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16 Finding her Rimes and reason Photo: Sara Hertel



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And if respect and dignity are critical,

or the key elements here – maybe this is just something I'm missing - I would have

thought the best way to get respect and dignity is through the democratic process.

- Judge Sutton, pg. 11

Michigan Pride To Feature Floats, Comedy & Drag

It's still not too early to start planning a trip to Lansing for Michigan Pride. The multi-day event celebrates LGBTQ pride in the state's capital, featuring a variety of adult and family-oriented events from Aug. 22-23. Find out more online at Pridesource.com!



From top left: April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse, plaintiffs in the Michigan marriage equality case, on the courthouse steps in Cincinnati, Aug. 6. See their video interview online at pridesource.com. Equality Michigan staffers Summer Foster and Bryan Victor. Below hundreds gathered on Tuesday, Aug. 5 at a rally in Cincinnati. Michigan rallies were held in Lansing and Warren at the same time. Exectuive Director of Michigan Equality Emily Dievendorf spoke to people in Cincinnati. BTL photos: AJ Traeger and Susan Horowitz.

6th Circuit Court Draws Marriage Equality Rallies

BY AJ TRAGER

CINCINNATI - Hundreds gathered in Cincinnati for two marriage equality rallies and many more headed into the courthouse early Aug. 6th to witness history as six same-sex marriage cases from four states were presented before three judges from the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals. The crowd was comprised of plaintiffs, families, loved-ones, supporters, news crews and protesters who took to the streets to be a part of the energy and excitement. BTL took a trip down to the southern Ohio city to catch history being made.

Rally: The Day Before The Trial

Blue signs that read "Why Marriage Matters Ohio" and "Love is Love" covered many lampposts. The area around the stage was packed with families dressed in all red and groups of young people holding signs or sporting rainbow clothing.

"Gay and lesbian couples are like everyone else. We share the same American values like taking care of our families and our neighbors.

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We face the same stressors and worries in this challenging economy like making ends meet and finding our jobs. We share the same hopes and dreams like finding that special someone to build a life with, maybe even starting a family with or care for one another in old age, or in times of sickness," openly gay member of Cincinnati City Council Chris Seelbach said in his opening statements during the Tuesday Rally.

A sense of oneness floated throughout the evening. Many of the individuals that spoke shared their stories of family and commitment, of discrimination and loss. State Representative Nickie Antonio is known for being the first openly gay elected official in Ohio. She and her partner, Jean, have been together for more than 20 years and have two daughters.

"Ohioans relate to elected officials whose feelings have evolved on the issue over time," Antonio began. "And we know that some have. They have moved from opposition and uncertainty to full support. As public servants, we believe in the value of freedom and equality under the law. We believe that every family should be treated with dignity and respect. We stand for marriage equality because it strengthens our communities and improves the lives of all families that call Ohio home. I know that we are committed to an Ohio where everyone is free to marry the person they love. Where all loving and committed couples can start a family, care for each other and spend their lives together. It's time to work together so we may be proud of an Ohio that will not tolerate discrimination of any person, where everyone is treated equally; where equality for all is a cornerstone of our Democratic society."

Kentucky Plaintiffs that spoke included: Kim Franklin and her partner Tammy Boyd, Tim and Larry Love and Shannon Fauver and Dawn Elliott. Most of these couples didn't set out to be on the forefront of marriage equality. They are seeking to obtain equal benefits for their love in the same way heterosexual couples have had the pleasure of doing.

"Our story really is a love story two decades in the making," Franklin said. "We are a very old fashioned couple. We're both from small towns; raised on a farm, still to this day live the values that our values installed in us. The hard work treating others with respect the way that we want to be treated, morals, values, yes ma'am, no ma'am, commitment to our families, commitments to each other and commitments to people in general."

Many of the couples quoted commitment and devotion as the leading elements of their relationships. They believe in sticking together and creating spaces that harbor love and growth as well as support and joy.

But it was former Ohio Governor Ted Strickland that shook the stage and brought the crowd to an even stronger boil at the end of the evening.

"This is a great day in the great state of Ohio," he started. "Let me say to you that I feel incredibly honored to be asked to be with you tonight. You are the foot soldiers in a war for Equality. Now, I thank you for every insult you've ever endured, every time you've ever been threatened by a bully, any... bless your heart. Let's give this young woman a round of applause."

It was at that moment that Strickland singled out one of the women in the audience, Audrey Remusat. Dressed in red, she was one of the few transwomen in attendance.

"Let's give this woman a round of applause

Continued from p. 4

for her courage," Strickland said and the crowd erupted.

"People have evolved on that issue. Ten years ago, the people of Ohio supported discrimination," Strickland said, rolling into his statements about the SCOTUS decision to strike down the Defense Against Marriage Act. But he professes pride in Ohioans and how things are changing in favor of the LGBT movement.

"We have moved beyond tolerance – we are for inclusion," he said before the group disbanded, only to be reunited the following day outside the steps of the Potter Stewart U.S. Courthouse.

Day Of The Trial

The weather was hot for 10 a.m. News crews were already set up on the corner of the street near a city bus station. A rally was planned for noon and the hearings were to begin at 1 p.m., though many entered the courthouse at 11 a.m. to guarantee a spot in the main room. All seats in the actual courtroom were spoken for by noon, but attendees could be seated in an overflow room if they wanted to listen to the audio from inside the historic 6th Circuit Court. A large group lined the sidewalk cornering the building, waiting to walk to Fountain Square to start the second rally of the week for marriage equality.

"I am here because last month a trans woman of color was murdered. Her name was Tiffany Edwards, and she lived here in Cincinnati. And this morning I took flowers to her grave and the place where she was murdered. And this is not an isolated incident," Mrs. Biko of Columbus, Ohio said. "I am standing in solidarity with my gay and lesbian brothers and sisters, but I would love if we could channel some of our resources and attention and energy to some of our community's most vulnerable." Biko, dressed in red and black, stood next to Kathy Laufman, the founding member of GLSEN of Greater Cincinnati.

"I am excited about the changes that are coming about faster and faster," Laufman said. "Our youth have a saying, 'I want it to change now.' So I know they are getting impatient. And they are very, very excited, as am I, with the political shift across the country. I want this world to be a place for our kids to grow into, where they have safety and freedoms. It's long overdue for our youth."

Standing with signs in rainbow lettering that read "Love is Love" and "Equal Love" were Karen Geiger-Behm and Amy Simpson-Bennethum, chaplains at a local Children's Hospital. Amy was there with her husband; Karen's partner of two years was not able to attend.

"I want to see people celebrating freedom – love exploding all over the place because everyone deserves the equal rights to get marry, and I would just love for people to be dancing in the streets," Geiger-Behm said.

Her and her partner are planning on having kids soon, and she says the 6th Circuit Court decision will truly affect her child's future. Her current employer recognizes her marriage, as does the Federal Government, but she would

POTTER STEWART UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE



Frank Colasonti, Jr. slept on the courthouse steps and was joined by Equality Case File founder Kathleen Perrin. They wanted to make sure they had a seat in the courtroom. BTL photos: AJ Traeger

like to see Ohio do so as well.

"Right now my wife cannot be on the birth certificate. We will have to go through all of the adoption processes," Geiger-Behm said.

Soon after, the group moved to the fountain square and heard from ministers and faith leaders, local politicians and candidates who favor equal opportunities for all. The spouses of veterans and enlisted military members also spoke.

The main theme of the day, besides equality, was a sharing of stories from the LGBT and allies in the crowd. Getting the word out, really showcasing and showing who we are and what we are all about is going to speak volumes, rally presenter Joshua Snyder-Hill said.

Just before the group marched around the courthouse, there was a commitment ceremony where lovers held hands and professed their love.

Frank Colasonti Jr. and his partner James Ryder were the first of roughly 300 couples married in Michigan during the brief window March 27, before the stay on Judge Friedman's decision was issued. Hoping to get a seat in the courtroom, Colasonti showed up on Aug. 5 and spent the night on the Cincinnati street side with his good friend, Kathleen Perrin of Equality Case Files. Perrin ran into Colasonti by chance that evening and wouldn't let her friend spend the night alone.

"I wanted to make sure I had an opportunity to go into the courtroom and visually see the arguments," Colasonti said.

His wait paid off. With tired eyes, Colasonti was the first person to get a ticket Wednesday morning.

Aug. 6th saw only one individual out in protest. He drove around the block all day in his "Repent-Sinner" mobile that had a picture of a crucified Jesus on the back trailer and a caption that read "All have sinned believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shall be saved" and "If Jesus Christ can save a Catholic Priest he can also save you from going to hell."

See Michigan rally coverage on page 10.

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BRIEFS

LANSING Michigan Pride Coming Next Weekend

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

It's not too early to start planning a trip to Lansing for Michigan Pride. The multi-day event celebrates LGBTQ pride in the state's capital, featuring a variety of adult and family-oriented events from Aug. 22-23.

MI Pride kicks off with the White Party at 8 p.m. on Friday in Lansing's Old Town. The all-night party (themed around white or silver attire) is Michigan's largest white attire event. For \$10, a wristband gets party-goers access to all venues: Sir Pizza, Grand Cafe, Spiral Video & Dance Bar and Esquire Bar.

Activities are packed into the following day, starting with the March to the Capitol. The march, which will set up at noon at 200 N. Grand Ave., kicks off at 1 p.m. and will feature various religious groups, local LGBTQ owned and welcoming buisnesses, citizens groups and individuals riding in floats. (All participants are urged to dress appropriately as well.)

Once the march ends at the capitol steps, a commitment ceremony – "Stand Up and Out" – will take place at 1:30 p.m. Participants, who can register at 12 p.m. on the steps, will receive a certificate from the group-style commitment ceremony. There is no fee, but donations to the minister are appreciated. A rally will also take place on the steps from 1:30-3 p.m., celebrating the LGBTQ community's civil rights progress in the state.

The main event – the Festival in Old Town – runs from 12 to 11 p.m. at 206 E. Grand River Ave. The suggested admission is \$5-10. All ages are welcome at the festival, which will feature live music, a bounce house, crafts, games, food and vendors. Some featured entertainment includes the LanSingOut Gay Men's Chorus, comedian Mimi Gonzalez and a drag show.

Learn more online at www.michiganpride.org.

Fall Into LGBT September Events

With September quickly approaching, Michiganders can start to fill their calendars with tickets to early autumn's LGBT events. The first of these illustrious events includes Voices 2014 on Friday, Sept. 12, presented by the Ruth Ellis Center (REC) and the Lear Corporation. The evening of original youth composition including modern dance, sign language, spoken word and music will celebrate REC's 15 years of service to LGBTQ runaway and homeless youth. Tickets for the VIP Reception, which begins at 6 p.m., start at \$275. Tickets for the 7 p.m. main event range from \$75-175. The evening will include complimentary valet, strolling dinner and cocktails, silent auction, youth performances and more. Visit www.ruthelliscenter.org for tickets and more information.

The following week will feature DIFFA: Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS. Michigan AIDS Coalition's annual event runs from Sept. 18-20, beginning with the opening night event, Cocktails By Design, that Thursday. The cocktail event features appetizers from area restaurants, entertainment, dancing, cocktails and more. Friday's event, Artworks Detroit, costs \$75 and includes a silent and live auction of 150 pieces of art. Saturday's closing event, Dining By Design, is a limited seating gala dinner at \$250 a ticket. A silent auction, entertainment and dancing will also be held.

All events will be held each day from 6 to 11 p.m. at the Former Federal Reserve Building at 160 W. Fort, Detroit. Purchase tickets at www.michiganaidscoalition.eventbrite.com.

ELECTION '14: The Good, The Bad And The Ugly For LGBT Michigan

Victories And Losses Of The Primary Election

BY TODD HEYWOOD

With the polls closed, and the votes counted Aug. 5, Michigan's general election ballot is a mishmash of the good, the bad and the truly ugly for November.

