

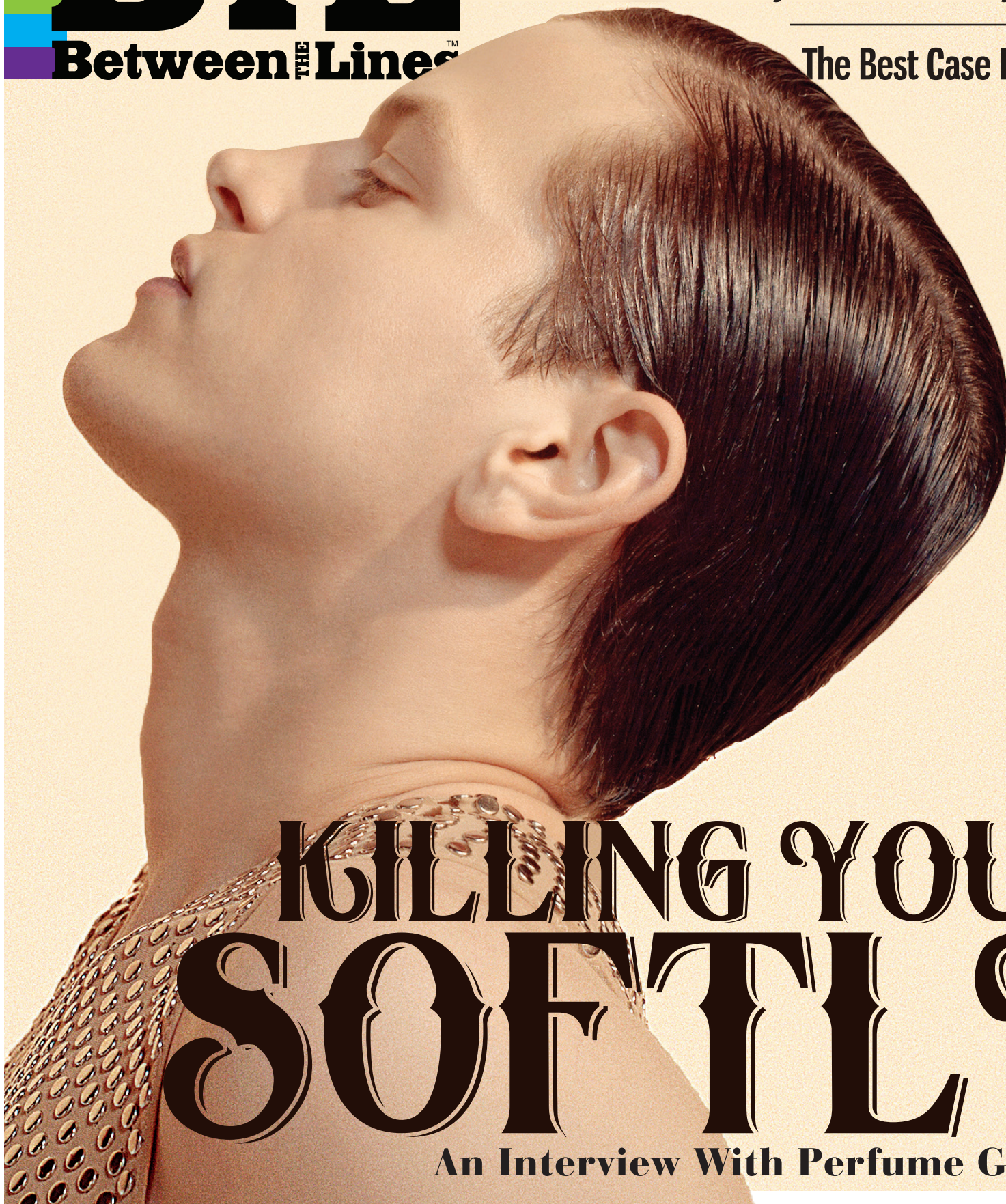
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“ We did a sketch at our homecoming and I played the main mom. We just recently watched that – my dad found it – and I’m essentially doing Stefon. I mean, it’s pretty crazy. I’m in high school!

– Bill Hader, pg. 14



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Don’t Miss Next Week’s Fall Home Guide!

