and could do a lot of damage beyond our own community," he added.

"There's a real understanding that we need to come out strong as a community opposed to that," Bare explained. "We need to start with education about what the First Amendment guarantees all of us in terms of our freedom of religion and in terms of what else we might describe as religious freedom."

"But our own private notion of our conscience and our religious liberty does not allow for going into the public square to discriminate."

GetEQUAL, a bold-action LGBTQ advocacy organization, Bare said, is "trying to get the word out about that," with a new #NoAsterisks campaign (www.NoAsterisks.org), which educates about full civil rights for LGBTs — without exceptions.

Ruling Allows Same-Sex Marriages For Florida Keys

BY CURT ANDERSON

MIAMI (AP) — A judge in the Florida Keys overturned the state's constitutional ban on same-sex marriage on Thursday after a legal challenge by gay couples said it effectively made them second-class citizens.

The ruling by Circuit Judge Luis M. Garcia applies only to Monroe County, which primarily consists of the Keys, and will certainly be appealed. The lawsuit contended that the same-sex marriage ban approved overwhelmingly by voters in 2008 violated the federal 14th Amendment's guarantee of equal protection under the law. The judge, who was appointed by then-Governor Jeb Bush in 2000 and re-elected in 2002 and 2008, said licenses could not be issued until Tuesday at the earliest.

Attorney General Pam Bondi and ban supporters argued that the referendum vote should be respected and that Florida has sole authority to define marriage in the state. The Florida amendment defined marriage solely as a union between one man and one woman. A message left by The Associated Press with Bondi's office was not immediately returned.

"The court is aware that the majority of voters oppose same-sex marriage, but it is our country's proud history to protect the rights of the individual, the rights of the unpopular and the rights of the powerless, even at the cost of offending the majority," Garcia wrote in his decision. "Whether it is ... when Nazi supremacists won the right to march in Skokie, Illinois, a predominantly Jewish neighborhood; or when a black woman wanted to marry a white man in Virginia; or when black children wanted to go to an all-white school, the Constitution guarantees and protects ALL of its citizens from government interference with those rights."

"It hit us a little bit by surprise," said attorney Bernadette Restivo, who filed the lawsuit on behalf of two residents in the county. "But it's very well written ... a thorough analysis of the argument, so we couldn't be happier." She said her clients would celebrate Thursday night on Key West's famous Duval Street.

"This disrespects just under 5 million voters and effectively disenfranchises them. It shows no regard for the rule of law or the constitution," said John Stemberger, president of the Florida Family Policy Council, which led the effort to put the gay marriage ban on the 2008 ballot.

He said if opponents of the ban want it repealed, they should put the issue back before Florida voters, who passed the ban with nearly 62 percent support. It would take at least 60 percent support to repeal it.

"They do not have a consensus of Floridians so they're trying to go to the courts for a quick fix. If they're going to do it, that would be the appropriate way to do -- take it to the people again with another amendment. They deliberately passed on that strategy because they know that Floridians by and large support marriage between a man and a woman," Stemberger said.

Gay marriage proponents have won more than 20 legal decisions around the country since the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the federal Defense of Marriage Act last year, although those rulings remain in various stages of appeal. Many legal experts say the U.S. Supreme Court may ultimately have to decide the question for all states.

Currently, 19 states and the District of Columbia have legalized same-sex marriage.

During a recent hearing on a related Florida case in Miami-Dade County, attorneys for gay couples noted that, after a long legal fight, the state finally allowed them to adopt children but refused to recognize them as married.

"That inequality stigmatizes the couples and their children as second-class citizens," attorney Sylvia Walbolt said. "Same-sex marriages are completely beneficial. They are entitled to the full protection of the Constitution."

Supporters of the gay marriage ban focused mainly on the 2008 referendum vote rather than whether same-sex marriages were harmful or beneficial. Anthony Verdugo, executive director of the Christian Family Coalition, said it was wrong for a single judge to overrule the will of a majority vote.

"The people of the state have the right to decide," Verdugo said.

Along with the similar lawsuit pending in Miami-Dade, a separate lawsuit is pending in a federal court in Tallahassee seeking to force Florida to allow gay marriage and recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states.

Florida has long been a battleground over gay rights. In the 1970s, singer and orange juice spokeswoman Anita Bryant led a successful campaign to overturn a Dade County ordinance that banned discrimination against gays. The county commission reinstated the ban two decades later.

In 1977, Florida became the only state that prohibited all gay people from adopting children. A state court judge threw out the law in 2008 when she found "no rational basis" for the ban when she approved the adoption of two young brothers by Martin Gill and his male partner. The state decided two years later not to appeal that ruling, making gay adoption legal.

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THE SEARCH FOR SINÉAD



Photo: Donal Moloney

How The Irish Singer Found Herself – And How The Gay Community Helped

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

In 1992, Sinéad O'Connor was at the height of her career following the success of “Nothing Compares 2 U” when, during a one-woman protest against sexual abuse in the Catholic Church, she tore up a pic of Pope John Paul II on “Saturday Night Live.” Causing an uproar, and eventually thwarting her pop-culture presence (not that she cared), that defiance would come to define the Irish singer’s life and career.

Over 20 years later, O'Connor found herself entangled in more controversy – this time with Miley Cyrus, who became the target of the Grammy winner’s digs last year. The two famously feuded in 2013 over the music business, when Sinéad warned the twerker that it “will prostitute you for all you are worth” (per O'Connor’s people, questions about the viral brawl were off-limits for this interview).

Does Sinéad have balls? Of course she does. Big ones. She talked about that region during our recent conversation, insisting that sex – whether it’s with a man or a woman – isn’t necessary for making her “dick hard.” Still, she lets it all hang out on her 10th studio album, “I’m Not Bossy, I’m the Boss” (out Aug. 12), candidly revealing that, “Everybody wants something from me / They rarely ever wanna just know me.”

The exception: this chat, during which Sinéad recalled her introduction to the gay community – and how that community gave her the courage to be herself, speak out and “take shit.”

With regard to this album and your last, “How About I Be Me (And You Be You)?,” released in 2012, you’ve been on a mission to find yourself. What kind of sacrifices and choices did you have to make on that journey to self-actualization?

Gosh, god, I don’t know. I suppose it’s the same for everybody. It’s not like you’re suddenly there and you don’t have any more work to do; it’s a life’s work for all of us, isn’t it? It doesn’t finish until you get to the other side. I think, actually, the things that help you self-actualize are the mistakes – so-called “mistakes.” I don’t like that word. But the things that you get wrong is how you learn to get things right.

The album’s lead single, “Take Me to Church,” seems partly inspired by redemption. What mistake in your life was the turning point for you?

In terms of the song, I suppose the whole album really is a set of love songs. They’re all romantic songs, and there are a

number of characters on the record – three or four different female characters, one of whom turns up a lot more than the others – and there’s a certain journey that that character is taking throughout the record. In a way, that’s the answer to the question.