The Good

Arch-conservative and anti-gay state lawmaker Tom McMillin lost his primary race for the GOP nomination for 8th Congressional seat. Former State Sen. Majority Leader Mike Bishop defeated him and will face Democrat Eric Schertzing in November. Schertzing is currently the Ingham County Treasurer and bested Susan Grettenberger, an out lesbian.

Jon Hoadley, who is openly gay and was endorsed by BTL, won the primary in the 60th House District, which encompasses much of Kalamazoo. Jeremy Moss, who is also gay and endorsed by BTL, handily won his primary for the 35th House District, which includes Southfield.

The Bad

Openly gay attorney and former judge Rudy Serra lost his race in the 27th House District. Openly gay candidate Nathan Morrish lost his bid for the 34th House District.

Garnet Lewis, an out lesbian candidate for the 32nd State Senate seat, lost her primary to State Rep. Stacey Erwin Oakes.

In Western Wayne and Oakland County, Tea Party Favorite Congressman Kerry Bentivolio has lost his Republican primary to foreclosure magnate David Trott.

The Ugly

Rep. Frank Foster, a Republican sponsor of legislation to amend Elliot Larsen, has lost his primary to Lee Chatfield - an educator with a Christian academy in northern Michigan. Chatfield got support from former state Rep. Jack Hoogendyk. Hoogendyk painted the race as essential to holding the GOP away from equality.

Tea Party favorite Todd Courser has inched out his opponents in the GOP primary in the 82nd House district. Courser will face off with Democrat Marcus Middleton. When Courser was targeted by the Great Lakes Education



From top left: Jon Hoadley won his primary bid for State Rep., Garnet Lewis lost her bid for a State Senate seat. Bottom left: Jeremy Moss won his primary bid for State Rep. and Rudy Serra lost his primary bid for State Rep. Given the composition of Hoadley and Moss's districts, it is highly likely they will win in November, making it the first time an openly gay representative has served in Michigan since Chris Kolb (Ann Arbor) did so from 2001 - 2007.

Project, a DeVos funded project, he lashed out on Facebook accusing the organization of promoting the "homosexual agenda."

In the 98th House district, anti-gay leader Gary Glenn squeezed out a win over Karl Ieuter in the Republican primary. Glenn will now face Democrat Joan Braunsch. Glenn runs the American Family Association of Michigan and is on record as calling for the recriminalization of homosexuality. He is also the proud co-author of Michigan's "Marriage Amendment," which banned marriage equality in the state in 2004. That ban was ruled unconstitutional earlier this year, and the 6th District Court of Appeals held the hearing last week.

Gay Candidates Sound Off

The night of the elections, BTL reached out to the four candidates endorsed by the paper for reaction to the primary outcomes. Lewis could not be reached, since her race was called at nearly 2 a.m. that Wednesday.

Serra, who lost to Robert Wittenberg, spoke highly of the winner.

"If I couldn't win the race, the person who won - he's the one I would've picked," Serra said in a phone interview. Serra noted that Wittenberg had months into the race before he ever entered, and his campaign was not able to compensate for the tight time frame. He said he expects Wittenberg to be good on LGBT equality issues.

Hoadley was very happy when reached Tuesday night.

"We presented a progressive vision of Michigan that invests in people," he said. "Tonight's win is an affirmation of those values."

He noted that he was saddened that Lewis and Serra had lost their races, but noted, "It's likely we will have the largest representation of the LGBT community in the state legislature."

Moss, too was excited. His primary win is likely a seal on the seat itself with the district 81 percent Democratic. He said he was dismayed with the oustering of Foster in favor an anti-LGBT candidate.

"I was looking forward to working across the aisle with Frank Foster," Moss said.

As for the wins of Courser and Glenn, he called them "more obsessed with gay people than the LGBT candidates."







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Anti-Gay Verbal Assault Caught On Video

Assailant Says He's A 'Christian' And Doesn't 'Hate Faggots'

BY TODD HEYWOOD

A Lansing area business owner, caught on video hurling a series of anti-gay invectives against three gay men, says his actions were not motivated by hate.

"I don't hate faggots," Victor Sadet told Between The Lines in a phone interview. He preceded his comments by declaring he was a "re-born" Christian. "Leviticus states that homosexuality should be stoned and put to death," he noted. He owns Sadet's Handyman and Maintenance on Lansing's eastside.

Sadet says the invective was the result of three gay men having sexually explicit conversations as they were leaving the Fire Mountain in Delta Township. But two of the three men to whom Sadet directed his verbal assault say that's untrue; another patron of the facility, who wished not to be identified, supported the two gay men's version of the story.

The incident unfolded some time between 6:30 and 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 3, say Fire Mountain officials. Sadet says it happened at about 4 p.m.

Based on several interviews, Sadet was apparently standing outside the doors of Fire Mountain smoking a cigarette when Isiah Tweedie, 27, and Montrell 'Delicious' Jackson, 35, were exiting the buffet

exiting the buffet style restaurant. Tweedie and Jackson were accompanied by one other person, who is also gay. Witnesses say Sadet started calling the three "faggots" and telling them to leave the state.

Sadet agrees that

he did tell them he "hated faggots" and that they should leave the state, but claims he was antagonized when one of the men talked about having anal sex with another's boyfriend. Tweedie and Jackson say none of the three men is currently involved in a relationship with anyone.

The invectives were launched, Sadet contends, because he was morally offended and worried that children might overhear the men's sexually explicit conversation. He says there were no children present during the incident. However, the patron was present with her children and witnessed the entire exchange. Tweedie and Jackson also confirm there were children present.



Montrell 'Delicious' Jackson and Isiah Tweedie filed a video on YouTube after they experienced antigay verbal harassment last week. They are currently planning a fundraiser for the The Trevor Project that will take place on Sept. 8 at Spiral Video and Dance Bar in Lansing. BLT photo: Todd Heywood

Tweedie said he was fumbling with his smart phone in an attempt to remove the lens cap from his camera during the initial verbal barrage. He finally was able to get the lens cap off when the three men arrived at the car. He began recording, and the resulting video shows

> them "fucking faggots" and saying they are not Americans.

> > The three gay men then got into their car. Shortly

Sadet calling

Shortly thereafter, a manager

exited the building. Kim Miller, a spokesperson for Fire Mountain, says he was originally coming out to confront Sadet for smoking too closely to the door. But when he overheard the antigay verbal assault, he told Sadet he had to leave.

Sadet says he immediately complied with the manager's request that he leave the property, but Miller says that the man returned to the restaurant and sat down with his family.

"At that point, the manager told him, 'I said you have to leave. I am calling the police, now," Miller says of the incident. Sadet and his family left shortly after this, but the Eaton County Sheriff's Department was called. Sadet says he was called within five minutes of leaving the buffet by the police. Tweedie and Jackson say they have not been contacted by the sheriff's office.

Delta Township is home to the Lansing Mall, and less than a year ago adopted a local human rights ordinance which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.

Officials in the township say the incident did not appear to implicate the new ordinance. Township Supervisor Ken Fletcher tells BTL he was disappointed that the incident occurred.

"We don't know enough about the incident that took place in Lansing last night to speak to it directly," Matt Weesaw, director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, said in a statement on the incident Wednesday. "But the fact remains that under current Michigan law, LGBT individuals have no protection against discrimination or crimes of hate based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. The Michigan Department of Civil Rights has advocated for more than two decades for expanding Michigan's civil rights law to add this important protection. We are proud to join a broad coalition of business leaders and advocates who are calling for change, recognizing that for Michigan to prosper, we must build a culture of respect, inclusion and fairness for all people."



- Victor Sadet in an interview with BTL

ots" and



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Mark Schauer Joins Equality Rally In Lansing



BY TODD HEYWOOD

On the eve of historic hearings at the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals on the issue of marriage equality, supporters rallied in Lansing. Democratic candidate for governor Mark Schauer attended the event. He was greeted with applause and cheers. Shortly after, the crowd began to chant "Schauer! Schauer!" However, the candidate redirected the enthusiasm to a chant of "Equality! Equality!"

Rev. Stanley Jenkins, who runs First Presbyterian Church in downtown Lansing, welcomed the crowd.

"To lend this sacred space for the sacred cause of love is an honor," he told about 200 people gathered in the church. Attendees were from places such as Grand Rapids, Ann Arbor and Lansing.

"They told us marriage was about families," Schauer

Democratic candidate for governor, Mark Schuer, attended the rally in Lansing to support equality. BTL photo: Todd Heywood. See other photos online at www.pridesource.com

'A Turning Point In History' Heralded At Interfaith Marriage Equality Celebration

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

WARREN - On the eve of the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals hearing arguments in the case of DeBoer V. Snyder, more than 100 people came out to Renaissance Unity church in Warren for an interfaith marriage equality celebration.

"You are the leading edge," Rev. Jim Lee, Renaissance Unity's senior minister, told the crowd of marriage equality activists. "Sometimes when you're the leading edge, people want to take pot shots at you."

Lee said he had "come a long way" on the issue of gay rights, admitting he had been raised to be homophobic.

"Then something happened," he said. "I started to meet people, and I found they were just people. So I had to let go of what I had been fed."

Today, Lee's church strongly supports marriage equality.

"Renaissance Unity stands for equality," said Lee. "We're not against anybody or anything. We've just decided we're going to be there for things we support. Everybody is equal and, when it comes to marriage, we stand firm on that."

Rev. Beth Rakestraw, the senior minister of Divine Peace Metropolitan Community Church, spoke to the crowd about history being made. "I am absolutely thrilled to be standing before you all today at what I believe is an incredible turning point in history," said Rakestraw who, along with her wife Beverly, was one of the 300 couples married in Michigan on March 27th after the DeBoer V. Snyder ruling came down and before a stay was issued.

"As Dr. King told us, 'The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice,'" Rakestraw said. "I also think that it bends toward love ... My sisters and brothers, we are standing on the threshold of an opened door to freedom for same-sex couples and their families. We have been brought to that place because people who were once against us are having a change of heart."

Betsy McKeeman, who is a member of Renaissance Unity with her wife Julie, spoke about being married in 2013 in San Francisco.

"We left with a marriage certificate that the federal government would recognize, but that our own state ignored," McKeeman said. "I cannot legally change my last name as the marriage certificate isn't valid in Michigan. I also have no legal custody of our children and cannot make medical decisions on their behalf if anything were to happen to Julie."

McKeeman said she's hoping those things will change soon.

"Tomorrow's hearing means that our family may



finally have a chance to be fully recognized and protected in the eyes of the law, and that is something we are very proud to be a part of," she said. "We are forever grateful to April and Jane DeBoer for their courage to represent families like ours and we look forward to the day when we can celebrate with them. Hopefully we will all be able to find babysitters."



told the crowd. "It is about families. It is about children - about our children. This is about family values, that is, valuing families."

He told the crowd the Washtenaw, Oakland and Ingham county clerks were "heroes" for opening their offices in March and conducting over 300 marriage ceremonies for couples.

"I am certain - whether it's the courts, or we the citizens - we will become a marriage equality state," Schauer told the crowd.

Schauer was not the only politician in the room. Susan Grettenberger and Eric Schertizing, both vying for the Democratic nomination for the 8th Congressional district, were present. State Rep. Sam Singh and East Lansing Mayor Nathan Triplett were in attendance as well.

10 BTL | August 14, 2014



6th Circuit Decision Could Buck Recent Trends In Marriage Rulings

BY LISA KEEN

The three-judge panel of the Sixth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals seemed to signal pretty clearly where they're headed on the six marriage equality lawsuits they heard arguments in Wednesday: They're heading toward the first federal appeals ruling to undo lower court rulings that held state bans on marriage for same-sex couples to be unconstitutional.

The judges at the Aug. 6 hearing in Cincinnati included one appointee of President Clinton - Martha Craig Daughtrey, 72 - and two appointees of President George W. Bush: Jeffrey Sutton, 53, and Deborah Cook, 62.

The Democratic appointee, Daughtrey, was unabashed in her expressions of skepticism over the reasons the states proffered for justifying the exclusion of same-sex couples. But the two Republican appointees gave repeated voice to various justifications for the bans.