Home is where the heart is and the Fall Home issue is just around the corner! Check out fascinating home-related content and get to know LGBT-friendly businesses and more, on stands Oct. 2 and online at Pridesource.com

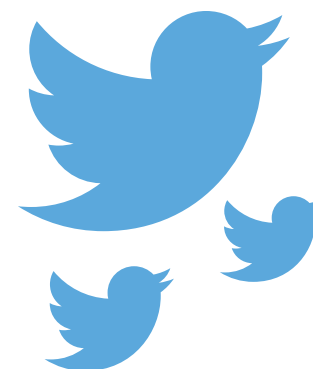
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Mark LaChey (center) at the Michigan Democratic Nominating Convention with candidate for U.S. Senate Gary Peters and his wife Colleen Ochoa. BTL Photo: AJ Trager

The LGBT&A Caucus Changes The State Political Landscape

BY AJ TRAGER

Mark LaChey, chair of the LGBT&A Caucus, recently spoke about the positive change the caucus is making within the Democratic Party and Michigan. LaChey, an attorney from Saugatuck, has an extensive political background consisting of 14 years as a City Commissioner for Pleasant Ridge, work with Triangle (now Equality Michigan), continual volunteering, service as policy director in 2010 and work as a precinct delegate of the Oakland City Democratic Party. He took over the caucus in February 2013 after the previous chair decided not to run for re-election.

“It was exciting. I had stickers and things,” LaChey laughed. “I had a lot of people supporting taking the caucus to a greater role within the party.”

Within its mission statement, the caucus defines three things as its main focus: to provide Michigan’s LGBT community with a focused and enhanced voice in all aspects of the decision-making process of the Michigan Democratic Party (MDP), to increase the

“ I want the caucus to become a force so that it is never again acceptable to use somebody’s LGBT status as a negative for candidacy... ”

- Chair of the LGBT&A Caucus Mark LaChey

LGBT community’s participation in the electoral and party process at all levels (including the recruitment and election of openly LGBT and allied candidates) and to enrich and better the lives of the LGBT&A Michiganders, especially in terms of full legal activity.

The vision is to marshal LGBT people and Democrats within the Michigan community at large towards raising the caucus’ profile in the state party. This election, along with the work that the caucus and the Michigan LGBT

community have both done, has paved the way for real change within Lansing.

“This is the first election cycle where I am unaware of a single Democratic candidate that isn’t openly pro-equality,” LaChey said. “We had candidates as recently as 2012 that would not come out and say they were in favor of marriage equality. And that was one of the key components (of this year) was to ensure that our candidates, just as they were pro-workers’ rights and women, they were also for LGBT equality. I am very confident we have accomplished that.”

The Michigan Democratic Party’s Nominating Convention was held in August, and the LGBT&A Caucus had a big role within the convention’s events. Lead policy makers like Sen. Debbie Stabenow, U.S. House Rep. Sandy Levin, Michigan Senate Minority Leader Gretchen Whitmer and Dave Coulter, the Mayor of Ferndale, came out to show their support for the LGBT community and spoke on how they will work towards assuring Michigan becomes an LGBT equality state, raising

See Caucus, next page

Republicans Question Need For 'T' In LGBT State Protections

LANSING – In the House and Senate, Michigan is once again looking at legislation that seeks to add sexual orientation and gender identity into a list of protected classes under Michigan's Civil Rights Bill, but some legislators have a difference of opinion.

House Speaker Jase Bolger (R-Marshall) recently signaled that he will not allow the bill sponsored by all 50 Democrats to come up for a vote after the election in November. He claims that the bill fails to establish "an important balance" between the LGBT community and religious exemptions.

Bolger questions the language of adding gender identity and expression to the possible expansion of the Civil Rights Act, which means that the transgender community may not be part of the potential Republican proposal. In an interview with MLive, Bolger noted a series of federal court rulings where transgender individuals won "sex stereotyping" cases on the grounds of sex discrimination, which is already part of Michigan's law. Bolger says he wants to get the policy right and that courts show him that gender is already protected.

A poll conducted by the Detroit News found that 74 percent of Michigan voters are likely to support an amendment to the Elliott-Larsen Act to include protections for gender identity and sexual orientation. Only 18 percent said that they would oppose adding these protections. The poll had a margin of error of plus or minus four points.

In 2012, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission declared that anti-transgender bias is a form of sex

discrimination under Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. This decision affects companies with at least 15 employees and means that transgender workers can file sex discrimination complaints with their local EEOC offices.

Jim Murray, president of AT&T Michigan and co-chair of the Competitive Workforce Coalition, a business group urging lawmakers to update Elliott-Larsen, said that the group's legal counsel has looked into who might already be included under the sex discrimination clause, and who might not.

In an interview with MLive, Murray is quoted as saying "If I'm hungry, a half a pizza still looks pretty good," he said. "I'm going to fight for whatever I can get, whatever that means."

But does excluding a gender identity clause from any civil rights protections bill fully reflect the inclusion and acceptance of all types of Michigan citizens?

Other partner groups in the business coalition, including Equality Michigan, say that not having transgender discrimination protections is a deal breaker.

"If gender identity and expression were removed from the Elliott-Larsen amendment, the LGBT community would remove themselves from any support for Elliott-Larsen and our push for amending the act," Emily Dievendorf, executive director of Equality Michigan, told MLive.

Other members of congress, like State Rep. Jeff Irwin of Ann Arbor, have come out saying they would not support a bill that does not include gender identity and expression protections.