The character is someone who believed all her life that somehow a relationship would make everything wonderful, and that glorious man or woman would come along and carry her into the sunset, that everything would be wonderful. Those of us who have been wounded growing up want to create in our adulthood some perfect family situation or perfect romantic situation that we think will give us something back that we wish we had – that can mean we project onto people romantically. You can tell yourself that someone is just the most perfect, wonderful, glorious, la la la, and they can be the most awful asshole that ever walked the face of the earth – and so could you! (Laughs)

The song is more about the idea of romance, and on the whole album that character in particular takes a journey through being a romantic – a pedestal-putting-upon type of a character – who matures when she sees the reality of the situation as opposed to the illusion. I don’t know if that answers the question properly, but I think that’s the point at which you can understand yourself – when you see the reality of your situation as opposed to what you want to see, the illusions we all want to see.

It’s no secret that you have a history with the Catholic Church. So knowing that, and also being a gay man who grew up Catholic, I can’t help but listen to “Take Me to Church” and think it’s more than just a song about romance.

The song actually isn’t about the church at all. I don’t explain what songs are about because I don’t think you should. I think you take away from the audience the experience of being able to imagine it’s about them, so I shouldn’t actually tell you what “Take Me to Church” is about – the reason you like it is because what it means to you. But to me, the church in the song symbolizes relationships. It’s a reference back to that old song from “My Fair Lady,” “Get Me to the Church on Time,” where the father of Audrey Hepburn’s character is getting married, and I’m trying to reference that song in my own song, where, really, the character is talking about relationships.

This is a person who, perhaps, has gotten very depressed about a particular relationship not working out because they completely idolize this person, but this person has turned out to be somebody frightening and not someone who could keep the character safe. It’s the, “Oh, I want to die because he or she doesn’t love me.” The character is standing there with the rope around their neck about to jump off a tree and says, “Oh, now hold on, this asshole isn’t worth it. Actually, I’m fucking great, and what am I thinking?” So that moment – it’s not something that I’ve been through, but it’s something I suppose I can understand when I’ve been with other people. It’s that moment of understanding that actually you’re perfectly all right without this person that you’ve completely idolized and imagined as the most wonderful creature on earth. She understands in that moment that love has to be safe.

Suicide comes up on another song from this album, “8 Good Reasons,” except it sounds like it’s coming from a more personal place.

Yeah, “8 Good Reasons” and “How About I Be Me” would be the most autobiographical songs on this record.

What are the “eight good reasons” that kept you alive when you almost took your life? I imagine a few of them were your children.

They are my children’s eyes.

See Sinéad O’Connor, page 16



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► Sinéad O'Connor

Continued from p. 15

During that song, you also hint toward a possible ninth reason. What would that be?

Well... that's a secret.

"I became the stranger no one sees" – that lyric seems especially telling. With that line, what are you reflecting on? When in your life have you felt invisible, like an outsider?

Let me see... I'm trying to find the best way to answer this. Yeah, there would be times that you are invisible – for the most part you are invisible, except when you're making music. It's really a song about being in the music business and the effects the music business – the business part of it – can have on you. It's not about the things that life does to you. There was nothing in my life apart from my job that ever made me want to run for the window. (Laughs) I can actually laugh about it now, thank god, but it's... I've lost my train of thought now. I've forgotten, really, what you've asked me. I suppose it's a delicate subject.



Sinéad O'Connor performing in Italy in April 2013. Photo: Chinellato Photo

In your life and in your career, have you felt invisible?

Oh yeah. It's a very complicated thing to explain, but the price you pay for being a successful musician is your life, and the more successful you are, the more of a price you pay.

That makes you invisible. People project onto you, and they see something that isn't really you, and the only time you're with people who are relating to you and who you really are is when you're with your family or friends, or when you're making

music. The business of music is a really ugly business, and it's difficult that the price you pay metaphorically for being successful is your life.

Do you feel like yourself more now than ever?


Yeah, I do – certainly musically. I wasn't comfortable when I was younger for a myriad of reasons, but now I am very comfortable with who I am as a musician.

The LGBT community can certainly empathize with the struggle to be comfortable with who you are. When was the first time you felt a connection to gay people in your life?

I grew up in Ireland and there was no such thing as "gay" in the '70s. I had never even heard of "gay," except for there was a female impersonator who had a big TV show in the '70s, a guy called Danny La Rue. I used to love his show, but I never knew there was any such thing as gay until I was 17.

I moved to London and I had a totally straight but cross-dressing cousin who brought me to all these clubs in London. Hippodrome Nightclub & Disco was the first I went to, and it was full of guys dressed up as the most beautiful looking women – way more beautiful than any other woman was ever gonna hope to look! I thought that was incredible, and then I went to Kensington Market, and I thought, "Jesus, England is the greatest country on earth!" They

See Sinéad O'Connor, page 30




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Breaking Through The Bro Code

Author Michael DeAngelis: Just How Gay Is A 'Bromance'?

BY EMELL DERRA ADOLPHUS

Stronger than a “man crush,” and somewhere between a love affair and fist bump, is a “bromance,” explains author Michael DeAngelis. The term is meant to describe a bond between two men that transcends the usual boundaries of friendship to become an almost romantic infatuation. And from his findings, DeAngelis feels the straight bro kind of like it.

In his book “Reading the Bromance: Homosocial Relationships in Film and Television,” released in June under Wayne State University Press, DeAngelis, with a team of contributors, analyzes the complex bond between heterosexual male duos. Studying TV shows like “Seinfeld” and “The Wire,” along with films like “The Hangover” and “I Love You, Man,” DeAngelis gives readers special insight into the homoerotic undertones found in the public portrayal of the bro code.

“In the introduction to the book I talk about how (homosocial relationships) are a lot wider than just film and television,” says DeAngelis, an associate professor at DePaul University in Chicago.

“There is a lot of activity in sports but also in sports fandom. We have some cases of people like Dustin Hoffman and Jason Bateman kissing in the stands of a Los Angeles Laker’s Game, which is kind of interesting for them.”

DeAngelis explains part of the bromance guidelines is an intimacy with an often unacknowledged sexual component.

“It started with the idea that ‘bromance’ is an intense bond between supposedly straight guys that is very, very intimate, but they would probably not acknowledge a type of sexual

intimacy,” he says. “That’s where it gets its lore too – that even though it’s not supposed to be sexual, it’s kind of sexual at the same time, or it has that sexual component to it.”

The book is a collection of essays highlighting bromance through a myriad

with other heterosexual characters, says DeAngelis. “There is a lot of discourse about the family. They bump fists and say ‘us,’ and yet the show doesn’t particular affirm them as gay.”