Republican Cook, for instance, had relatively little to say or ask during the unusual three-hour, four-state, six lawsuit proceeding. But when she did speak, she seemed to be feeding lines to the attorneys arguing in support of the marriage bans in Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee.

For example, Michigan Solicitor General Aaron Lindstrom seemed unable to extract himself from a tough line of questioning from Judge Daughtrey. Daughtrey pressed Lindstrom to explain why Michigan allows male-female couples who don't procreate to marry but doesn't allow same-sex couples to marry even when some of them have children.

"Isn't it a little hypocritical then to allow people to marry who can't procreate but prevent same-sex partners from marrying?" asked Daughtery. Lindstrom said "not at all," but then added only that opposite sex couples have a fundamental right to marry.

Cook interrupted saying, "You would acknowledge that there are ... important benefits to the state beyond procreation, I should think ... the benefits and responsibilities attendant to marriage seem to bear on the question we're addressing here - is whether or not those matter to a state that says, as Virginia did, saying 'We have no interest in licensing adult love.""

Later, Daughtrey pushed back on

Lindstrom's claim that allowing samesex marriage would lead to a society in which there would be no support for the contribution of fathers.

"Do you honestly think that's what's happened in the states where samesex marriage is now valid?" asked Daughtrey. Lindstrom said it was "too early to tell," being only 10 years into the history of allowing same-sex couples to marry in some states. Daughtrey noted that a large percentage of states have marriage equality "and it doesn't look like the sky has fallen in." Again, Lindstrom said it was "too early to tell." Cook soon jumped in.

"Isn't it your point, Mr. Lindstrom, that it's disparaging the vote of the citizens of Michigan?" Lindstrom quickly accepted the point.

Republican Sutton, at 53, the youngest of the three judges, initially seemed to find the marriage bans "a little harder to justify," given "modern conceptions of marriage as being more about love and commitment." But he quickly changed his tune when Carol Stanyard, the attorney for the Michigan plaintiffs, presented her argument. Then, Sutton trotted out the unusual position that a 1972 summary dismissal of Minnesota's refusal to grant a gay male couple a marriage license--in Baker v. Nelson-could require the appeals panel to uphold the bans by other states.

"Aren't we stuck with Baker?" asked Sutton.

Stanyard said no, "it was a different time" and the Supreme Court's rulings subsequent to Baker have been "totally inconsistent with Baker" and strongly suggest the high court would no longer take the same position today. She also noted that "every court in the country" that has ruled on state marriage bans has found Baker does not apply.

In addition to his unusual interest in Baker, what stood out as most important to Sutton was his repeated posits that the "best way" for the LGBT community to achieve equality for its relationships is through "the democratic process." Although same-sex couples are looking for concrete benefits of marriage, he said that many of the briefs filed by plaintiffs in the case emphasized the respect and dignity that are bestowed upon relationships called marriage.

"And if respect and dignity are critical, or the key elements here – maybe this is just something I'm missing but - I would

have thought the best way to get respect and dignity is through the democratic process," said Sutton. "Forcing one's neighbors, co-employees, friends to recognize that these marriages...deserve the same respect as in a heterosexual couple. It's just funny to me why the democratic process, which seems to be going pretty well – you know, nothing happens as quickly as we might like but I'm just curious how you react to that point."

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Stanyard replied that the Michigan amendment banning same-sex couples from marrying "gutted the democratic process in Michigan."

"Voters can no longer appeal to their legislators," said Stanyard. "Second, the usual deference to the legislative process evaporates if there's a reason to infer antipathy...And there are plenty of reasons to infer antipathy here.'

Sutton wouldn't give up. He said that, if the issue was put before Michigan voters again, "It would certainly be a different vote and it might be a different outcome, even today."

Stanyard noted that to get a measure on the ballot takes thousands of signatures and millions of dollars.

"It's very cost prohibitive for a disfavored minority to be doing that," said Stanyard.

"But it's all about changing the hearts and minds, which I have to believe is one of the key goals," said Sutton, interrupting. "Isn't it worth the expense?"

Stating the obvious, Stanyard replied, "Fundamental constitutional rights may not be submitted to popular vote." When Sutton persisted still, she put the point even more bluntly, "This court doesn't have the luxury of dodging a constitutional challenge.'

Sutton persisted, bringing the point up again with other attorneys in different ways. With long-time civil rights attorney Al Gephardstein, who was representing plaintiffs in one of the Ohio cases, Sutton said, "Isn't the first question whether a state can decide for its own purposes...whether to recognize same-sex marriage? And if it decides it's not going to do that for now, and if the U.S. Constitution permits that choice, I guess it seems really odd to me that [the state] can be told" to recognize a marriage license obtained by a same-sex

See 6th Circuit, page 14

Band Tunes Remembered



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

ort Crowley's "Boys In the Band" opened Off-Broadway almost 50 years ago. I bought a copy of the play in Chicago in 1968 and read dialog aloud while driving back to Detroit with my then partner Larry Stetson.

We saw a local production a year later at the Rivera, a longvanished movie house briefly turned legit stage, starring Wayne University theater grad Paul Pentecost.

Seeing gay life as we sometimes found ourselves living it proved fascinating: a big city birthday party turned "truth game," with much drinking, lot'sa line dancing to the sweet turn-on sounds of Burt Bacharach's "The Look of Love." A play about us.

"Boys" opened – timely – one year before New York City's liberating Stonewall Riots. (The same year Rev. Troy Perry started the first Metropolitan Community Church in Los Angeles.) Change was in the air. "Boys" was exciting on two counts. It was gay from start to finish with camp humor putdown and rough trade.

And – score one up for me - I had spent a romantic week with one of its Off-Broadway production actors: Frederick Combs, who played Donald in both the play and in the film version.

I met "Honey Combs" at Detroit's Woodward Bar. He was appearing in 18-year-old British playwright Shelagh Delaney's international hit, "A Taste of Honey," at the Fisher Theater in the fall 1996. He played Geoffrey, a gay artist. It was his big break. The cast included legendary Uta Hagan. The start of Freddy's promising career.

Freddy was staying at the Wardell Sheraton hotel, later Park Shelton Apartments. (I later lived there for 24 years. The property was once owned by comic Gilda Radner, of Saturday Night Live fame.)

He told me his two high school drama teachers believed he had talent and much promise and paid for his ticket to New York to study acting. He also confided he had been brought out by an Army sergeant when he was 16.

I followed him to Chicago New Year's week, but was gently told our final curtain had rung down in Detroit. I never saw him again, but in 1970 had the pleasure of seeing him playing Donald when "Boys In the Band" was made into a movie. (His thespian buns are glimpsingly preserved for posterity.)

Looking back at Crowley's pre-Stonewall play, given all that's happened – Gay Liberation, the AIDS crisis, Clinton's Don't-Ask-Don't-Tell policy, Ellen Degeneres, "Brokeback Mountain", "Angels in America," "The Laramie Project," – "Boys" remains entertaining, well-crafted, compelling, if somewhat gay self-loathing.

Its characters are guys of another time and place who have yet to shake off the closeting onus placed upon them by religion, psychiatry, police, politics and even the Mafia – you name it. Just about everyone and everything straightjacketing.

Given as much, today we either like the play for its moments of history replayed or loathe it for its internalized homophobia; nonetheless, it's courageous, especially compared to cautious



It Doesn't Have To Be 'Michigan Versus LGBT People'

ast week, two juxtaposed events starkly exposed the long-range impact of choices we make at the ballot box. The federal marriage equality trial in Cincinnati featured Michigan Gov. Snyder as a named defendant against the LGBT community, and Attorney General Bill Schuette had his minions vigorously fight in court to maintain second-class status for LGBT people in our state.

That same day in Michigan's primary election, Mark Schauer ran unopposed for the Democratic nomination for governor as did Gary Peters for U.S. Senate, both vocal supporters of the LGBT community and marriage equality. In November, Schauer will square off against Gov. Snyder, Peters will face Republican Terri Lynn Land for a U.S. Senate seat and Mark Totten will run against Schuette for attorney general. Schauer, Peters and Totten all support full equality for LGBT people including marriage. All three Republicans do not.

Schauer and Totten have publicly announced that, if elected, they will immediately drop the state's appeal of U.S. District Judge Friedman's sweeping decision declaring Michigan's marriage ban to be unconstitutional. If that happens, with one sweep of the new leadership's pen, Michigan will become the next state to enjoy full marriage equality.

In Cincinnati, the 6th Circuit Court combined four states' marriage equality

BTL EDITORIAL

across the country is not inevitable. Those against equality are afraid they might lose this battle and are working harder and louder than ever to turn the tide back to discrimination. Regardless

If Gov. Mark Schauer and Attorney General Mark Totten were in office now instead of Gov. Snyder and Attorney General Schuette, we would already have full marriage equality in Michigan .

cases from Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee. The three-judge panel listened to arguments from all four states. Although impossible to predict how they will rule, those in the courtroom said they feared this court might be the first one to issue a negative ruling, turning against a recent string of federal court cases decided in favor of marriage equality.

Marriage equality in Michigan and

of how the court may rule, the battlefield for equality is in the ballot box.

August's primary elections in our state made history by yielding TWO openly gay men now poised to serve in the Michigan legislature, Jon Hoadley in Kalamazoo and Jeremy Moss in Southfield. But Gary Glenn also won

See Parting Glances next page

Full equality in Michigan will not simply be given to us. We must continue to work for it with resources, time and – of course – our votes. A sanguine sense that marriage equality is sweeping the nation and therefore all we have to do is sit back and wait for it to magically appear is a sure recipe for defeat.

BTL Editorial

Continued from p. 12

his Republican primary race in Midland/Bay County. President of the American Family Association of Michigan, a hate group as defined by the Southern Poverty Law Center, Glenn is the proud author of the 2004 Michigan marriage ban amendment and says homosexuality should be criminalized. Glenn will run against Democrat Joan Brausch in November.

Full equality in Michigan will not simply be given to us. We must continue to work for it with resources, time and – of course – our votes. A sanguine sense that marriage equality is sweeping the nation and therefore all we have to do is sit back and wait for it to magically appear is a sure recipe for defeat. Anti-equality activists like Glenn are counting on us to let up on the pressure for full equality with premature victory celebrations.

Our mission is clear. In November, equality supporters have to vigorously support Schauer for Governor, Peters for U.S. Senator and Totten for Attorney General. LGBT people need supporters in elected office. Just consider the current case. If Schauer and Totten were in office now instead of Snyder and Schuette, we would already have full marriage equality in Michigan. A Snyder/Totten/Peters leadership team would work towards enacting basic civil rights protections in employment, housing, public accommodations and family rights including second parent adoption and hospital visitation. Instead of constantly being pitted against our state's leadership, we would be represented and included in the fabric of Michigan's society.

Parting Glances

Continued from p. 12

plays dealing with homosexuality preceding it, like "The Children's Hour" and "Tea and Sympathy."

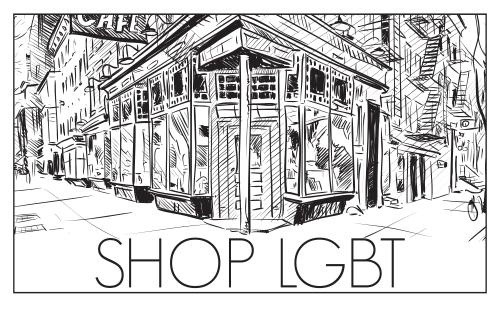
The boys in "Boys" are who they are in spite of a culture that demonizes them.

Frederick Combs' later career included writing, producing and directing an Off-Broadway mystery play that got soundly panned, prompting him to leave New York for LA. He then appeared in TV soaps and miniseries and for a time ran his own drama school. He died from AIDS-related complications on Sept. 19, 1992. Many "Boys" cast members also died from AIDS.

Frederick was 57. His acting talent, face – and rather memorable backside anatomy – are available for repeated viewing on DVD. I watched the movie this week and remembered when...