► Caucus

Continued from p. 4

the profile of the LGBT community and the political agenda.

Michigan has two openly gay candidates in the upcoming November election. Jeremy Moss is running for State Rep. in the 35th District, including Southfield, Lathrup Village and parts of Southfield Township. Jon Hoadley is running for State Rep. in the 60th District, including Kalamazoo and parts of Kalamazoo Township. LaChey believes that they are nearly guaranteed to be elected.

"I want the caucus to become a force so that it is never again acceptable to use somebody's LGBT status as a negative for candidacy. I heard rumors of that when candidates were being selected in primaries, or suggested not to run, there were some choices made and discussions had, on whether districts would be favorable for LGBT candidacy. We are working hard so that LGBTs are comfortable running in the state of Michigan, and (working for) the

promotion of the trans community - the T in the LGBT, in the Democratic Party," LaChey said.

Since LaChey took over as chair, the caucus has been working hard at collecting and maintaining a ready database of LGBT voters and those that care about politics. LaChey says the group started at ground zero.

"One of the requests that was thrown in the caucus was to go from membership building or supporting specific candidates and instead support the party and coordinate a campaign. I, as chair, sit at the highest level of the state apparatus and there are no other caucuses represented at the stakeholder table," LaChey pressed.

He says that even though there are women and African Americans at the stakeholder table, it is primarily the unions and the trial lawyers, plus elected officials, who hold the seats.

"We have helped our community at large. People take my phone calls now. But it's not about me. I represent the LGBT community within the party. Raising the profile of the importance of the LGBT community is the greatest

thing we've done."

Although the caucus is part of the Democratic Party, Michiganders from any political party are encouraged to attend meetings and work towards making Michigan a pro-equality state; membership within the party is required for voting.

For Michigan residents who want to help LGBT people make a political mark this election season, LaChey suggests joining the LGBT&A Caucus Facebook page, spreading the word to friends and family members, going to a coordinated campaign office or midems.com and signing up to volunteer. LaChey also urges all to vote on Nov. 4 and donate to a pro-LGBT candidate.

"We need to grow our membership. Best way to do that is to be successful in November. I think people will take us more seriously," LaChey says. "We met with State House Leadership following the primary (election) and looked at tea party candidates - narrowing it down to four anti-gay candidates that we need to beat out."

"Making a dent," he said, "is a positive thing."

BRIEFS

ANN ARBOR

OUTFest Returns For 20th Annual Celebration

The 20th Annual OUTFest comes to Braun Court in Ann Arbor's Kerrytown district this Saturday, Sept. 27 and will serve as a night of entertainment and joy for the Washtenaw LGBT community.

Over the past 20 years, Ann Arbor has been celebrating National Coming Out Day (Oct. 11) a few weeks early with OUTFest. The festival is a longstanding tradition of Braun Court and the largest, longest-running annual LGBT event in Washtenaw County. The event works with the goal of encouraging people, young and old, to come out as LGBT, ally, queer or questioning in a community that is supportive and accepting. Since its conception, the Jim Toy Community Center's OUTFest has worked closely with the leadership of /aut/Bar and its co-owners, Martin Contreras and Keith Orr, to create the anticipated evening each year.

Last year the festival had 600 attendees but this year is projected to be even bigger. The program is looser than in previous years and will not feature any key speakers, to try out a new system of more dance and less program.

"It's always a celebration, and secondarily it's a fundraiser. It's a chance to get together and celebrate the importance of being out and celebrating the victories that we have recently been experiencing, which would not have happened if people hadn't come out in the past 20 years," Event Coordinator Terry McGinn said, "as well as looking at the beautiful things that have happened because people are coming out."

This weekend, hundreds of people will dance, eat, drink and meet new and old faces. The show will start at 6 p.m. with performances by Katie Geddes, an Ann Arbor traditional and contemporary country-folk singer and other local artists. Necto brings their high-energy dance party to Braun Court and kicks off a dance party at 9 p.m. that will include the 2nd Annual Drag Show.

"The key thing is the notion of here we are, we've had 20 years now of National Coming Out Day and finally we begin to see the fruits of the labor. We begin to see the benefits of people being out in regards to changes in law. And this year is about reaping the benefits of 20 years of being out," McGinn pressed.

OUTFest is free, but access to the Wolverine State Brewing beer pavilion will have an admission fee. Celebrations will be held Sept. 27 from 6 p.m. to midnight. Dress warmly.

Visit [JTCC website to stay connected at http://jimtoycenter.org](http://jimtoycenter.org)

US Religious Congregations More Accepting Of Gays

(AP) - Overall acceptance of gays and lesbians in U.S. religious congregations rose significantly between 2006 and 2012, but it declined in Catholic congregations, according to new data released Sept. 11.