Upon examining the characters further, DeAngelis says he sees a traditional pattern of gender roles playing out in most bromance relationships. “I think in many cases, what happened in movies like ‘Lethal Weapon,’ the black character was usually the one who was more domesticated. He was usually the one who was less erratic. He was usually the one who was more grounded,” DeAngelis explains. “And, in many ways, I think he can be read as more of the feminine side, or he’s feminized.”

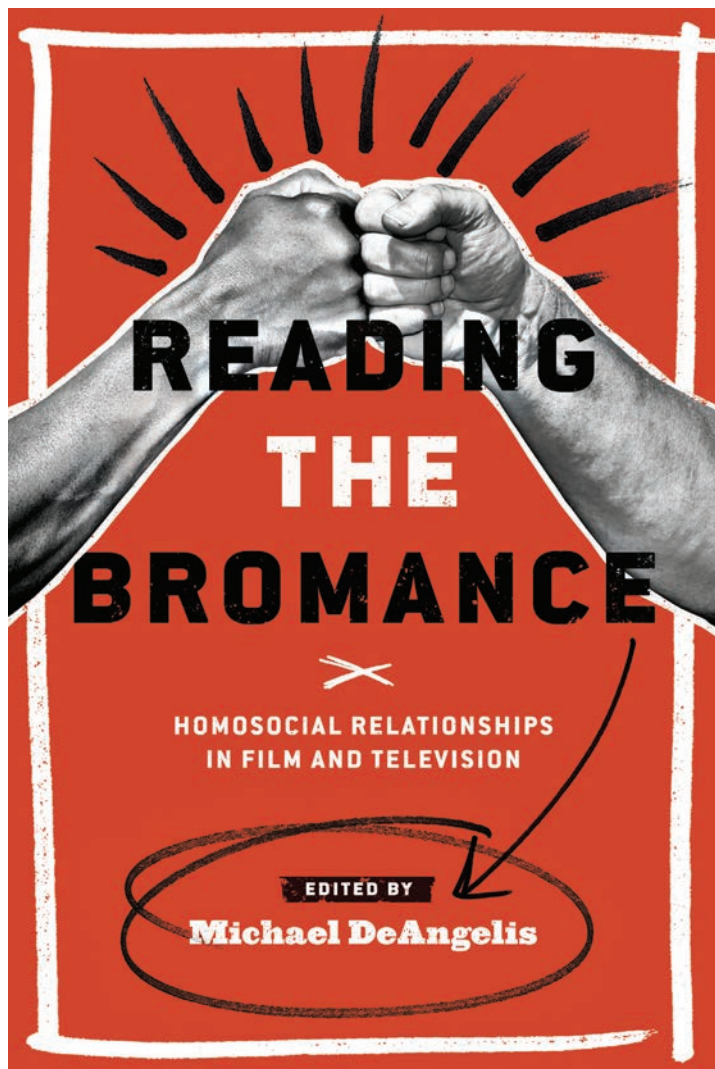
But why?

“One theory is that the black male is perceived culturally as a threat in some ways. One way of controlling such a threat is to feminize it,” says DeAngelis. “I think, for the white bromances, there is a little bit of a play with gender relationships. There is a little more willingness to flirt with those roles. It starts replicating the heterosexual logic of gender relationships – the passive one and the main active one. And it doesn’t seem to me that mainstream filmmakers

have figured out a way to negotiate that relationship between two black characters so that it doesn’t replay that feminine dynamic.”

DeAngelis predicts a slow change in not only the portrayal of the bromance but all romance, at least once filmmakers figure out how to make it marketable as to not upset conservative groups.

“(A bromance) is a beautiful thing that doesn’t have to be at the expense of a close relationship with a woman, but in addition to it. It’s a reflection of our culture’s priorities at a particular moment in time.”



of cultures in entertainment mediums, from Bollywood to Spanish Hollywood. But one community that stood out, according to DeAngelis, is the African-American community.

“When we are talking about the representations of black characters in bromance, what’s so strange is that I haven’t been able to find too many instances in bromances in which both of the men are black,” he says. “The really glaring exception is ‘The Wire.’”

There are a number of characters in “The Wire” who are openly gay and share a “close, but no cigar” relationship

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MAC Hosts Annual Pub Crawl

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

Ready to party? Michigan AIDS Coalition hosts its much anticipated 18th Annual Ferndale Pub Crawl on Friday, July 25. The "Original Crawl" or "the BIG ONE," as MAC refers to it, is the signature summer event for the Ferndale area, hosting hundreds of participants visiting Downtown Ferndale.

MAC, formerly the Michigan AIDS Fund and Midwest AIDS Prevention Project, has been dedicating its non-profit, community-based service to health promotion, harm and risk reduction, HIV and sexually-transmitted disease prevention education and more. Through workshops, trainings and events like DIFFA, AIDS Walk and the pub crawl, MAC is able to reach people in need of education and outreach.

At the core of the event is MAC's mission to promote Ferndale and its businesses, raise money for charities and have safe fun. All funds raised during the pub crawl go to local tax-deductible charities including the Detroit Derby Girls, the Ferndale Community Foundation and MAC itself.

The event, sponsored by Ferndale's own Garden Fresh Gourmet, will be a walking tour of the pubs, restaurants and bars in the downtown area. Diverse and fun-loving crowds are able to eat, drink and see the shops and stores. Multiple waves of walks take varied routes to the participating venues, so each pub or bar has waves of patrons at

staggered times. This night is often touted as the best bar night in the area for the year.

This year's event will begin at the new Twist Night Club (formerly Boogie Fever) and be led by community leaders and the Detroit Derby Girls. Some of those leaders include Craig Covey, Mayor Pro-Tem Dan Martin, Water Resources Commissioner Jim Nash and Councilman Greg Pawlica. Venues that will be visited include Como's, Danny's Irish Pub, Dino's Lounge, One Eyed Betty's, SOHO, Rosie O'Grady's, Howe's Bayou, Buffalo Wild Wings, Bosco, Ferndale Elks, M-Brew, New Way Bar, Sneaker's, Orchid and Schramm's Mead.

As part of a safe and healthy event, one of the main sponsors – Uber – will be offering a free first ride for those going to the crawl when using the promo code FERNDALECRAWL. Uber, an upscale take on cab service, is a mobile application that connects riders to professional drivers with the push of a button. No motor vehicles are permitted at the event.

The event, open to everyone 21 and over, begins at 7 p.m. on July 25. Twist is located at 22901 Woodward Ave., Ferndale.

For more information, contact co-chairs Craig Covey and Monica Mills at coveyc@oakgov.com or mmills@michiganaidcoalition.org. Visit www.michiganaidcoalition.org or www.ferndalepubcrawl.org and keep tabs on MAC's Facebook page for further details.

For other LGBT sponsored events, visit BTL's Calendar at www.pridesource.com/calendar.html.