And as one of the old boys in an old band I'm still grateful to be tootin' my horn. On or off-key. As for my art, to quote from the play: "It takes a fairy to make something pretty."

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Creep of the Week Rick Wiles OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

ave you been feeling a bit under the weather lately? Maybe your head feels like it's been used as a soccer ball, your throat is



sore, your back aches and you're all fevery. Maybe you're losing your lunch from both ends. It could be that leftover sushi you let sit in

your car for

too long. Or it

Rick Wiles

uld be that Christians in Africa. Right-wing ver sushi radio host Rick Wiles went so far as let sit in to claim that Ebola would be a great

Right-wing radio host Rick Wiles went so far as to claim that Ebola would be a great "attitude adjustment" for the U.S... "Ebola could solve America's problems with atheism, homosexuality, sexual promiscuity, pornography and abortion."

could be the flu.

But, let's face it, it's probably Ebola.

You could freak out, but you're better off just sitting back and waiting for the internal hemorrhaging to begin. You lucky duck, you.

I know what you're thinking: "Lucky? How on earth does having Ebola make me lucky, you sick bastard?"

Well, first of all, there's no need for name-calling. What would Jesus do, after all? Secondly, stop thinking about yourself for once and think, instead, about what's good for all mankind. After all, getting Ebola is proof that you've been chosen by God to send a message. Granted, that message is, "I'm so angry and disappointed in the human race that I'm gonna take a bunch of you out." What's God so angry about? The

gays, of course.

Need proof? A group of prominent Christian leaders in the West African country of Liberia recently got together to discuss what role their churches can play in the Ebola epidemic ravaging Liberia. At that meeting, they endorsed a resolution stating, "That God is angry with Liberia, and that Ebola is a plague. Liberians have to pray problems with atheism, homosexuality, sexual promiscuity, pornography and abortion."

and seek God's forgiveness over the

corruption and immoral acts (such as

homosexualism, etc.) that continue to

Got it? God is mad because Liberia

is basically just one big Pride parade

and all Liberians have to do is put

the rainbow flags down and pray.

Epidemic solved. The end. Ain't

Of course, the "pray the Ebola

away" mentality isn't limited to

"attitude adjustment" for the U.S.

"Now this Ebola epidemic can

become a global

pandemic and

that's another

name for

plague," Wiles

says. "It may be

the great attitude

adjustment that

I believe is

coming. Ebola

could solve

America's

penetrate our society."

prayer grand?

Now some people might argue that Ebola, a deadly disease that kills indiscriminately, is a bigger problem than, say, people who skip the "under God" part in the pledge of allegiance, two dudes kissing each other or a woman having control over her own reproduction system. But those people obviously hate Jesus.

So you see? If you have Ebola you're blessed with the Lord's task of "attitude adjusting," which apparently means scaring the folks Wiles doesn't like into worshiping the same god he does. In other words, Ebola is a literal "come to Jesus."

"If Ebola becomes a global plague, you better make sure the blood of Jesus is upon you," says Wiles. "You better make sure you have been marked by the angels so that you are protected by God. If not, you may be a candidate to meet the Grim Reaper."

So if you get Ebola, pray to Jesus and you won't die, or maybe you will die. But does it matter? Because either way you're sending the message that God hates homos. And isn't that worth dying for?

► 6th Circuit Continued from p. 11

couple in another state.

Gephardstein noted that, historically, the recognition of marriages from other states has been "transportable." It's not about whether a certain state must define marriage a certain way, said Gephardstein, it's about "if you have a pattern and practice over time that you're only changing because of the type of people that now participate in marriage."

"It is unprecedented that Ohio would say to a whole group of people who are married in another state, we're not going to accept you as people that we will recognize as married here," said Gephardstein.

Cook interjected that the couples who married in other states and then moved to Ohio were "well aware" that they were moving into a state where their marriages were not recognized.

"They got married because they're in love," said Gephardstein. "...They do expect their marriage will be transportable. That's a reasonable expectation."

Sutton jumped back in to note that the democratic process is "working very quickly" in favor of same-sex couples.

"The ultimate role of the federal courts is to keep states from denying the liberty to certain

citizens," said Gephardstein. "And here, when you've got citizens who have a liberty interest - their marriage already exists...and they've got children and those children deserve to have two parents and the state is now saying that, because of our commitment to [the democratic process], we're just going to say no to you and we're just going to wait for you to come up with \$7 million and reverse our constitutional amendment. The reality is that these rights are very, very profound...This can't be just subject to vote."

Whatever decision the 6th Circuit panel comes back with – and some may argue that the questions and comments a judge makes on the bench are not necessarily illustrative of how they are leaning – it will affect all four of the states in that circuit. And it will almost certainly be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court where cases from two other circuits – the 10th and the 4th – are either already there or about to be filed.

A 6th Circuit appeal – particularly if it is a loss for same-sex couples – could potentially make a more attractive vehicle for the Supreme Court's ultimate decision on the issue. The loss or denial of the right to marry becomes an injury to a party that requires the high court's attention.

The cases involved in the 6th Circuit appeal encompass six lawsuits in four states: Kentucky (Bourke v. Beshear and Love v. Beshear), Michigan (DeBoer v. Snyder), Ohio (Henry v. Himes and Obergefell v. Himes) and Tennessee (Tanco v. Haslam).

Three-judge panels of three previous circuits have each voted 2 to 1 that the state bans were unconstitutional: the 9th Circuit (a California case, Brown v. Perry, in February 2012), the 10th Circuit (a Utah case, Herbert v. Kitchen, on June 25 this year and an Oklahoma case, Bishop v. Oklahoma, on July 18 this year) and the 4th Circuit (two Virginia cases, Bostic v. Schaefer and Harris v. McDonnell, on July 29 this year).

The California decision, striking down Proposition 8, was left intact by the U.S. Supreme Court in June 2013 after the high court said the party that appealed the decision did not have legal standing to do so (in part because the appellants had not suffered an injury). That decision, in Perry, triggered more than 70 similar lawsuits in every state in the country that banned equal rights to marriage for same-sex couples. These cases are all percolating through the federal court system and one or more of them could very well be heard in the upcoming 2014-15 session, with a decision being issued by June.

Recordings of the 6th Circuit proceeding can be heard on the court's website.

Same-Sex Marriage Appeals Request SCOTUS Review

BY AJ TRAGER

The same week the 6th Circuit Court heard testimony for marriage equality, three different states requested that the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) review federal court appeals to make a final decision on the constitutionality of same-sex marriage.

In June, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of overturning a same-sex marriage ban for Utah, affecting the other circuit states of Colorado, Oklahoma, Kansas, New Mexico and Wyoming. It was released Aug. 5th that the attorneys representing Utah plan to ask SCOTUS to review an appeal of the Utah-based ruling from the Court of Appeals. This will be the last chance for Utah to revive the voterapproved ban on same-sex marriage, which was found to violate the U.S. Constitution.

"The harm in waiting is significant, regardless of which side prevails," Utah wrote. "Either thousands of couples are being denied their constitutional right to marry, or millions of voters are being disenfranchised of their fundamental right to retain the definition of marriage that has existed since before the People ratified the United States Constitution."

Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring stated Aug. 5th he would also file a petition with SCOTUS to review the lower court's ruling that stuck down the state's ban on same-sex marriage. Herring has said repeatedly that it is his duty to defend the state's ban, however, he has argued that the ban is in fact discriminatory. The petition was filed Aug. 9th with the high court.

The day after Utah filed, an Oklahoma court clerk filed an appeal for SCOTUS to review the second 10th Circuit Court decision striking down the same-sex marriage ban. The cases from Utah and Oklahoma were considered to be on a parallel track but were decided separately. In both cases, the Circuit Court ruled 2-1 that the state bans violated the 14th Amendment guaranteeing due process and equal protection under the law. If states "must recognize all relationships as marriages, their purpose for having a marriage policy in the first place – to recognize and subsidize particular relationships because of the societal interests that they serve – would be eradicated," the petition states.

There has been a string of 35 consecutive legal victories since SCOTUS granted federal recognition of same-sex couples in Windsor v. United States last summer. Twelve rulings have come from state courts, 20 rulings from federal courts and three from federal appellate courts, according to a count maintained by Freedom to Marry.

SCOTUS is on break until the fall, at which point the justices will review Utah's petition and decide if they will hear the case.

In early July, the SCOTUSblog, a respected Supreme Court news and analysis website, offered a prediction over twitter that read "SCOTUS will act on the Utah #ssm petition by late-2014, likely grant it, hear argument in March 2015, and rule (5-4) in June 2015."





Country Superstar On Not Giving A 'F-ck,' Dancing With The Gays

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

eAnn Rimes can't fight the moonlight, but she *can* fight the spotlight – or, at the very least, shift it.

Ready to divert attention from tabloids back to music, the 31-year-old Grammy winner just released "Dance Like You Don't Give a ...," a collection of remixes spanning her 20-year career.

LeAnn, the title of your new album, "Dance Like You Don't Give a ...," leaves a lot to the imagination.

(Laughs) I'm actually old enough that I can name a record that! It was my producer whom

I work with a lot and is a very good friend, Darrell Brown, who came up with that. I was like, "That is genius!" He came up with it as a title for a song – we're actually writing a song called that – and I was like, "We have to name the record that."

Are you at a point in your life where you just don't give a fuck anymore?

Yeah, I'm getting there, for sure. It's funny, I grew up in the business, and so, from a very early age, I was taught to care. I *had* to care what people thought because it was my job to. It really took me so far in the direction of having to care that I've had to reel it back in. Everything I've gone through publicly in the last five years – if you really start to care what

people think and let all of that penetrate, it can really mess you up. I think I've come to a really good balance. When it comes to my personal stuff and music, I'll listen – and I'm really open to people's opinion – but there's a time when I'm like, "OK, you have to go with your intuition and who you are." The more I figure out what that is and who I am, the easier it is to say, "I don't give a fuck."

Based on the album cover, where you're shouting angrily, I gathered that.

(Laughs) We shot that on top of the Roosevelt Hotel, and I'm actually on the Roosevelt sign ... in heels! In a teddy! Which was probably not safe. It captures a moment for me where I needed to let it all out. And, I mean, who gets

to stand on the Roosevelt sign and scream?

You do! And it does look like you're not caring in that moment.

Not at all! (Laughs)

Did you have the gays in mind when you were putting the track list together for this remix album?

Yeah. Honestly, the reason this record is out is because of the fans asking. And it's great. I've had a lot of success on the dance charts. I love that world, personally. I love to dance. Releasing a record like this has really set up an opportunity to actually make a full-on dance record after this.

Are you definitely considering that?

Oh yeah. It will happen for sure.

Looking back at your catalog, what songs of yours have resonated most with the gay community over the years?

"How Do I Live," definitely. "I Need You" did. Definitely "Can't Fight the Moonlight." I actually had a No. 1 dance record with "What I Cannot Change," which is off of my "Family" album and that, just the message of the song, seems to resonate very heavily with a lot of the gay community. I think a lot of my music does, really.

Watching your VH1 reality show, "LeAnn & Eddie," I've noticed just how much you enjoy dancing. During one episode you went to a gay country line-dancing bar...

Oh my god, so fun. A bunch of gay cowboys vou can't have more fun. They're hysterical. And there were some cute boys there!

Do you frequent gay clubs more than any other kind?

Yeah, it's so much more fun to me, and it's also kind of selfish - you go there and have all these sweet men who are like, "We love you!" It's fun to be around that energy! I went and performed during Gay Days in Orlando not long ago – it was the first time I actually performed my remixes live - and I had the best time. I've never experienced so much love in a room, and also so much excitement for music. Just really incredible people, and I got such a high off of doing that. I don't really have many firsts in my career anymore, but that was a first for me. Now, I really wanna develop that, because it's just a whole different crowd to perform in front of. It's a whole different energy.

Not at all like performing at a casino, huh?