Duke University's National Congregations Study is derived from interviews with representatives - usually clergy - of 1,331 U.S. churches, mosques, temples, synagogues and other houses of worship.

Overall, the study found acceptance of gay and lesbian members in American congregations increased from 37 percent to 48 percent over the six-year period. Acceptance of gays and lesbians as volunteer leaders increased from 18 percent to 26 percent.

Growth was especially strong among black Protestant churches, white liberal Protestant churches and non-Christian congregations.

BRIEFS

STERLING HEIGHTS

City Council Rescinds Non-Discrimination Law

Sterling Heights City Council has repealed the non-discrimination ordinance passed earlier this year.

In June, Sterling Heights passed a non-discrimination ordinance that would now include gender identity and sexual orientation. Since then, a local group - the Sterling Heights Referendum Petition - gathered signatures to ask the city clerk's office to put the ordinance on the upcoming November ballot.

The petitioners needed a minimum of 5,900 signatures to meet the city's criteria to be placed on the ballot. According to City Clerk Mark Carufel, when they first submitted the numbers, they fell short with 5,858 Sterling Heights residents' signatures. Only 5,180 of those were determined to be valid, 678 signatures short of the number required by the city charter to force the City Council to put the issue to a city wide vote. However, the Referendum Petition submitted a supplemental document earlier this month with more signatures, a sum of what Carufel says is a "sufficient number."

After listening to dozens of citizens, the City Council unanimously voted to rescind the ordinance.

Opponents of the ordinance criticize the council for creating it to address a problem that isn't there, but others, such as Mayor Pro Tem Michael Taylor, defend the ordinance.

"I don't care if anyone is opposed to it. I'll always be in favor of equal rights," Taylor said to The Macomb Daily.

Taylor joins council members Deanna Koski, Maria Schmidt, Barbara Ziarko and Doug Skryzniarz in voting to repeal it.

"We understand that some people are upset because of the religious exemption that was put into the ordinance at the last minute," Sommer Foster, director of political advocacy at Equality Michigan, said to BTL when the group was collecting signatures. "We also understand that some people are gathering signatures because they want to be able to discriminate in Sterling Heights."

HARC Introduces Virtual AIDS Walk

The HIV/AIDS Resource Center will host the first ever "Virtual AIDS Walk." The fundraiser, which will contribute to the ongoing fight against HIV/AIDS in Washtenaw, Jackson, Livingston and Lenawee counties, runs until the end of September. The virtual "walk" allows individuals to set personal fundraising goals that friends, family, co-workers and members of their social networks can contribute to, all without putting on walking shoes. Donations can be made online at www.hivaidresource.org. Cash and check donations can also be collected.

"For the past 20 years, HARC and its supporters have gathered in Washtenaw and Jackson Counties, walking to raise awareness and funds to help our friends and neighbors affected by HIV. The epidemic has changed a lot since its beginning, and HARC is mirroring these changes with a fresh approach to a traditional walkathon."

A Virtual AIDS Walk packet can be downloaded at HARC's website or by contacting Haley Decker, Special Events Coordinator, at 734-572-9355.

In honor of the month-long fundraiser, a special afternoon celebration will run from 2:30-4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 28 at Bona Sera, 200 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. The event will feature food, music, a 50/50 raffle, complimentary t-shirt to those who have raised at least \$100 and more. Other prizes will also be on hand for those who have earned the most funds. Bona Sera's first Tea Dance will continue the party at 4 p.m.

HARC provides care, prevention and education programs along with HIV related services to the community. The two locations for the non-profit are 3075 Clark Road, Suite 203 in Ypsilanti or 2011 W. Ganson St., Suite 110 in Jackson.

Political Hors D'oeuvres

Is Terri Lynn Land's Family Violating Nonprofit Regulations?

BY TODD HEYWOOD

On Sept. 16, the Huffington Post published an expose exploring the relationship between a non-profit "Christian" charity and Republican Senate candidate Terri Lynn Land and her family. The World Mission non-profit - which has a mission to spread the gospel to all non-Christians and convert them to evangelical Christianity - has three Land family members on the board, including Land's husband, father and a brother-in-law, according to the report.

So what, right?

Well, on Thursday night, I swung by the World Mission Thrift store in Lansing. Right there in the breezeway of the facility were Terri Lynn Land for Senate yard signs. That, says Rich Robinson, director of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network, is likely a violation of federal rules and laws which govern non-profits.

"World Mission Thrift is an assumed name for World Mission, a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Using its facilities to promote a political candidate is a clear violation of its tax status as a charitable organization," Robinson tells Between The Lines in an email. "It's like a church endorsing a political candidate. Charitable organizations are subsidized by taxpayers because contributions to them are tax deductible. They are not allowed to endorse political candidates."

The IRS explains the rule, "Organizations are absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office."