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Thursday, July 24

\$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

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

Toastmaster's International 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**. 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

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. rickh@bsumi.com GoAffirmations.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 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

Support Group 7 p.m. This one-of-a-kind program in Berrien County helps attendees support each other in healthy ways through active listening and caring feedback. OutCenter, 132 Water St., **Benton Harbor**. 269-925-8330. Outcenter.org

Tuesday, July 29

Aff Action Night



Boarding for the cruise starts at 1 p.m. on July 26, with the boat leaving at 2 p.m. Catch the cruise at the Riverfront Festival Plaza in downtown Windsor. Tickets are \$25-35. For more information, visit www.wepridefest.com.

Editor's Pick

The Spritz 5 Boat Cruise runs this weekend as part of Windsor-Essex Pride Fest. The boat ride features DJ Josh Karmin and performances by Detroit's own Crystal Harding. Auction items, door prizes, cash bar and food will also be available.

Pride Fest is Windsor-Essex county's contribution to the summer Pride events. The non-for-profit organization hosts a variety of events to create safe spaces for the LGBTQ community to celebrate their sexuality.

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

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

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

Monday, July 28

Advanced Music, Dance and Theatre Workshops 10 a.m. Must audition to be considered. Ages 15-22. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, 750 E. Shaw Lane, **East Lansing**, 800-WHARTON. Whartoncenter.com

Center Open - Drop In 7 p.m. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. Jimtoycenter.org

Whole Lives, Healthy Lives Adult

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

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, 20025 Mack Plaza, **Grosse Pointe Woods**. 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 30

Jump For Charity Support many charities, including The Heidelberg Project. Tickets: \$15. Jump For Charity, **Novi**. Bit.ly/jumphp

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

Adult Professional Development 7 p.m. Improv & Song interpretation followed by casual cabaret. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts,

Michigan State University, 750 E. Shaw Lane, **East Lansing**. 800-WHARTON. Whartoncenter.com

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, 4605 Cass Ave., **Detroit**. 248-398-4665. Einheuserlegal.com

Thursday, July 31

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

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, 3179 Livernois Road, #301, **Troy**. 248-398-4665. Einheuserlegal.com

MUSIC & MORE

Concerts

Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase "Comedy Jamm" It's cut-loose comedy as we present the comedy of 12 of the current rising stars in the Detroit Metro area and beyond. Tickets: \$5. Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 8 - Sep. 25. 734-996-9080. Aacomedy.com

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 "Joshua Bell". Meadow Brook Music Festival, 3554 Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills. 7:30 p.m. July 24. Dso.org

DTE Energy Music Theatre "James Taylor" Tickets: \$35. 60-114. 30. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 8 p.m. July 27. 248-377-0100. Ticketmaster.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Week After

See Happenings, page 25

www.PrideSource.com

A Tiny Musical Miracle

BY CAROLYN HAYES

To bring in top tourist dollars, Broadway producers need something that must be seen to be believed. But how does such a show even get to the stage, when investors must believe, but there's nothing to see?

Such is the comic conundrum of "The Big Bang" (music by Jed Feuer; book and lyrics by Boyd Graham), the tiniest extravaganza that the theater world has ever seen. As directed by Rob Roznowski, Williamston Theatre's production capitalizes on the silliness of describing that which defies description, but also reaches into a different bag of theatrical tricks, wrapping up an absurd principle in sheer entertainment.

The substance of the show resides entirely within its Russian nesting doll of a premise. "The Big Bang," the musical concocted by two guys named Jed and Boyd, is about two guys named "Jed" (Zev Steinberg) and "Boyd" (Matthew Gwynn) who have, coincidentally, written a musical (one guess what it's called). But in the world of the show, Jed and Boyd's musical is still in its infancy and needs cash to get from page to stage, and so they've arranged what's known as a backer's audition, in which they describe their vision and perform selections in order to get potential investors on board.

Imagine Mel Brooks trying to sell "History of the World, Part I" to several dozen strangers in someone's living room. Add more songs, and there's the gist of it: The audience becomes the investors, the actual "Bang" is the pitch, and the comedy comes from both what is and what is not being shown.

Among the running jokes in the production is the sheer excess of the spectacle being proposed, which in its finished form promises hundreds of performers, thousands of costumes, and a projected budget that strings together an eye-crossing quantity of zeroes. The subject matter spans the history of time and space, from the titular big bang to the present day, which allows the highlighted topics to freely draw from middle and high-school-level curricula: galaxy formation, Biblical times, ancient civilizations, notable despots and discoveries, European



Jed (Zev Steinberg) as Mrs. Gandhi and Boyd (Matthew Gwynn) as Mary in "The Big Bang" at the Williamston Theatre. Photo: Chris Purchis.

become ad-hoc props – and props instantaneous costumes – and the fussy, integrated home lighting scheme and slideshow not only bend to the writers' needs, but sometimes anticipate them as well.

Every choice serves to reinforce that the players really are Boyd and Jed; that this is not "The Big Bang" the Williamston play, but rather the backer's audition for "The Big Bang" at Dr. Thus-and-So's posh residence; that what's at stake is the viewer's enthusiasm, and how much of it is required to make a checkbook appear. In this vein, the pre-show flows seamlessly into the actual show, and the bullet points of a conventional curtain speech are folded deftly into the content, including consciously gratuitous product placement for the theater's actual sponsors. From their vantage point deep, deep

undercover, the performers maintain stalwart conviction (if not confidence), which is the only way to sustain interest in a product this piecemeal, intentionally overblown, and frequently hokey.

While the writing is cute and good for a chuckle, the play itself makes little claim of depth, which is why the characterizations provide a much-needed final comic layer – infinitesimal glimpses at the nervous underbelly of two deeply uncool artists aiming way above their entrepreneurial aptitude. Roznowski's direction and Gwynn and Steinberg's vigorously affable performances reward close viewing with little slip-ups and moments of doubt or panic that give dimension and flair to a flat story arc.

Credit is also due to the unsung third character, music director Jeff English, who tinkles away on an onstage keyboard, never faltering with a cue and supplying just the right amount of saucy interjection.

This "Big Bang" takes a single, germinating concept and works within that simplicity to explode it into a fully realized musical that, in its own way, must be seen to be believed. The show gets in and gets out; any longer and it might overstay its welcome. But this thoroughly immersive, complete little world is undoubtedly a fun place to visit, with its humorously underwhelming pretense and surreptitiously overwhelming finesse.

INFO

The Big Bang

Williamston Theatre
122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston
8 p.m. Thursday, July 24, 31, Aug. 7, 14
8 p.m. Friday, July 25, Aug. 1, 8, 15
3 p.m. & 8 p.m. Saturday, July 19, 26,
Aug. 2, 9 16
2 p.m. Sunday, July 20, 27, Aug. 3, 10 17
80 minutes; no intermission \$20-25
517-655-SHOW
www.williamstontheatre.org

history and the revelation of the Americas and the Far East.