No. no. no. It's different when you go into a place with thousands of gay men. The one thing I think we have in common is nonjudgment. The last thing you wanna do is be judged. And the last thing I wanna be is judged, especially when I'm performing, so for me the most freeing experience was that. I just got to have a good time and not worry about anything. You're just up there singing, having a good time. Everybody's dancing. I think we have a mutual respect and love for one another that you can't really find everywhere.

We also share a mutual respect for your husband. Eddie Cibrian.

(Laughs) Yes. I've always said that Eddie and I are a gay man's wet dream. I sing, you can look at him, and it's perfect.

Does he tag along with you when you're doing your gay gigs?

He came to that show (Gay Days) and was like, "I am not walking out on stage." Of course I got him out on stage and it was so funny.

He gets embarrassed?

He does! It's funny. He's very low key. I embarrass him often!

Has he ever come to a gay club with you?

Oh yeah, many times. It's fun for me to watch! (Laughs)

Fun to watch him get hit on by guys?

I don't think that's ever happened, but I've definitely watched him get looked up and down in every way, shape or form ... so yeah, basically hit on. It's hysterical seeing these guys freak out over him. For me, I laugh so hard, because Eddie is really pretty cool about it all, but sometimes he can be shy and uncomfortable, and I love to see him in that element. It's completely not his element, but he knows how to work it.

Is this remix project the beginning of a new chapter for you? What's next?

I'm figuring that out. It's been nice to not be attached to anything at the moment and to have the opportunity to do whatever I want musically. I think after taking some time and starting to create music again, and writing and figuring out what that next move is, I'm starting to grasp it a little bit more. But I needed to take some time. I've been at the same place since I was 11 (untril recently, Rimes was signed to Curb Records). But I love all different types of music and, like I said, this is laving the groundwork for me to really do a dance record. And it's sad actually: The album ("Dance Like You Don't Give a ...") was in the top 10 the other day on iTunes, but I was the only singer with a fullon dance record.

Considering your artistic evolution through the years, would you still call country music your home?

Is my home country radio and that world right now? No. But the cool thing is, I'm not sure that I have a home just yet. Not at this stage in my career. But that's where I started. I've had success across the board. I think even more so on the pop charts than on the country charts, but I think the basis for all of my music personally has always stemmed from what I learned listening to old-school country music. That was really influential in my life, and that's the kind of country music that I love. Unfortunately, it's really not around much these days, but just the organic nature of that I carry into everything that I do. So it's an interesting thing to go, "Where do I want to find a home?" I guess that's what I'm looking to do, and I have such great fans. People have followed me through so many different changes. I have fans who have pictures of me with them when we were 13, and now, all these years later, they're still listening to my music.

When you look back at yourself in those

See LeAnn Rimes, page 18



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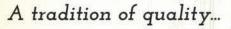
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That was such a whirlwind time in my life that I don't remember a lot of it. Looking at pictures definitely brings back some crazy memories. I was so young. I was a kid that thought they were so much older. Now, being older and having two stepsons, I realize how young I was. That's really what I see.

> - LeAnn Rimes on the beginning of her career

LeAnn Rimes

Continued from p. 17

pictures, what do you see?

That was such a whirlwind time in my life that I don't remember a lot of it. Looking at pictures definitely brings back some crazy memories. I was so young. I was a kid that thought they were so much older. Now, being older and having two stepsons, I realize how young I was. That's really what I see.

It's interesting hearing what you used to sing about and what artists like Kacey Musgraves and Miranda Lambert are singing about now. How is the country music landscape different for female artists now? Can women be bolder than you could be at the start of your career?

Kacey and Miranda are two of my favorites because there's some grit there and some authenticity that I feel is missing in music in general, but especially in country music. Everything I grew up on, you lived, you wrote, you sang. You weren't trying to mask anything or not tell the truth, and that's what great country music to me is about. So, it's nice to see a couple of artists sticking to that.

The landscape for women - there's not much available. It really has become very male dominated. In the '90s there was a lot more room for women. Reba (McEntire) released "She Thinks His Name Was John," which was about a woman who had AIDS and who was dying. It was a huge statement and a bold move. So I think people were doing it back then - it just wasn't as loud as it is now. With different platforms able to bring music to people, it's just a whole different world. But I think definitely the '90s was geared more toward having women involved in the format than it is now.

How do you think the way you've been portrayed in the media has affected your professional music career?

I think, unfortunately, the direction and the conversation have been turned off of music for a while now. With the new show on VH1, and these eight episodes that we filmed, you really do get to see the story that is us and not some soap opera that people have made up because it sells magazines. And it's hard to sit back and not be combative about it, but there's so much and only so many times you can say, "That's a lie," because it all is. To be able to take control of it in a way and laugh about it, which we do, has become very much a coping mechanism.

So, with the show, the tide is turning, thank goodness, and it makes it harder for people to go, "Oh my god, they're horrible people," but to maybe stop and think for a minute. I'm hoping with the show the conversation will turn back to music, because we're like, "OK, chapter closed."

Time for people to move past your personal lives?

It's time. And it's time for me to get back to what I love doing and what I do best, and that is music.

What's the most common misconception about you?

I think my whole life is really just a misconception. Like I said, we have been drug through so much and portrayed whatever way they (the press) feel works for them that week – and also, there has been a third party (Brandi Glanville, Cibrian's ex-wife) - and so, the whole thing is a misconception. But the good thing about the show is all of these misconceptions kind of just crumble.

Harvesting Hope For The Homeless

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

There's less than a month until Ozone House's "Harvest of Hope" event. The non-profit hosts a fundraiser each year to help benefit the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti shelters for runaway, homeless and high-risk youth, LGBT or straight. Domino's will host the charity's event at Ypsilanti's Polo Fields Golf Club.

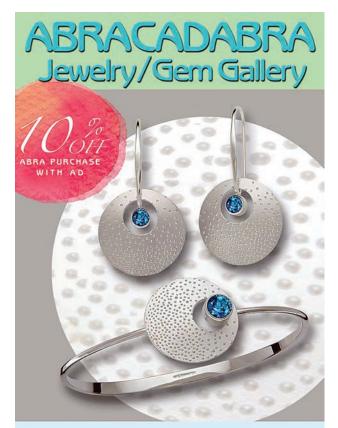
Ozone House, founded in 1969, has functioned as a shelter for thousands of youth who don't have a safe place to call home. A variety of housing options are offered, as well as therapies, case management and youth leadership opportunities. They are also the only agency in Washtenaw County that provides free voluntary shelter to highrisk youth ages 10-20.

Ninty-eight percent of the youth Ozone House supports are dealing with serious family conflict, with 66 percent fleeing specifically unsafe homes. The non-profit's executive director, Katie Doyle, will also serve on an expert advisory committee for a national project aimed at reducing



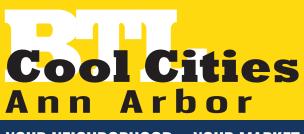
the number of homeless youth who identify as LGBT.

This year's event will benefit those youth that take refuge in the services and shelter, longterm or temporary, at the house. The evening is called Harvest of Hope to evoke both the season and the spirit that "inspires youth and their families to contact Ozone House, sometimes against all odds." The evening will include a strolling dinner, patios overlooking



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See Ann Arbor, page 20

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Ann Arbor

Continued from p. 19

the golf course, live music, an "overthe-top" silent auction, festive drinks, easy parking and more. Guests will have the opportunity to learn more about the work Ozone House has done and continues to do for area youth and families.

Previous events had been held at the Ann Arbor Farmer's Market, but due to consistent years of sold out benefits, Ozone House has expanded to the golf club. Ozone House comments on the change by saying, "Coupled with the complex logistics of holding an event in a space not intended for a seated 350-person meal, as well as our tenuous relationship with the weather, we have decided to relocate this year's event. We know there will be tradeoffs, but we are confident that this year's event will be as enchanting and unique as ever."

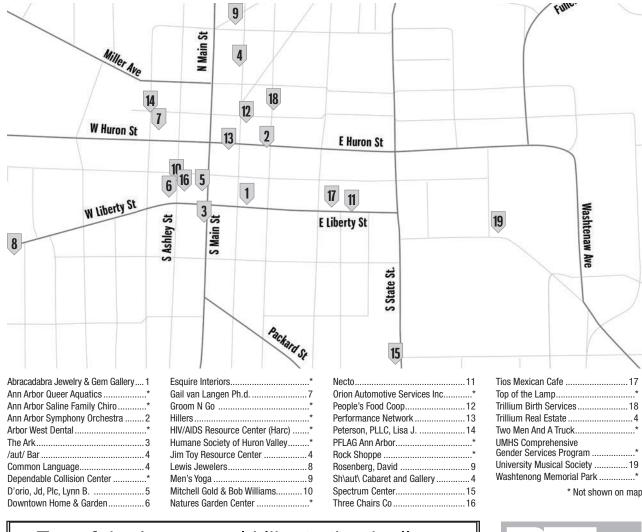
Harvest of Hope will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 13 at Polo Fields Golf Club-Washtenaw. The venue is located at 2955 Packard Road in Ypsilanti.

Tickets are \$150 each. According to Ozone House, \$110 of each seat purchase is estimated to be a taxdeductible contribution that directly benefits the organization. \$40 of the price is the value of the meal served at the event.

Ozone House is located at 1705 Washtenaw in Ann Arbor, with a drop-in center at 102 N. Hamilton in Ypsilanti. For more information, call Heather Steenrod, development director, at 734-662-2265 ext. 25, or visit www.ozonehouse.org.

Check out other LGBT friendly events in Washtenaw county at www.pridesource.com/calendar.html.









August 14, 2014 | BTL **21**

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Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, Aug. 14

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.Jimtovcenter.org

Friday, Aug. 15

Woodside Church Goes to the Cleveland Gay Games 6 a.m. Bus will leave from Woodside Church for Cleveland Gay Games. Cost for ride: \$35. Woodside Church, 1509 E. Court St., Detroit, 810-767-4911, info@ woodsidechurch.net

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, Aug. 16

Mid-Michigan Pride Festival With dozens of vendors on hand and a full slate of speakers and entertainment on two stages, this year's Mid-Michigan LGBT Pride on Ojibway Island in Saginaw offers something for everyone MidMichigan Pride Festival, **Saginaw.** 989-941-1458. pflag@pflag-mbs.org

Come Hungry, Leave Happy Strolling and tasting food tour.meet at Rocky's or Mootown Ice Cream. Tickets: \$29. Feet on the Street Tours, 2489 Russell St., Detroit. 248-353-8687.Enjoythed.com

Walk for Hope and Depression & Suicide Awareness 10:30 a.m. PFLAG Tri-Cities, 4000 Whiting Dr., Midland. 989-941-1458. pflag@pflag-mbs.org

Sunday, Aug. 17

Vaccination Clinic 10 a.m. Low cost vaccinations, testing and microchips Tail Waggers 1990, 31215 Southfield Road, Beverly Hills, 734-855-4077. Tailwaggers1990.org

Cement City Ride 10:45 a m Meet at Affirmations then ride through beautiful Michigan countryside. Voted best ride of the season Dykes on Bikes 290 W Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Dykesonbikesdetroit.com

Prince Manvendra Singh 11 a.m. India's gay prince travels to discuss "Free Gay India" campaign, Q&A and royal brunch. Tickets: \$30. Free Gay India, 294 W. Center St., Saugatuck mindvtrafman@gmail.com

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

Second Annual Grill n' Chill Picnic 1 p.m. Come out mix and mingle and enjoy delicious food at one of Michigan's LARGEST all female picnics!! Food, water and soda all FREE! Lesbians only. Beer and wine allowed in our picnic area only. Play area and beach nearby. Hustle



Washington D.C., and Nashville. As a solo artist, Ben has stepped on the stage in Austin, Texas at the Cactus Cafe, as well as The Barns at Wolf Trap.

Ticket prices for the shows are \$52 for reserved seating and \$45 for general admission. The show begins at 7:30 Aug. 17 and 18. For more information, go to www.TheArk.org or call 734-763-8587.