World Thrift employees referred me to Greg Kelley, the organization's executive director. He was in a board meeting Friday morning, and a woman named Laurel who answered the phone said he would not be available until after Between The Lines' deadline.

But she called back a few minutes later and provided the organization's explanation of why the signs were being distributed from the nonprofit's location in the capital city. "An employee brought them in. They were not supposed to be there," Laurel told BTL. "They have been removed."

Except World Mission's official story does not jive completely with



The World Mission Thrift store in Lansing had Terri Lynn Land for Senate signs prominently displayed in the window Sept. 18. Rich Robinson, director of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network, said it is likely a violation of federal rules and laws governing non-profits. BTL photo: Todd Heywood.

what employees of World Mission told me when I asked about the signs the night before. Those employees confirmed that another employee brought the signs to the location; that's where the stories diverge. Those employees told me corporate leadership recently ordered the signs to be pulled, then sometime this week called and gave the store the all clear to make the signs available again. If anyone asked about the signs, the employees told me, they were to be referred to Kelley at the corporate offices. Incidentally, I was at this location about two weeks ago purchasing a pair of shoes for a play I am doing in Lansing, and the signs were present. So if they weren't "supposed to be there," how come they were there until a reporter started asking about them and taking pictures?

Maybe those pesky rules are being ignored because Land fits into the core values for the organization. The charity's website lists as its final core value, "Holy Spirit led national leaders are the most effective ground laborers to implement our mission and engage unreached peoples."

The folks over at the Michigan Democratic Party are also raising red flags on this.

"Terri Lynn Land doesn't think the rules apply to her and this could be the latest example of Ms. Land potentially breaking the law to further her political ambition," says Kevin McAlister, senior communications adviser for the MDP. The statement was emailed to BTL in response to a request for comment. "Independent

experts have already raised questions about Ms. Land possibly funding her campaign with \$3 million illegally while paying 2.2 percent in taxes. Michiganders deserve straightforward answers from Ms. Land about her connections to her family's shady business practices - including this intolerant charity."

Mich. GOP National Committeeman Calls Islam 'Biggest Threat To World Today'

Republican National Committeeman and former state lawmaker, Dave Agema, is at it again. This time, he has declared in a public Facebook post that Islam is "the biggest threat to the world today." The post was made shortly before 8:45 a.m. on Sept. 22 on Agema's "politician" wall.

The full Facebook post from Agema states:

"It is not a fluke that Obama has finally taken action on radical Islam. He needs to seem he's in control since he has been so weak. He also realizes there are elections coming up and he needs to appear to be in control for the benefit of his party. The Saudis, the Turkish government and many others are complicit in feeding radical Islam out of fear of losing their own support and regimes. Yes, we are

See Agema, page 13



Photo courtesy of Transgender Michigan's blog. Co-founders Rachel Crandall and Susan Crocker (center) with other group volunteers showing support at a 2011 Pride event.

5th Annual Transgender Health Fair Coming Up

BY AJ TRAGER

FERNDALE - Metro Detroit will celebrate the Fifth Annual Transgender Health Fair this upcoming weekend. Vendors and exhibitors from around the area will combine their knowledge and resources to better improve the healthcare experience for the trans community.

Hosted by Transgender Michigan and held at Affirmations in downtown Ferndale, the Sept. 27 fair will provide workshops and network opportunities for the trans community. It's the only one of its kind in Michigan and surrounding states and is growing in size every year, executive director of Transgender Michigan, Rachel Crandall, said.

"So many people are not aware of everything that is really out there," Crandall noted. "We hope to clarify the confusion as much as we can."

The day's events are entirely free and will feature HIV testing, discussion panels and three workshops. Topics include gender therapy discussion, hormones and how they work and the building of relationships.

There will be an art gallery and a community room filled with vendors and local organizations including Alliance for Inclusion, AIDS Partnership Michigan, Destroy Your Scene Creative Group, ACCESS Community Health and Research Center, Integrative Empowerment Group, PLCC, Stitches Doll Project and Planned Parenthood Mid and South Michigan. Also joining the group of organizations are the local health care providers of Rosemary A. Jozwiak and Associates; Cynthia MacLeod, PsyD, LLP; Quinn Art Therapy; FernCare Free Clinic; Safe Space Therapeutic Services, LLC; Claddah Claddagh Chiropractic Wellness Center; Linn Counseling Services; Growth

for Life Counseling Psychotherapy; and CET Pharmacy.

"I started talking to a lot of people in my community who are afraid of going to their doctor whatsoever. And they hadn't been to the doctor in 20 years. Some of them were specifically told to get out of the doctor's office," Crandall explained. "One was told 'I'll give you five seconds to get out of my office, or I am going to call the police.' So, that's a major problem within the trans community: its access to health care and its access to who is trained in trans issues. That's not really taught in medical school."