Contrasted with this promise of grandeur, the reality of two nervous writers trying to generate the same buzz in far more modest surroundings is the source of much absurdity. But what begins as a laughably clumsy attempt at a multimedia presentation quickly reveals itself as this show's secret weapon. The stealthy collaboration of designers Kirk Domer (set), Alex Gay (lights), Karen Kangas-Preston (costumes), Bruce Bennett (properties), and Shannon T. Schweitzer (media) is utterly remarkable.

At first glance, the New York City home of Jed and Boyd's hosts is all coolly tasteful ambience, the kind of moody luxury that might make an '80s movie villain sit up and take notice. Yet when words fail and impromptu "picture this" embellishment is needed, the place morphs into a kind of ingenuity palace, wherein set dressings



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Tuesday, July 22 6:00 pm to Dusk
Blue Spruce Memorial Tree, Palmer Park, Detroit
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BOAT RIDE

Wednesday, July 23 Boarding at 6:10 pm and sailing promptly at 7:00 pm
Rivard Plaza on Downtown Detroit's Riverwalk
Admittance: \$55 per person

HOUSE PARTY

Wednesday, July 23 10:00 pm - 2:00 am
Menjo's Complex, 928 McNichols Rd W, Detroit, MI
Admittance: Free

FILM FESTIVAL

Thursday, July 24 5:30 pm - 12:20 am
Cinema Detroit, 3420 Cass Ave, Detroit MI
Admittance: \$20 per person

ANNUAL GATHERING FOR LGBT ISSUES

Friday, July 25 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Michigan State University Detroit Center,
3408 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, MI
Registration: \$20 Suggested / Free for Students with required ID

FRIDAY NIGHT HEAT AT THE WOODWARD

Friday, July 25 9:00 pm - 2:00 am
Woodward Bar & Grill, 6426 Woodward Ave, Detroit
Admittance: \$10 til 11:00 pm

PALMER PARK PICNIC

Saturday, July 26 9:00 am to 8:00 pm
Palmer Park, Detroit
Admittance: Free

SATURDAY NIGHT SWAGG AT THE WOODWARD

Saturday, July 26 9:00 pm to 2:00 am
Woodward Bar & Grill, 6426 Woodward Ave, Detroit
Admittance: \$10 til 11:00 pm

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, July 27 11:00 am to 12:45 pm
WHOSOEVER Ministry
2930 Woodward Ave, Detroit MI
Admittance: Free

SUNDAY BRUNCH & TEA DANCE

Sunday, July 27 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
They Say, 267 Joseph Campau Ave, Detroit, MI
Admittance: \$40 per person | \$70 PER COUPLE \$5 FOR TEA DANCE AT 3:00

OFFICIAL WHITE CLOSEOUT

Sunday, July 27 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Pangea Gallery 8418 W McNichols Rd
Admittance: \$10

ABOVE DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. ALWAYS CHECK WWW.HOTTERTHANJULY.ORG
OR CALL 313-285-9733 FOR UPDATES

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Editor's Pick

As part of metro Detroit's black Pride festival, Hotter Than July, Imagine This Productions will host a benefit fundraiser Sunday Brunch and Tea Dance. Robert Tate and Marcus Pratt will host the two events at They Say in Detroit.

First, Hotter Than July's Sunday Brunch will begin at 1 p.m. on July 27. Tickets for the event are \$40 per person or \$70 per couple. The Tea Dance will follow at 3 p.m., with tickets beginning at \$5 per person.

They Say is located at 267 Joseph Campau Ave., Detroit. Tickets can be purchased at www.hotterthanjuly.org/tickets. For more information, contact KICK at 313-285-9733 or email detroit@hotterthanjuly.org.

► Happenings

Continued from p. 22

Art Fair Song Fest - 20th Anniversary
Different events each night. Tickets: \$0-25. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. July 22 - July 25. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Jurassic 5". Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. July 26. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Gogol Bordello". Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. July 30. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

The Ark "Wheeler Brothers" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. July 29. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Joel Mabus" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. July 27. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Teada" Tickets: \$17. 50. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. July 28. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Hot Club of Detroit" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. July 25. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "The Boxcars" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. July 24. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Magic Bag "The Fixx" Tickets: \$25+. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. July 27. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

The Magic Bag "Sandy Danto" With Brenton Biddlecomb. Tickets: \$9+. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. July 29. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

The Magic Bag "The Purple Xperience" Featuring Doctor Fink. Tickets: \$17. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. July 25. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

The Palace of Auburn Hills "Justin Timberlake: The 20/20 Experience World Tour" Tickets: \$59. 19-197. 10. The Palace of Auburn Hills, 5 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. 8 p.m. July 28. 248-377-0100. Ticketmaster.com

Film & Video

Michigan Theater "Sing-A-Long Wizard of Oz" A 75th anniversary presentation. Special ticket prices apply. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor.

July 27 - July 29. 734-668-8397. Michtheater.org

THEATER

Civic/Community Theater

A Midsummer Night's Dream \$5-15. The Brass Tacks Ensemble at A2CT Studio Theater, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. July 25 - Aug. 2. 734-971-2228. www.a2ct.org

Catch Me If You Can \$15-35. The Crosswell, 129 E. Maumee St., Adrian. Through July 27. 517-264-SHOW. www.crosswell.org

Peter Pan \$5-7. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. July 24 - 27. 517-482-5700. www.Riverwalk.com

Rumpelstiltskin \$15. Spotlight on Youth at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. July 24 - 27. 734-394-5300. www.Canton-mi.org/villageattheater

The Little Mermaid \$5-7. All-of-us Express Children's Theatre at East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. July 25 - Aug. 2. 517-333-2580, ext. 0. www.cityofeastlansing.com/allofus

College/University Theater

In a Grove: Four Japanese Ghost Stories Free. Lansing Community College Performing Arts at LCC's amphitheatre, Washington Mall between Dart Auditorium and the Gannon Building. Lansing. July 23 - 27. 517-483-1488. www.lcc.edu/showinfo

Professional

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day \$15. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at DeWitt Studio Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through Aug. 8. 616-395-7890. www.hope.edu/hsrt

Carousel \$15-32. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Through Aug. 10. 734-268-6200. www.theencoretheatre.org

Coriolanus Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company at Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph. 7:30 p.m. July 26. 269-983-3688. www.pcsakespeare.com

Crane Maiden \$5 for kids, \$10 for adults. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E Grand River, Detroit. Through July 26. 313-961-7777. www.puppetart.org

Cymbeline \$31-40. Michigan Shakespeare Festival at Baughman Theatre at Potter Center on the campus of Jackson College, 2111

Emmons Road, Jackson. July 24 - Aug. 16. 517-796-8600. www.michiganshakespearefestival.com