& Flo. S I-94 Service Dr., Belleville, 734-678-9993. meetup.com/Hustle Flo-host-fun-monthly-social-eventsfor-Leshians

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

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

Pride NA 6:30 p.m. Confidential and anonymous. Open to all individuals impacted by addiction. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., Kalamazoo, 269-349seeking recovery in the Washtenaw area can find it. The more diverse the fellowship, the more members we are able to reach! The goal is to make the message of recovery available to all so that any addict can come to NA and feel that they too belong in this fellowship! Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. iimtovcenter.org

Drag Oueen Addictions 10:30 p.m. LaBelle and Aretha Franklin impersonator April Summers brings her big personality to the stage as she introduces a lineup of drag stars. 18+. Inuendo Nightclub, Corner of Nevada St and Southbound I-75 Detroit. https:// facebook.com/inuendo nightclub?rf=118209121607517

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

Public Issues Forum 7 p.m. This group studies and profiles local and state political issues and candidates. Battle Creek Pride Resource Center, 16 E. Van Buren St., Battle Creek. Battlecreekpride.ord

A2 TNG (Next Generation of Kinkster) 8 p.m. A kink and fetish oriented group

See Happenings, page 24

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Monday, Aug. 18

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

Tuesday, Aug. 19

Editor's Pick

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



4234.Kglrc.org

Euchre Tournament 7 p.m. Battle Creek

Pride Resource Center, 16 E. Van Buren

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meeting for addicts or those who think

they might have a drug problem. This

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





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8.23.2014

The March to the Capitol steps will begin at 1PM and leave from 200 N. Grand Ave., Lansing.

Show your PRIDE as we march to the steps of the Michigan State Capitol. The March will stage (set-up) at noon and begin at 1 PM.

The March will be held rain or shine and should last approximately 30 minutes. Various religious groups, local LGBTQ owned/friendly businesses, citizens groups and other organizations will be Marching with banners, floats, and handing out flyers.





Rally at the Capitol

Capitol Avenue at Michigan Avenue Lansing, MI 48933 1:30–2 PM

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desperate to line up funding for their new project. They've set up a "backers' audition" and everyone is invited. With a cast of hundreds, the overblown extravaganza they've written is the biggest thing Broadway has ever seen and depicts the entire history of the world – beginning with the formation of the planets! Will Broadway ever be the same? This zany song-and-dance romp will leave everyone breathless.

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and learn about AI Capone's mark on

Detroit See famous landmarks and sites

including the Detroit River which was the

center of smuggling booze from Windsor,

Canada, Explore a former speakeasy

and brewery. Revel in the rich history

of Jazz in Detroit and experience great

live music at Bert's Jazz Club to top off a

fabulous night!Tickets: \$49. Feet on the

Street Tours, Detroit. 248-353-TOURS.

Polyamory Network 7 p.m. Open and

polyamory and people of, friendly to and

gender identity. Meets the third Thursday

of every month, Polyamory Network, 319

Civic/Community Theater

My Big Gay Italian Wedding \$12. The

Twin City Players, 600 W. Glenlord Road, St. Joseph. Aug. 14 - 23. 269-429-0400.

The Laramie Project \$15-20. The

Detroit Actor's Theatre Company at

Social Hall Theatre inside the Ferndale

First United Methodist Church, 22331

Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Aug. 15 - 22.

The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later

\$15-20. The Detroit Actor's Theatre

Company at Social Hall Theatre inside

Ferndale. Aug. 16 - 23. www.thedatc.org

The Good Doctor \$8-12. Henry Ford

Dearborn. Through Aug. 17. 313-845-

Division at Henry Ford Community

College, 5101 Evergreen Road,

9817 www.theatre.hfcc.edu

Alice in Wonderland \$12-16 in

advance; \$14-18 at the door. Flint Youth

Professional

College Social Science, Arts and Fitness

the Ferndale First United Methodist

Church, 22331 Woodward Ave.

College/University

Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867.

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THEATER

www.twincityplayers.org

www.thedatc.org

Theater

To purchase tickets, call the box office at 734-663-0681.

► Happenings

Continued from p. 22

on support, the sharing of information in the form of demonstrations or discussion groups and socializing. Meets on the third Tuesday of every month. Open to all. A2 TNG, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor.** 734-678-2478. CuteSubToy@Yahoo. comJimToyCenter.org

Wednesday, Aug. 20

LGBT Summer Film Series Different film each date. Affirmations & GOAL, 200 N. Main St., Royal Oak. 248-414-1000. Facebook.com/murrayandpeterpresent HIV Testing 6 p.m. Free. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-

290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248 398-7105. goaffirmations.org/events/ event_details. asp?id=430531

Toastmasters Meeting 6 p.m. Do you have fear of public speaking? Well never fear Toastmasters is here! Come join us and learn to how to get over that fear. Kick - The Agency for LBGT African Americans, 41 Burroughs St. Ste. 109, Detroit. 313-285-9733. rma411@ gmail.com

Thursday, Aug. 21

Serving LGBT Abuse Survivors 8:30 a.m. Three hour summer workshop. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Substance Use Disorders Within LGBT Communities 1:30 p.m. Three hour summer workshop. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-

7105.Goaffirmations.org Free HIV Testing 2 p.m. Free anonymous HIV testing in-store at S3 every Thursday 2-8. Call to make an appointment, or walk-ins welcome. S3 Safe Sex Store and HARC, 1209 S. University, Ann Arbor. 734-741-1434. info@bak-inc.comS3safesexstore.com

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

Free HIV Testing 6 p.m. The AIDS Service Organization, Lansing. Prohibition and All That Jazz 6 p.m.

A

Editor's Pick

In a partnership with Williamston Theatre, the smash hit musical "The Big Bang" will come to Performance Network Theatre for a special two-week engagement Aug. 21-31. Tickets are on sale now. Ticket holders that had shows cancelled when the Performance Network temporarily suspended operations can use those tickets for this exclusive Ann Arbor event.

Directed by Rob Roznowski and starring Matt Gwynn and Zev Steinberg, "The Big Bang" is the outrageous musical comedy featuring two wannabe producers

> Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Through Aug. 17. 810-237-1530. www.

flintyouththeatre.org

Alone Together \$28-32. Tibbits Summer Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. Through Aug. 16. 517-278-6029. www.tibbits.org

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

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

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

Forever Plaid \$35-41. The Dio - Dining and Entertainment, 135 E. Main St., Pinckney. Through Sep. 7. 517-672-6009. www.diotheatre.com

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

Hair \$35. Barn Theatre, 13351 W. M-96, Augusta. Through Aug. 17. 269-731-4121. www.barntheatre.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

Kolobok \$5-10. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. Through Aug. 17. 313-961-7777. www.puppetart.org

Princess and the Pea \$10. The Snug Theatre, 160 S. Water St., Marine City. Aug. 16. 810-278-1749. www. thesnugtheatre.com

Renegade Theatre Festival Free. Multiple venues throughout Old Town, E. Grand River Ave. & Turner St., Lansing. Aug. 14 - 16. www. renegadetheatrefestival.org

Romeo and Juliet \$5-10. UnCovered Theatre Company at Rochester College, 800 West Avon Road, Rochester Hills. Through Aug. 23. 248-218-2046. uncoveredtheatre.wix.com/uncovered

Salve Regina \$20. The Ringwald

See Happenings, page 29

Hear Me Out BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Amy Grant, La Roux



Amy Grant, 'In Motion: The Remixes'

When you're grinding up against a shirtless prospect in the thick of a gay dance orgy, nothing sets the sexy-time mood quite like some Amy Grant, right? You know, with God's disco lights shining down on you. No? Well, start believing. Prayers have been answered nearly 40 years into her career as the reigning Christianmusic queen, and not long after Amy granted her first gay press interview (I chatted with her in 2013, the first time she'd addressed her fanatical queer following). Now, with "In Motion: The Remixes," you can sweat out your sins. Yet another career transformation for the genre defier, Grant's beloved '90s pop and spiritual tapestries admirably, even ones you wouldn't expect ("Better Than a Hallelujah") - are exalted with new EDM life from DJs du jour. Maintaining the integrity of singles "Baby Baby" and "Every Heartbeat" - songs off Grant's 1991 crossover behemoth "Heart in Motion" - Dave Audé and English duo Moto Blanco smack each song, respectively, with amped buoyancy. "That's What Love Is For," Grant's big slowie from the same 23-year-old album, stands out as an even greater achievement; without losing the heart and soul of

the song, Chris Cox pulls drum thumps and swelling synths into the original's soaring crescendos, turning the ballad into a bombshell. "You're Not Alone" and the cut-up "Love Will Find a Way," along with the surprisingly terrific cinematic revamp of the digital-only non-hit "Out in the Open," also deserve praise. Somewhere up there, Jesus is jivin'. *Grade: B+*



La Roux, 'Trouble in Paradise'

Listen, I love a good, stupid butt jam as much as the next rump shaker, but I also know that, in the

quiet solitude of my own mind, I turn to Robyn, Sia or some old-school Erasure to give my heart the same feeling my feet get the moment that beat drops. Moving me similarly is La Roux's latest synth-pop endeavor, a frontto-back doozy from the androgyne that's full of euphoric feels. The serene scene painted on "Paradise Is You" – the "sandy beach," "everybody loving" – is only a diversion from the bitterwsweet story that unfolds. The real "paradise" isn't a place, but a person – a missing one. It's lonely

isolation which Robyn, too, knows so well is La Roux's crux as she underpins an irresistibly tight nine-song set with an emotional release of riffs on loss, the emptiness of casual sex (the breezy "Sexotheque") and finding yourself again ("The Feeling"). The shape-shifting, sax-accented "Let Me Down Gently" has her fretting the fall; she's looking for a break in the chaos during "Silent Partner," an emotional purge that awesomely pairs girl-group swagger with what sounds like the theme song from "Batman"; and on "Cruel Sexuality," she's suffocating within the walls of that pandemonium. All of it's as intoxicating as love itself. Grade: B+

having everything and nothing, and that

Also Out



Angus & Julia Stone, 'Angus & Julia Stone' It wasn't supposed to happen. Sibling duo Angus and Julia Stone were going their own

Jenny Lewis, 'The

The California rays

are hot on "Just

One of the Guys,"

a West Coast-

inspired dream-

Voyager'

way after they released "Down the Way" four years ago. But you don't say "no" to Rick Rubin, the legendary folk-rock music-maker whose authentic touch is all over the Aussie's musical resurfacing – self-titled to let you know it's important. Because it is. Resonating with their trademark realness and Rubin's timeless production (see the perfectly poignant "Get Home"), "Angus & Julia Stone" is the album you didn't know was missing from your life.



pop scorcher from Rilo Kiley hell-raiser Jenny Lewis. Soaking up more of that sun, the frontwoman's long-awaited solo release, her first in six years, is a rhythmically punchy '70s-inspired throwback with beach vibes beaming from its low bass womps and electric guitar zags. Even when those clouds roll in during the dreamy title track, a thoughtful closer leaving you with something to ponder, Lewis'lo-fi contemplation is like looking out at the endless sky.





HOTLINES & SERVICES

ACLU of Michigan	313-578-6800
Affirmations Helpline	248-398-GAYS
Alcoholics Anonymous	248-541-6565
Eastern Michigan Universit	734-487-4149
Equality Michigan	313-537-7000
Flint Crisis Line	810-257-3740
HIV AIDS/Resource Center Toll-Free	866-HIV-TEST
Jim Toy Community Cente	er 734-995-9867
Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbi Resource Center (KGLRC)	
Karibu House Community Persons of Color	Center for LGBT 313-865-2170 ext. 3
Lansing Area AIDS Netwo	rk 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 He	Ip 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

Comedy Falters At Tibbits

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

Once you've become a parent, is the nest ever truly empty? Even after you think the chicks have all flown the coop?

Tibbits Summer Theatre closes out its season with "Alone Together," a 1984 comedy about a couple that is sending its third son off to college and is finally looking forward to getting some time alone as an adult couple without the cares of parenting.