Crandall and the team of providers want to make the healthcare system more trans inclusive and accepting of the T in LGBT. Attendees will have a chance to sit down and talk to experts without it costing a dime; many in the trans community have financial difficulty with provided services. Crandall believes that this health fair helps many people obtain a better opinion of the healthcare system afterwards, and people are more comfortable seeking out healthcare as a result.

"I think it's a huge thing. And we can do that in just a few hours! Wow!" Crandall exclaimed.

"I am just looking forward to people walking away feeling that maybe healthcare is not that hating of us (the trans community)," Crandall said. "And with more of a feeling of comfort with it!"

The event will run from 1-4 p.m. at Affirmations, located at 290 W. Nine Mile, right in the heart of downtown Ferndale. Go to the Facebook event page and RSVP at <https://www.facebook.com/events/327492467418753>.

Visit www.transgendermichigan.org for more information on the event and on trans inclusion.

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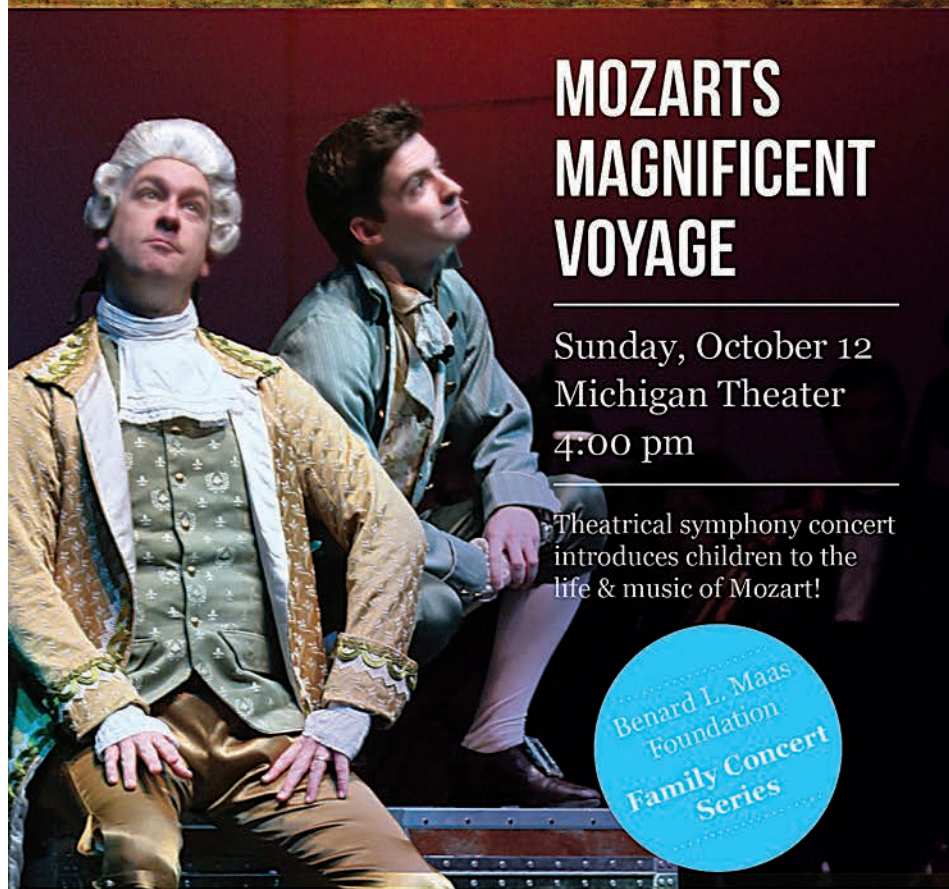
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Gary Peters for U.S. Senate
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Godfrey Dillard for Secretary of State
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Deborah Thomas

MSU Trustees
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George Perles

UofM Regents
Mike Behm
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Get Your Complete 2014 Voter Guide

The BTL LGBT & Progressive Voter Guide

Is currently being developed and will be available online at
www.pridesource.com or mivoterguide.com

Candidates have been returning BTL Voter Questionnaires. Endorsements for candidates running for State Senate and State House will be available online as information is received.

Important Dates & Resources


Monday, Oct. 6 – Last day to register for Nov. 4 General Election

Tuesday, Nov. 4 – General Election

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A photograph of two women standing side-by-side and holding hands. The woman on the left is wearing a reddish-brown strapless top and a matching skirt with lace detailing at the hem. The woman on the right is wearing a green ribbed tank top and blue jeans. The image is semi-transparent, serving as a background for the text.

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Supreme Court: Which Case Makes The Best Case For Marriage Equality?

BY LISA KEEN

The U.S. Supreme Court could announce as early as Tuesday (Sept. 30) which marriage equality case - or cases - it will accept for review this session. But, while the Court has seven marriage equality cases to choose from during its private working conference Monday (Sept. 29), it may not choose any of those seven for review.