Disney's High School Musical \$8-15. Thunder Bay Theatre, 400 N. Second Avenue, Alpena. July 23 - Aug. 17. 989-354-2267. www.thunderbaytheatre.com

Elektra \$10. Penny Seats Theatre Company at West Park Band Shell, Seventh St., Ann Arbor. Through July 26. 734-926-5346. www.pennyseats.org

Ernie \$20-25. City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Through Aug. 17. 313-471-6611. www.olympiaentertainment.com

Exit Strategy \$30-35. Three Oaks Theater Festival, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. July 26 - 27. 866-811-4111. www.Threeoaksfestival.com

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

Guys and Dolls \$28-32. Tibbits Summer Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. July 24 - Aug. 2. 517-278-6029. www.tibbits.org

Gypsy \$20. The Snug Theatre, 160 S. Water St., Marine City. Through July 27. 810-278-1749. www.thesnugtheatre.com

Hamlet \$20. Water Works Theatre Company, Starr Jaycee Park, 1301 West 13 Mile Rd., Royal Oak. July 31 - Aug. 10. www.shakespeareroyalok.com

Hamlet, Prince of Denmark \$31-40. Michigan Shakespeare Festival at Baughman Theatre at Potter Center on the campus of Jackson College, 2111 Emmons Road, Jackson. Through Aug. 17. 517-796-8600. www.michiganshakespearefestival.com

Hot Mikado \$15-30. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through Aug. 9. 616-395-7890. www.hope.edu/hsrt

Hughie \$25. Three Oaks Theater Festival at Lakeside Inn, 15251 Lakeshore Road, Lakeside. Aug. 1 - 2. 866-811-4111. www.threeoaksfestival.com

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

Jack and the Beanstalk \$7. Tibbits Popcorn Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. Through July 26. 517-278-6029. www.tibbits.org

Motor City Puppet Blast Free for residents of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties; museum admission (\$4-8) for all

See Happenings, page 27

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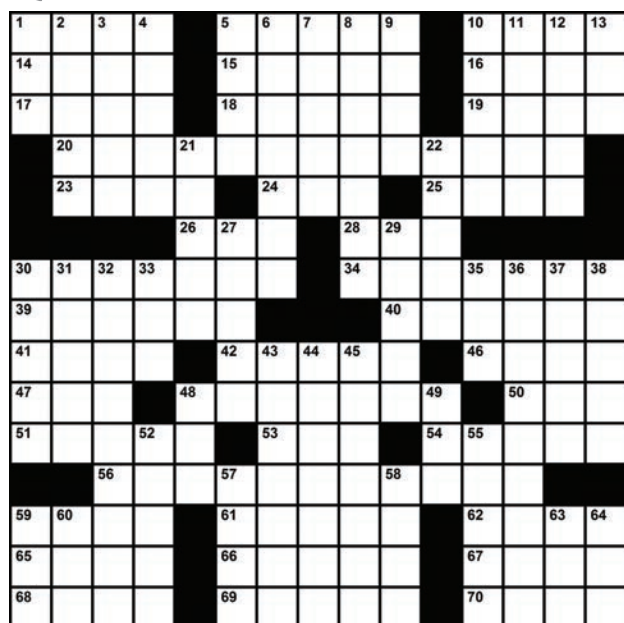


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17 Lorca's house
18 Utopia and Shangri-la

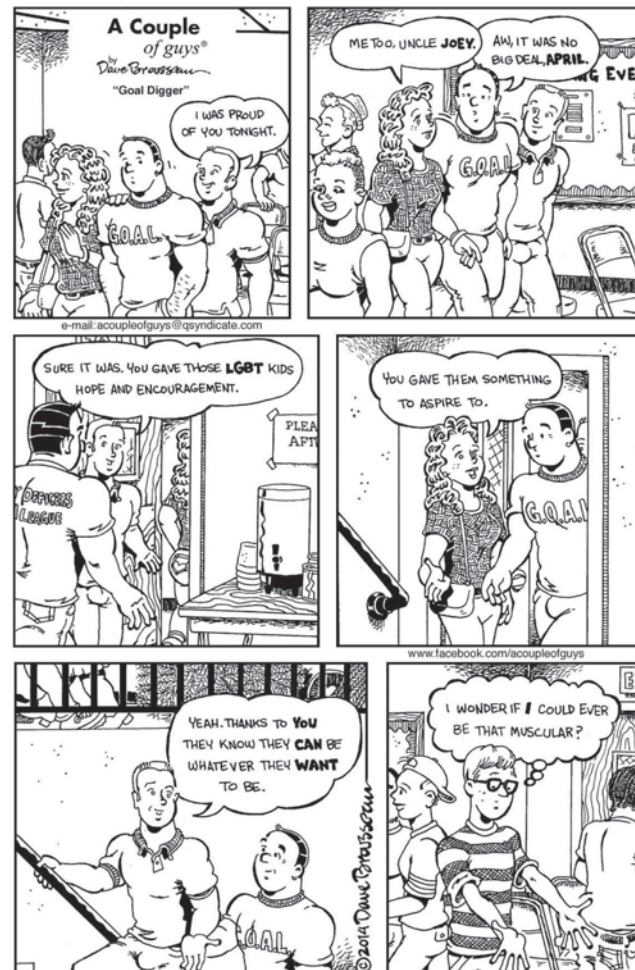
- 19 Inconsequential upturn
20 Expat that moved to Paris
23 Killed, to King James
24 Fast flier of old
25 "Got it"
26 "How may ___ of service?"
28 Inventor's monogram
30 Fruit juice cocktail
34 "CHiPs" costar Erik
39 With 40-Across, partner of

Down

- 1 "Modern Family" network
2 Rugged rocks
3 O'Keeffe's stand
4 Rubberneck
5 Docking site
6 Top?
7 Some student bodies
8 Bening of "American Beauty"
9 Monster's loch
10 Kate Clinton's "___ in Joyland"
11 Stan's straight man

- 20-Across
40 See 39-Across
41 That's bull, to Gloria Anzaldúa
42 Theater opening?
46 Cutlass, e.g.
47 She had no heterosexual parents
48 Drag out
50 Suffix with ox
51 Martha Stewart concern
53 Singer Cole
54 Rubber-stamps
56 Opera title and Rue de Fleurus street number where an iconic lesbian couple lived
59 American follower?
61 Screwball escapade
62 BenGay target
65 No more than
66 What you might lend Marc Antony
67 Straight, in a bar
68 Drop in the mail
69 Foams at the mouth
70 Gomer Pyle's branch
21 How often Santa checks his list
22 Connect with
27 Kiddie-lit elephant
29 Husband of a Duke
30 Satisfied fully
31 "___ Paris"
32 Alan Ball and Jodie Foster
33 "The Name of the Rose" writer
35 Old theater letters
36 Close associations
37 Warbucks of comics
38 Boneheads or tails
43 State of Miley Cyrus' past?
44 Kiddy coop
45 Sexy buns?
48 It comes before mature ejaculation
49 Uncle Sam's URL
52 One of the little hooters
55 Reeves of "My Own Private Idaho"
57 Home st. of Maupin
58 Blows it
59 Shakespeare's Puck, e.g.
60 To God, to Caesar
63 It can be cured
64 List-shortening letters

Solution on pg. 28



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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)
Lewiston & Livernois, Ferndale MI
Closed Meeting

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

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

Water Works Theatre Company has announced the schedule and casts for its 14th annual outdoor summer theater festival, Shakespeare Royal Oak (formerly known as Shakespeare In The Park). The festival begins July 28 in Royal Oak's Starr Jaycee Park and continues through Sunday, Aug. 10. Tickets (\$10-\$20) are on sale now for "Hamlet" and "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) [Revised]."