Before Helene and George Butler, played respectively by Suzanne Marie Stewart and Stephen N. Moore, can get

their third son out the front door, the first one has snuck back in the back door. At age 30, Michael Butler, played by T.J. Besler, has given up his job as a mathematician at M.I.T. to move back home and start over again. Then comes the middle son, Elliott Butler, played by Nate Klingenberg, whose wife has kicked him out, and he wants to move back home.

Besler and Klingenberg do a great job of playing adult adolescents who are self-absorbed and oblivious to the needs of their parents, or even that their parents could possibly have lives of their own outside of taking care of them.

Michael is the nerdy genius who tries to reduce everything in life to a formula – including why his parents should continue to support him. He may be the oldest of the three boys, but he seems stuck in high school. Besler is entertaining as he sneaks around upstage, trying to make sure Michael's parents don't notice how firmly he's entrenching himself in their home. Klingenberg brings on the slime

akota is also a delight to watch as she brings an oblivious insecurity to the part of Janie. She is easy to care about, even as her ditziness grows in absurdity.

> to Elliott. He's the eternal ladies' man who can't see why his behavior should offend his wife. Klengenberg practically oozes as he describes his behavior and as he reacts to the arrival of Janie Johnson (Lindsey Dakota) on the scene.

> Dakota is also a delight to watch as she brings an oblivious insecurity to the part of Janie. She is easy to care about, even as her ditziness grows in absurdity.

> However, the play relies on Moore and Stewart to make it work, the frustrated parents who love their children but want to be, as the title states, alone together. On opening night, these two were the weak links in the show. Moore stumbled with lines, mixed up names of children and cities, and failed to cover when things went wrong.

Stewart picked a single level early

on and then had nowhere to go with it. She started out shrill and stayed there. She occasionally got quieter, but that was the extent of the variety in her tone. Her reactions to everything were

so big and over-the-top, it was hard to separate her performance from that of a farce rather than a family comedy.

On opening night, the tech crew was also struggling. Pieces of the set were falling apart. Smoke came out at the wrong time, distracting the audience from one of Besler's more important monologues and building the expectation of an explosion that never came.

The sound design by Mark Abrahamson and director Charles Burr was effective and set the mood for the style of an '80s television sitcom.

"Alone Together" does have some charm to it, and there are plenty of laughs built into the script and the performance of it. If the actors playing the main couple grow more comfortable in their roles and connect more realistically to their characters, it could be a highly entertaining and warm comedy.



Solution to puzzle from page 28 ARLO FLAP UCLA RONA NOEL N O I R IRAS SLOP ETAL WOMENSCLOTHES ANKALOOP S P I N E S S I T D O W N TONS SANE T H E H I M B U R L ORY TVA SEER ITO COULOMB BEARDS RENOCALF OFHERGARMENTS STAR INRE SOAP VICE SAPS ERMA USER TWIT XMEN



The Frivolist Gear Geekin'

While the debate rages on as to whether a gay gene exists or not (even though we know it does), I'm pretty sure it's scientific fact that the LGBT community is genetically predisposed to being first adopters of the next best thing; we just *have* to have the latest and greatest gadget on the market before any of our friends. To help you stay ahead of the queer Joneses then, I've compiled this list of the coolest thingamabobs you'll want to get your hands on this summer. Let's hot-nerd out together, shall we?

Coleman Roadtrip NXT 300 Grill

Firing up the grill is one of the greatest aspects of spring and summer (especially because it marks the start of shirtless season!), and now you can do it fast and easy anywhere you'd like. The Coleman RoadTrip NXT 300 is just what the party ordered so you and your crew can eat like queens straight off the flames. Turnt-up

features include a scissor leg design for set up and take down in under a minute, Electric Instastart IgnitionTM button for automatic lighting, 20,000 BTUs of cooking intensity and a standup design for low-profile storing in tight places. Get your besties on the line, boo – it's time for a BBQ. \$279.99; coleman.com

MeCam HD

If you're into documenting your amazing life as you live it

and posting it to social media to make everybody else jealous, MeCam HD is just what you need to satisfy your inner Spielberg. This mini hands-free wearable video camera shoots in



full 1080p HD and contains its own Wi-Fi signal that you can connect to your devices and instantly share footage. It's light enough to take anywhere (weighing in at a mere 2.5 oz), and a proprietary low-light sensor is built in to capture all your

moments, even at night. Because who needs a portable HD video camera if you're not going to document your sexcapades - consensual, of course; no hidden camera action, creep - at least once in your life. Just remember to disconnect your devices first. #youwanttokeepyourjobdontyou? \$259.99; www.mecam.me

AquaVault

While beach theft doesn't appear to be an epidemic in America, the unfortunate reality is that we live in a world where stupid people do stupid

things sometimes and we end up the victim. You can prevent that, however, with an innovative device that will store all your personal effects safely while you enjoy the sun, sand

and surf. AquaVault is a portable, thermoplastic safe that you can attach to your beach chair, lock with a combination, and have

peace of mind that your day won't be ruined by random robbery. The device is designed to fit over 95 percent of existing beach furniture, and the 120-square-inch cargo hull is roomy enough to store wallets, watches, mobile phones, jewelry, keys and other valuables. And a condom just in case. \$44.95; theaquavault.

My Cabana Boy

com

Don't get ahead of me; it's not what you're thinking. My Cabana Boy is an ergonomically designed new tool that eliminates one of the biggest problems on the beach: How do

you apply sunscreen to your back if you don't have a hottie handy? Now that problem is solved. All you have to do with this why-didn't-Ithink-of-that device is pop in your bottle of spray sunscreen, tilt

your arm back and spray. One and done! \$13.99; my-cabanaboy.com

Wellograph Fitness Watch

Like to spend the summer getting your fitness fix outdoors? Wellograph – a wellness watch with an activity tracker, heartrate monitor, pedometer and running application - can help you stay on track and perhaps push vou even harder. This

lightweight digital watch provides a complete picture of health right on your wrist, a major plus when you don't want to carry additional devices while you're working out outside - like bulky smartphones - to track your progress. Of course, Wellograph works just as well indoors - because lord knows you need gym time to get a taste of that eye candy. \$349; wellograph.com

FiAir Blower

One of the greatest things about technology is that it exists solely to make our lives easier and more efficient - and the FiAir Blower is no exception. Another one of those I-can't-believe-I-didn't-invent-this devices. FiAir is the first and only

> truly portable, compact, super-lightweight, hand-held, battery-

powered blower for feeding fires indoors and out. Just point and shoot to build flames in a matter of seconds on your grill, fireplace, woodstove, chiminea or fire pit. Personally, I love spending time around my own fire pit, and I can tell you that this device is legit and pretty darn cool. It also doubles as a personal fan when you have to be in the muggy outdoors for a lengthy period of time. Because, yes Felicia, I'm too delicate to sweat.

\$29.99; fiair.net

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



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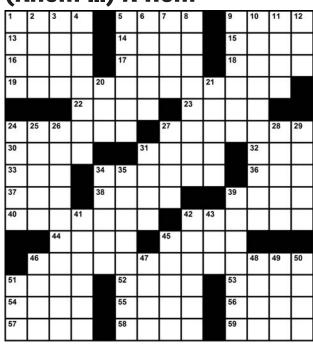


Rev. Roland Stringfellow has joined MCCD as Senior Pastor!



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Puzzle (Ahem ...) A Hem



Across

1 His grandmother had a Woody 5 Labium 9 NCAA home of the Bruins 13 Casino call

14 Gay-friendly Barrett 15 Coward of "Private Lives" 16 Series ender 17 Broadway lyricist Gershwin and others 18 Pia food

A Tension Getter Massage Therapy by David Rosenberg (734) 662-6282 Therapeutic Massage gets rid of back, neck and shoulder pain 2 Downtown Locations Ann Arbor Berklev W. 12 Mile Road 209 West (just west of Greenfield) Kingsley (Couple blocks "I can bring my west of massage table to your main, between Ashley & 1st.) home, too!" Massage Class for Men Learn some Sheets, showers and massage techniques. lotions provided Meet others in a safe and caring environment. Thursday at 2 pm. Tuesdays & Saturdays at 8pm \$10 per session 209 W. Kingsley St.

Ann Arbor, MI (734) 662-6282 Find me on the Internet at http://www.trymassage.com 19 Togs traditionally for females 22 "Diana" singer 23 Roller coaster maneuver 24 Bones in the back 27 Take a chair 30 Loads 31 Not nuts 32 Charlotte of "Facts of Life" 33 Kid of jazz 34 With 46-Across, drag queen, with respect to 19-Across? 36 Some dam govt. project 37 Simpson trial judge Lance 38 Singer/actor lves 39 One who gazes at crystal balls 40 Unit of electric charge 42 Women who date men who date men 44 Janet or niece Hunter 45 Piece of lea 46 See 34-Across 51 Hollinghurst's "The Folding ____ 52 As to 53 It comes in cakes 54 Bad habit 55 Suckers 56 Humorist Bombeck 57 Visitor at lesbianation.com 58 Boob, to a Brit 59 McKellen's Magneto movie

7 Sex type 8 Director of "Salo' 9 Barefoot 10 Kevin Kline, in "De-Lovely" 11 Signs of "The Lion King"? 12 "Climb Ev'ry Mountain" mountain 20 SSW's opposite 21 Type of pole 24 One who grins and bears it 25 ____ Novo (Benin's capital) 26 Like the money shot in a porn film? 27 Canadian comedian Mort 28 Did a hand job? 29 Comes up on 31 Balkan native 34 Butcher's cut 35 Margaret Cho, for one 39 Making love on a strongbox? 41 Newsman Jim 42 Most minimal 43 Spreading tree 45 Traditionally limp joints 46 Elevator pioneer Elisha 47 Eat beaver-style 48 Something to deviate from 49 Unlikely to bite 50 Nine inches 51 Sex Crimes division, to B.D. Wong

6 Lover of Dali, perhaps



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101-ANNOUNCEMNTS LGBT AL ANON

Diversity Wednesday Al-

Anon Family Group

St Luke's Parrish Hall (ir

Lewiston & Livernois, Ferndale MI

Go After Your Serenity

(G.A.Y.S.)

Al-Anon Family Group

Wednesday 8pm

Closed Meeting

basement)

Solution on pg. 26

Classifieds **01-ANNOUNCEMNTS** 1 p.m. Brown Baggers Gay AA, Affirmations, 290 West 9 Mile Rd. LGBT AA MEETINGS

Ann Arbor-Friday

Down

1 From the top

2 Old photo print

3 Neeson of "Kinsey"

5 Feels up for a rod?

4 What Joan of Arc was maid of

7:30 pm, St. Andrews Episcopal Church Gay AA, 306 N. Divisior 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 of 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 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

Closed/Discussion. 8 p.m. Go After Your Sobriety Gav AA. Dravton Ave Presbyteriar

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

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Meets in Ann Arbor TUESDAYS AND SATURDAYS 6:30-7:30 PM



Editor's Pick

Woodside Church is planning to go to the Cleveland Gay Games this weekend and is looking for all interested to join. The progressive church is known for its civil engagement and support of the LGBT community.

The Cleveland Gay Games is "the Olympics of the LGBT community." Held every four years in different cities around the world, the Gay Games highlight the physical prowess of LGBT or allied individuals and teams as they compete in running, swimming, football and more.

The bus will leave at 6 a.m. on Friday, Aug. etroit The cost for the ride will be \$35. For more

15 from Woodside Church, 1509 E. Court St., Detroit. The cost for the ride will be \$35. For more information, call 810-767-4911 or email info@woodsidechurch.net.