"If there's no disagreement [among the circuits], then the Supreme Court has the option of not taking any case for a period of time," said Roberta Kaplan, who represented plaintiff Edith Windsor in the landmark Supreme Court case that struck down the key provision of the Defense of Marriage Act last year.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg made just that point in remarks Sept. 16 at a University of Minnesota Law School forum. Her host asked Ginsburg to comment generally on marriage equality cases before the high court and discuss whether she thinks the court will and should take a case "as soon as possible."

"So far, the federal courts of appeal have answered the question the same way - holding unconstitutional the ban on same-sex marriage," said Ginsburg. "There is a case now pending before the Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit. Now, if that court should disagree with the others, then there will be some urgency in the courts for taking the case. But when all the courts of appeal are in agreement, there's no need for us to rush to step in. It remains to be seen what the 6th Circuit would rule, when it will rule. Sooner or later, yes, the question will come to the court."

Her comments attracted attention from Supreme Court observers because the court had been rather quick to put the seven cases on its list for discussion at its first big "long" conference. But Ginsburg was basically voicing what many such observers already know: the Supreme Court is more keen on taking appeals when there's a disagreement among the circuits.

So far, four appeals courts have ruled such marriage bans unconstitutional: the 9th (in last year's Proposition 8 case), the 10th (Utah and Oklahoma), the 4th (Virginia) and the 7th

(Wisconsin and Indiana).

Another 9th Circuit panel heard oral arguments Sept. 8 in cases challenging bans in Hawaii, Nevada, Idaho and Oregon, but it is widely expected to find once again that the bans are unconstitutional.

But a three-judge panel of the 6th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals heard arguments Aug. 6 in cases from Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee, and it seemed to signal it was prepared to *uphold* state bans on marriage for same-sex couples. That would create a conflict, but the panel has not yet released its opinion. If there was anything unusual about Ginsburg's comments last week, it was that she expressed, very diplomatically, the widespread impression that the 6th Circuit is likely to uphold the bans.

Kaplan thinks Ginsburg's remarks are a strong indication that the Court is more likely to accept a case from a circuit that disagrees with the others - either the 6th or the 5th Circuit. The 6th Circuit decision could be released any day now; the 5th, which covers Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi, recently gave the state of Texas an extension of time (until Oct. 10) to file its final brief in *Perry v DeLeon*.

If the Supreme Court declines to review one of the pending marriage cases this session, said Kaplan, it would have to lift the stays currently in place.

"Then marriages between gay couples could happen in a whole bunch of new states," she said. That would enable same-sex couples to get married in 12 additional states: Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Kansas and Oklahoma in the 10th Circuit; Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and West Virginia in the 4th Circuit; and Wisconsin and Indiana in the 7th Circuit. Added to the 19 states that already enable same-sex couples to marry, the count would stand at 31 and the District of Columbia.

That seems unlikely.

Which Case Is Best?

So, if and when it takes a case, does it matter *which* marriage equality case the Supreme Court accepts? Does it change the prospects

for the decision if it takes a case where the ban has been upheld? Does it matter whether the attorneys arguing the case are seasoned veterans before the Supreme Court?

Constitutional law legend Laurence Tribe, the Harvard law professor who argued against state bans on same-sex sexual activity in the 1986 *Bowers v Hardwick* case, says, "It could matter in a large number of ways" but he was "disinclined to speculate about it at this point."

“There is a case now pending before the Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit. Now, if that court should disagree with the others, then there will be some urgency in the courts for taking the case. But when all the courts of appeal are in agreement, there's no need for us to rush to step in. It remains to be seen what the 6th Circuit would rule, when it will rule. Sooner or later, yes, the question will come to the court.”

- Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg
The 6th Circuit includes Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee

Lambda senior attorney Jenny Pizer offered some ideas. Though she and others agree the "core arguments will be very similar regardless of which case or cases the Supreme Court takes," Pizer noted that there can be interesting and important ancillary arguments.

"For example, if the 9th Circuit rules as many anticipate and invalidates the marriage bans...the Supreme Court would have the heightened scrutiny for sexual orientation classifications question presented more squarely because that is currently the law of the circuit," said Pizer. "If they take the Baskin (case) out of (Indiana in) the 7th, there are issues of emergency relief in the context of serious illness that might influence the Court's analysis and timing. If they take Bostic (case) out of Virginia, there could be a strong temptation to talk more about the historical parallel (with the ban on interracial marriage, in *Loving v Virginia*). And I have to wonder if the same would be true if they were to take (the) Kitchen (case) out of Utah, given the unique history of that state's marriage laws (and polygamy)."

Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, noted that state officials are "vigorously" defending the ban in the Utah case, in which NCLR and Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders are helping represent plaintiff couples. The Supreme Court might favor such a case to avoid any procedural snag like it faced in the California Proposition 8 case, which was appealed by a third party which lacked legal standing to file the appeal.