This year, Water Works founder Ed Nahhat realizes a personal dream to direct Shakespeare's greatest play, "Hamlet," under the open sky, as it was first produced 400 years ago. "When we began the process of setting up the outdoor theater for our first production ... I

knew the setting in Starr Jaycee Park was perfect for 'Hamlet,'" states Nahhat. "Now, 14 years later, we're able to put together a remarkable cast that will bring Shakespeare's most incredible play to life."

Starr Jaycee Park is located at 1301 W. 13 Mile Road, Royal Oak. For information, log on to www.shakespeareroyalok.com

▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 25

others. DIA and Detroit Puppeteers Guild at Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. July 25 - 27. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

No Time for the Pain \$20. 5 Mo Artists Detroit, 1515 Broadway, 1515 Broadway St., Detroit. July 25 - 27. 248-688-5178.

Romeo and Juliet Free. Shakespeare in Detroit at Grand Circus Park, Corner of Woodward and Adams, Detroit. 7 p.m. July 26. www.shakespeareindetroit.com

So Long Until Tomorrow \$0-10. The AKT Theatre Project at James R. DeSana Center for Arts and Culture, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. Through Aug. 9. 734-258-8370. www.akttheatre.com

Suds \$42 (show and meal); \$37 show only. Cornwell's Dinner Theatre, 18935 1 1/2 Mile Rd, Marshall. Through Aug. 16. 269-781-4293. www.turkeyville.com

Sundays at Go Comedy! \$10 in advance or pay-what-you-can at the door. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. www.gocomedy.net

The Big Bang \$15-25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. Through Aug. 17. 517-655-SHOW. www.williamstontheatre.org

The Complete Works Of William Shakespeare (Abridged) \$10. Water Works Theatre Company at Starr Jaycee Park, 1301 West 13 Mile Rd., Royal Oak. Aug. 2 - 10. www.Shakespeareroyalok.com-hour

The Doll People \$15. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at DeWitt Studio Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through Aug. 8. 616-395-7890. www.hope.edu/hsrt

The Importance of Being Earnest \$31-40. Michigan Shakespeare Festival at Baughman Theatre at Potter Center, Jackson College, 2111 Emmons Road, Jackson. Through Aug. 15. 517-796-8600. www.michiganshakespearefestival.com

The Kings of Unionville \$27-32; \$20 previews. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. July 24 - Aug. 24. 248-347-0003. www.tippingpointtheatre.com

The Last Romance \$18.50-42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park

St., Chelsea. Through Aug. 30. 734-433-7673. www.purplerosetheatre.org

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

The Wizard of Oz \$7. Tibbits Popcorn Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. Aug. 1 - 2. 517-278-6029. www.tibbits.org

The World Goes 'Round \$15. Great Escape Stage Company, 155 W. Michigan Ave., Marshall. July 24 - Aug. 3. 269-781-2700. www.greatescapestagecompany.com

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

[title of show] \$31-33. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Through Aug. 3. 269-343-2727. www.farmersalleytheatre.com

ART 'N' AROUND

Cranbrook Art Museum "Cranbrook Goes to the Movies: Films and Their Objects, 1925-1975". Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. June 21 - Nov. 30. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookart.edu

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

Henry Ford Museum "Women Who Rock: Vision, Passion, Power" Women Who Rock is an unprecedented chance to revisit the musicians who helped shape the soundtrack of your life - innovators like Madonna and Aretha Franklin, Janis Joplin and Tina Turner and dozens of others. Henry Ford Museum, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. May 27 - Aug. 17. 313-982-6001. Thehenryford.org/events/womenWhoRock.aspx

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.

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

MOCAD "Dara Friedman: Projecting". Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. May 16 - July 27. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.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 "River From 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 "Michael McGillis" Artist in Residence program. Will instruct a variety of classes for all ages. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. July 28 - Aug. 8. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

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/>

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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
PFLAG Ann Arbor	734-741-0659
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

Find these organizations and hundreds of LGBT-friendly businesses online at Pridesource.comcom/directory.html



Biking For Equal Rights

FERNDAL – Affirmations, Michigan's community center for LGBTs and their allies, are biking from Detroit to Ann Arbor on Saturday, Aug. 23, beginning at 10 a.m., to educate and encourage others to take action in their support for equal rights throughout the state.

This day-long event begins at the William G. Milliken State Park on the beautiful Detroit Riverfront. Following a scenic lunch break in Hines Park,

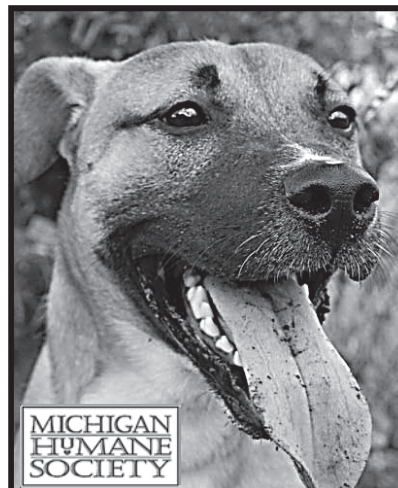
riders will head to their destination and after party at the Aut Bar in Ann Arbor.

Riders of all fitness levels are welcome to register. Several training rides are offered through the middle of August to help prepare for the ride. Additionally, support will be available to help participants achieve their nutrition and training goals. Registration is \$45 and includes an Equality Ride T-shirt, support and gear (SAG) stops, lunch and after

party. Those who may not be able to participate in the ride can still get involved by helping to raise funds for the event. To sign up as a rider, volunteer or fund raiser, visit www.goqualityride.com. For more information about this event, contact event coordinator Andi Greer at AGreer@GoAffirmations.org or at 248-677-7215. For more information, visit www.goqualityride.com or www.facebook.com/equalityride.