Happenings

Continued from p. 24

Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. Aug. 22. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

Stories in the Lounge \$10. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. Aug. 21. 269-756-3879. www. acorntheater.com

Suds \$42 (show and meal); \$37 show only. Cornwell's Dinner Theatre, 18935 15 1/2 Mile Rd, Marshall. Through Aug. 16. 269-781-4293. www.turkeyville.com

The Big Bang \$15-41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 21 - 31. 734-663-0681. www.pntheatre.org

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

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 Judy Show \$25. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. Aug. 23. 269-756-3879. www.acorntheater.com

The Kings of Unionville \$27-32. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through 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 Two Gentlemen of Verona \$5-10. UnCovered Theatre Company, Rochester College, 800 West Avon Road, Rochester Hills. Through Aug. 24. 248-218-2046. uncoveredtheatre.wix.com/uncovered

MUSIC & MORE

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

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 I Love Old Town "ART Feast" Featuring food truck rally, sidewalk sale and more. Old Town, Turner St., Lansing. 10 a.m. Aug. 16.lloveoldtown.org

Motor City Tap Fest "Motor City Tap Fest" Four days of master classes with leading tap artists, tap jam and more. Wayne State Campus, Detroit. Aug. 13 - Aug. 16. 313-576-5111. Motorcitytapfest.com

The Acorn Theater "Andrew Salgado Band". The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. Aug. 15. 269-756-3879.Acorntheater.com

The Acorn Theater "A quintet from the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band". The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. Aug. 16. 269-756-3879.Acorntheater.com

The Ark "Candye Kane" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 19. 734-761-1800.Theark.org

The Ark "Jeff Daniels & The Ben Daniels Band" Tickets: \$100+. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 17. 734-761-1800.Theark.org

The Ark "San, Emily & Jacob Slomovits" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 16. 734-761-1800.Theark.org

The Ark "Joshua Davis & Rachael Davis" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 14. 734-761-1800.Theark.org

Woodside Church "Monthly Jazz Vespers" Alternative worship service featuring local musicians from Flint and surrounding area. Presented in coffee house setting; refreshments will be served. Woodside Church, 1509 E. Court St., Flint. Sep. 20 - Nov. 21. 810-767-4911.woodsidechurch.net

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

Dancing Dog Gallery "Biggest Show Ever; Open House" Free. Dancing Dog Gallery, 302 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Aug. 1 - Aug. 23. 734-531-6565. Dancingdoggallery.biz

Detroit Artists Market (DAM) "If You Build It, They Will Come" With this exciting open-call challenge, more than 175 Detroit area artists each selected five wood pieces to use in creating the unique and collectible works of art featured in this fun, end-of-summer exhibition. Detroit Artists Market, 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit Aug. 1 - Aug. 29. 313-832-8540. Detroitartistsmarket.org 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 "Hanging with a Friend" Artists collaborations. Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. July 25 - Aug. 28. 734-720-0671.Downriverarts.org

Henry Ford Museum "Women Who Rock: Vision, Passion, Powert" 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

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

One 313 Workshops "Found Sounds (Recycled Materials)" For ages 4+. Free. Number House, Heidelberg Project, 3632 Heidelberg St., Detroit. 12 p.m. Aug. 16. 313-974-6894.Heidelberg.org

Pewabic Pottery "Monica Wilson Artist Talk". Pewabic Pottery, 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Aug. 14. 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

Saline Antiques & Vintage MarketET "Vintage Fair" A casual and fun GO-TO place to find an ever changing array of upcycled, recycled and repurposed one-of-a-kind treasures, cool stuff, great local food and exciting shopping. Free parking. Leashed pets welcome. Tickets: \$6. Washtenaw Farm Council Roads, 5055 Ann Arbor/Saline Road, Ann Arbor. 8 a.m. Aug. 16. 937-875-0808. Facebook.com/pages/Saline-Antiques-Market/107333849321152?ref=hl

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "The Lake Effect: Contemporary Art at 0x-Bow". Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. June 12 -Aug. 23. 269-857-2399.SC4a.org

The Scarab Club "Fiber Exhibition" . The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. Aug. 1 - Sep. 6. 313-831-1250. Scarabclub.org

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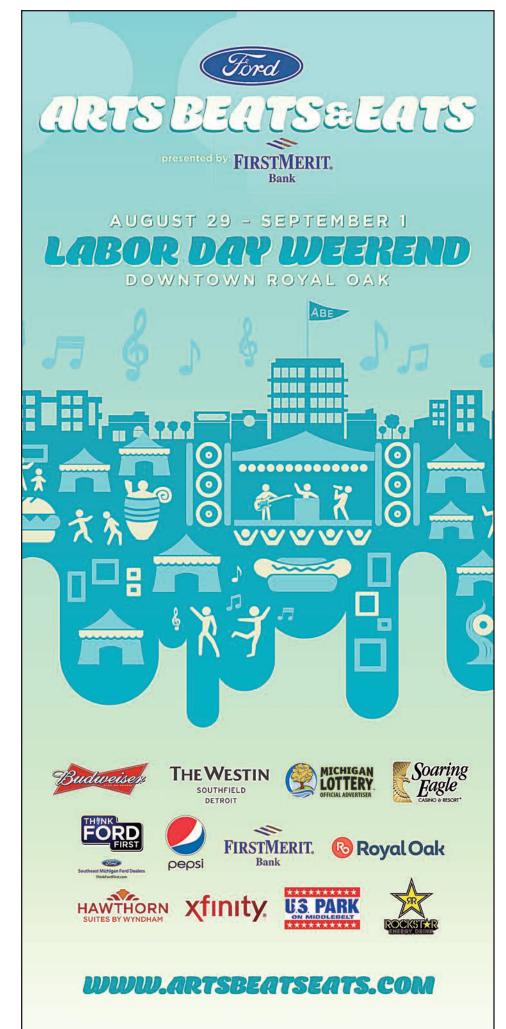
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Tago The Town Detroit Eatery Serves Up Mexican Fare

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

In the ever-developing downtown Detroit area, Taqo Detroit adds its name to the list of businesses helping to enrich the area. The Mexican restaurant, within walking distance of Detroit event hubs like Comerica Park, Cliff Bell's and the Detroit Opera House, adds a diverse option to the Woodward stretch. With an open dining room complete with color-changing bar shelves, the venue's decor hints to the fresh feel of the menu. (A small section of outdoor seating is also available.)

The cantina boasts a few things that immediately place it above the typical Mexican offering, including an extensive list of tequilas. With price points ranging from cheap to the highest of high shelves, over 200 different makes of the libation are offered. The tequila list is broken down into three categories: silver, resposado and anejo. Respectively, those titles designate how long the tequila has been aged. Silver signifies tequila bottled almost immediately after distillation and resposado labels the spirit when aged a minimum of two months but less than a year. Anejo is tequila aged a minimum of one year but less than three. A server recommended the anejo offering by Blue Nectar, offering a sippable tequila that was smooth like butter.

Where there's tequila, there are margaritas, with Taqo's house version solidly fresh and well-balanced. Peach, strawberry and blue (made with Blue Curaçao) margaritas are also available.

The typical chips and salsa are good, with the chips warm and not too salty. Other appetizers are offered, from the standard queso to the more interesting asada fries, waffle fries topped with steak or grilled chicken, cheese dip, pica de gallo, guacamole and crema casera. The guacamole is made fresh, with a creaminess not found in many other versions, in addition to the heaping portion of tomatoes, onions and yellow pepper.

The dinner menu is large without being

overwhelming, with a mixture of traditional and more novel takes on Mexican fare throughout. The standard "combination" plates of tostadas, burritos, tacos, etc. is offered for the indecisive (all come with rice and beans). Diners may find themselves spending more time looking at the menu than it takes to receive their dishes – the food came out exceptionally fast, with no item undercooked. The speediness of the kitchen matched the attentiveness of the service, with waitstaff amicable and willing to ask the chef or bartender for recommendations catered to diner desires.

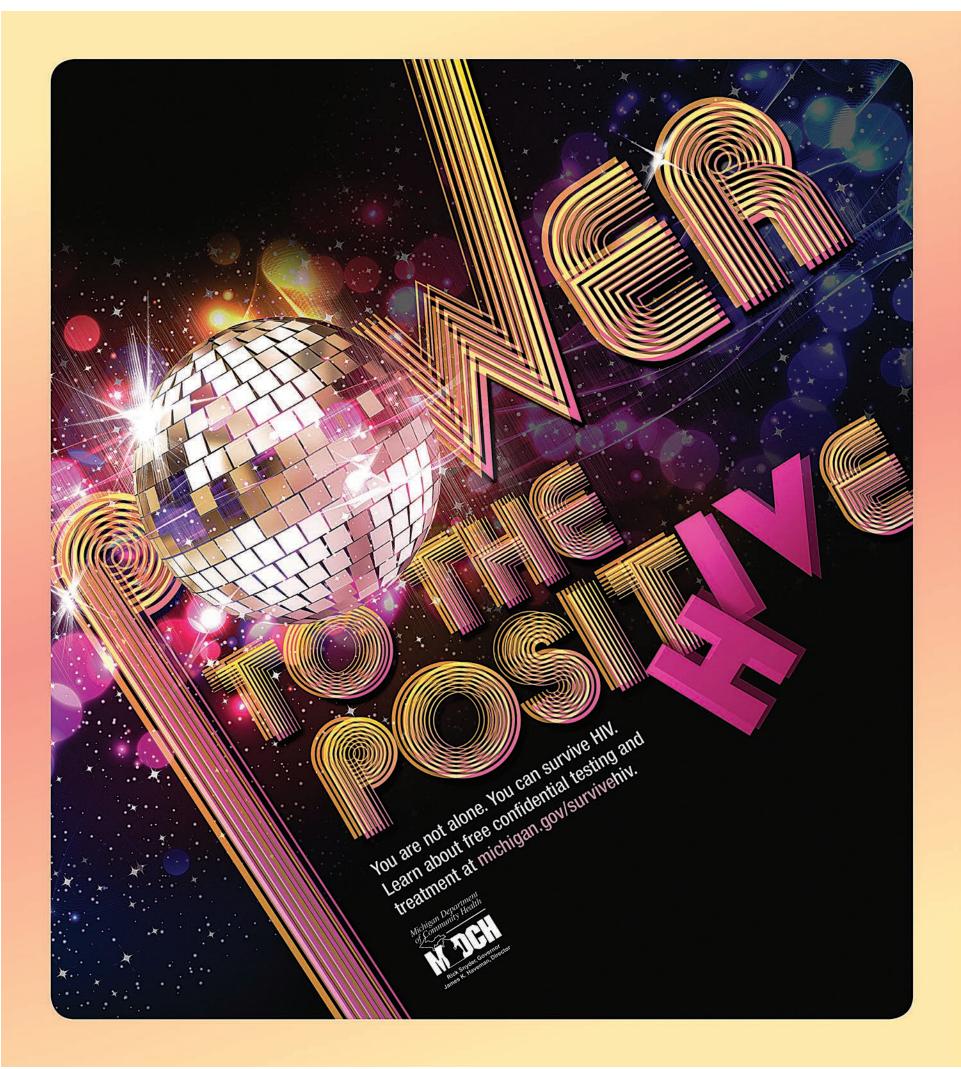
The tamale dinner was large, with pork standing up to the heavy amount of sauce. A combination plate of tostada, enchilada and burrito left plenty for dinner (and a lunch the next day). The chicken in those particular wrappings was especially good – tender and moist, perhaps signaling the influence of Taqo's sister restaurant next door, Rub BBQ.

The ubiquitous rice and beans are tasty without being overly salty, as often can be found in lesser Mexican joints. The refried beans in particular had a pleasant firmness to them, suggesting a lesser fat content than most versions of the dish.

Tacos are served in the more authentic way, with onions, lime and sprigs of cilantro (Taqo offers there own verde sauce on top for a delicious twist). The pastor (pork) was flavorful, the carne asada meaty and the chorizo delicately seasoned. Any taco can be offered to a meal for under \$2.50.

While Taqo does not currently offer dessert, a server noted that the restaurant is currently testing a variety of options that will be introduced soon.

Taqo Detroit is located at 22 W. Adams St., Detroit. The restaurant is open for lunch and dinner, with happy hour offered from 3-6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Visit www.taqodetroit.com or call 313-962-7701 for more information.







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