Solution to puzzle from page 26

A	C	E	S		P	E	C	A	N		B	O	O	B	
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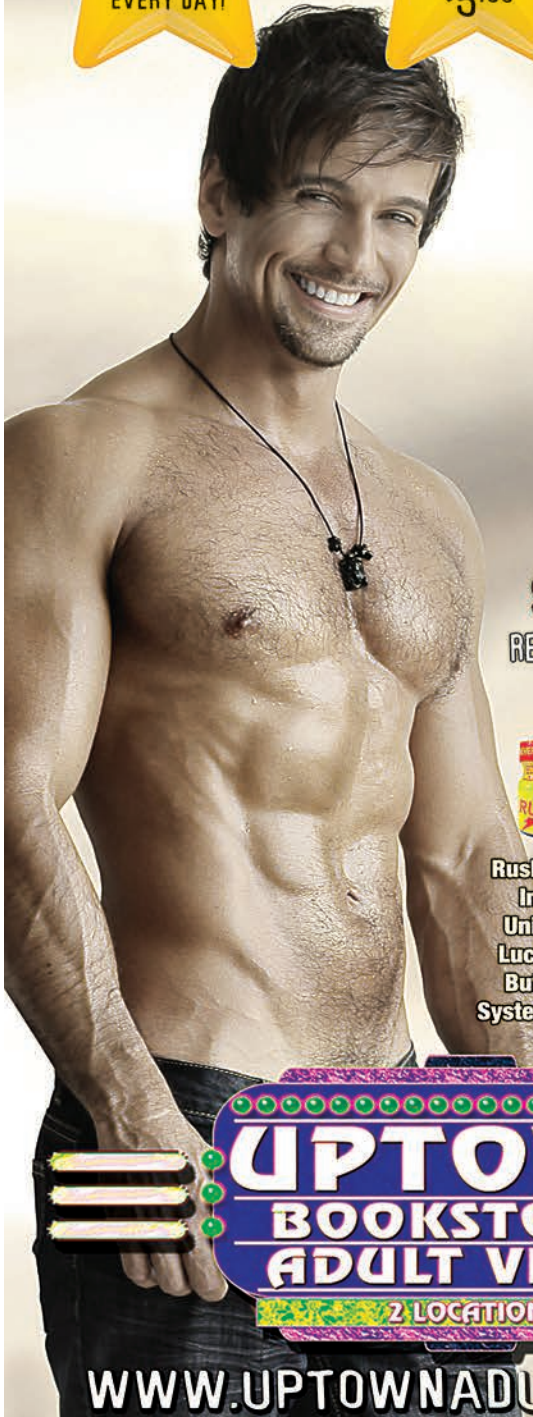
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► Sinéad O'Connor

Continued from p. 16

were selling red stilettos – size 12! – and I was like, “Oh my god, that’s the coolest thing ever” as far as I was concerned, because I had come from a completely sexually repressed place – repressed in every way, you know? So I had actually never heard of any such thing as gay until I went to the Hippodrome, and put it this way, I was really jealous that I was never gonna look that fucking good.

But in all seriousness, I’ll never forget that moment, walking into that toilet in the Hippodrome and it being a real sort of glamorous scene – real posh toilet, all fluffed up mirrors and cushions like a boudoir type of place. In the country that I came from, you couldn’t be you in any way at all. No one could’ve walked down the street dressed like those guys were. You’d have the shit kicked out of you, and not just for that, but a girl like me would have the shit kicked out of her if she walked around with a short skirt, if you expressed anything different at all. So it was real inspiring to me to see those guys able to walk around and be who they were. I actually find the whole gay community an enormous inspiration to me because, Jesus, I’ve never taken the kind of shit gay people take.

But you’ve taken a fair amount of shit.

No, I know, but I suppose in a way what I’m trying to say is that it’s easier to take shit when you are inspired by people such as those in the gay community. Because if a guy is brave enough to walk around dressed up as a woman – if a man is prepared to do that – as far as I’m concerned, any of us can fucking do anything. I just admire that so fucking much.

You told Entertainment Weekly in 2005, “I’m three-quarters heterosexual, a quarter gay.” What fraction of you is gay these days?

I’m 47 years of age and I hope, like the character on the record, that I’ve matured somewhat. Here’s the thing: I think if you fall in love with someone, you fall in love with someone and I don’t think it would matter what they were. They could be green, white and orange, they could be whatever the opposite of gay or straight is. I don’t believe in labels of any kind, put it that way. If I fall in love with someone, I wouldn’t give a shit if they were a man or a woman.

I can’t say the same for myself, because I’m just

not into the lady bits.

Obviously, yeah. What I’m trying to say is, I’m old enough not to be going by my dick. It’s not about what gets my dick hard or not. I’m old enough for that to *not* be the point. But I think maybe females are different – what makes us want to have sex with someone is that we like their personality. Guys, whether they’re gay or straight, you all just like to fuck and think later. (Laughs)

When you look out currently at the next generation of artists, what do you see? Who inspires you?

I’m old fashioned in that I’m not necessarily terribly inspired by anything that I hear on the radio that’s getting made nowadays, and that’s partly because I don’t bother my arse, which is terrible and inexcusable. I’m so addicted to the kind of music that I like, which is pretty much Chicago blues. I don’t hear anything on the radio that gets me as excited as that. Yeah, so I guess I’m a fuddy-duddy. There’s nothing. Well,

“If a guy is brave enough to walk around dressed up as a woman – if a man is prepared to do that – as far as I’m concerned, any of us can fucking do anything.”

Adele, obviously, she’s very inspiring. Amy Winehouse to me was extraordinary, as is Adele. I miss Amy Winehouse enormously; the bar was raised terribly high when she stepped in. I don’t know, though... I’m inexcusably uneducated as to what’s going on now.

Are you out of touch with pop culture by choice?

– Sinéad O’Connor

It’s just that when I happen to be driving around in the car

and hear any of it, it’s boring to me. I’m not saying that that’s a judgment on it – it’s as much a judgment on me, perhaps. I just can’t find anything that’s as exciting as Chicago blues to me. It used to be that people used real instruments, made real music and wrote real songs about real things. People stood up in their jeans and T-shirts and moved people.

When you initially shaved your head, you were making a statement – you were protesting the objectification of women. What does that symbol of identity and empowerment mean to you now?

I guess it just means “me.” You know, (for the cover of “I’m Not Bossy, I’m the Boss”) I ventured into the latex and wig territory there for the laugh, and there’s been quite a desire on the part of some people that I might continue down that line, but I’m quite pleased that I look the way that I look and I guess I associate the hairdo with me. I don’t feel like me if I don’t have my head shaved. And yeah, it does mean, too, I can put on a dress and I’m still not selling what everyone else wants me to sell.

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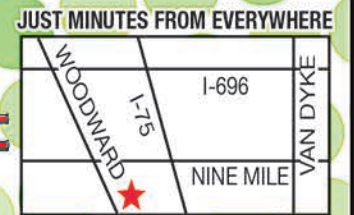
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