Lambda Legal's national Legal Director, Jon Davidson, said attorneys for all the cases think their case is a particularly good vehicle for review but said, "The questions presented for review are essentially the same in all these cases."

As for whether it matters if seasoned Supreme Court attorneys present the arguments for plaintiff couples, Tribe and others said it probably doesn't matter.

"As long as they're sufficiently 'seasoned' not to make any

ridiculous concessions or to overreach in any foolish ways," said Tribe, "this is not the kind of case in which counsel's arguments are likely to make much difference."

"There are slight issues in terms of whether a state's attorney general is defending the law, but other than that," said Kaplan, "the legal arguments and the plaintiff facts are virtually identical" in all seven cases.

Evan Wolfson, head of the national Freedom to Marry group and a participant in the early marriage cases, agreed.

"All of the cases that have reached the Court present compelling stories from the plaintiffs, and all are in good hands with strong lawyer teams. Each lawyer, of course, would like to be the one who gets to stand before the Court, but the reality is that, whichever case the Court chooses and whichever lawyers are the lead, it is the strong *collective* presentation we will make together - on top of the friend-of-court briefs, the rulings from the more than 30 wins below and the records and arguments the justices have already considered last year - that will matter."

If the Supreme Court declines to review one of the pending marriage cases this session, it would have to lift the stays currently in place.

New CDC Campaign Encourages HIV Treatment

WASHINGTON, D.C.— HIV TreatmentWorks, a communication campaign focused exclusively on encouraging treatment and care for people living with HIV, was launched Sept. 17 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The campaign is the first of its kind by the CDC and aims to get more Americans living with HIV to stay in care and take treatment.

Treatment, especially for those starting antiretroviral drugs right after diagnosis, helps people with HIV live longer and healthier lives, and it prevents the spread of HIV. Yet, only 1 in 4 of the 1.1 million Americans living with HIV have an undetectable viral load. This means the virus is at a level that provides maximum health benefits and reduces the risk of transmitting the virus to others.

“Today, not only can HIV treatment save lives, it can help stop a national epidemic in its tracks,” said Jonathan Mermin, M.D., M.P.H., director of the CDC’s National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention. “Our goal is to help everyone with HIV know the tremendous health benefits

treatment offers to them and the protection it provides to their partners.”

In addition to the positive impact it can have on a person’s health and well-being, people who start and continue treatment are 96 percent less likely to transmit HIV to others. Treatment for health and prevention is a key element in the CDC’s HIV prevention toolkit.

Developed with the input of more than 100 HIV-positive men and women, HIV Treatment Works reflects the diversity of people living with HIV and shows how treatment and care empowers people to lead full and healthier lives. The campaign includes personal stories about how the participants overcame barriers to care and treatment and provides advice for others living with HIV.

Components of the campaign include online, print, TV and outdoor ads. Additionally, the campaign includes social media outreach and a dedicated website with information and resources for people living with HIV. The campaign will initially be promoted at upcoming community events in Atlanta, Miami and

Washington, D.C.

“It wasn’t easy finding out I had HIV, but deciding to start and stick to my treatment has helped me live a happier, healthier life,” said Aaron Laxton, who appears in the campaign ads. “The idea of starting treatment can be daunting, but it’s important to remember you aren’t alone - and that by taking HIV medication every day and seeing your doctor regularly, you can stay healthy and keep doing the things you love.”

HIV Treatment Works is the latest campaign of the CDC’s Act Against AIDS initiative, a national communication campaign to combat complacency about HIV in the United States. The campaign also advances the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, which includes decreasing the number of new infections, reducing stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV and educating Americans about the threat of HIV and how to prevent it.

For more information about HIV Treatment Works, click www.cdc.gov/actagainstaids/campaigns/HIVTreatmentWorks/index.html.

Two LGBT Trailblazers Receive MacArthur Fellowships Totaling \$1.25 Million

The MacArthur Foundation announced the 2014 class of MacArthur Fellows on Sept. 18 – providing a \$625,000, no-strings-attached stipend to each fellow to support their creative endeavors. Among the list of 21 exceptional individuals chosen were two notable leaders in the LGBT community: Mary Bonauto and Alison Bechdel.

Bonauto is a civil rights lawyer, strategist and longtime champion in the movement for marriage equality. As the Civil Rights Project Director at Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), she has worked on landmark same-sex marriage cases across the U.S., including *Gill v Office of Personnel Management*, which provided the first federal court wins against the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and paved the way for the Supreme Court striking down Section 3 of DOMA in 2013 in United States

v Windsor.

The MacArthur Fellowship has previously supported several artists and academics doing work related to LGBTQ issues. However, Bonauto is the first community leader to receive the award specifically for advocacy of LGBT rights.

Bechdel is a cartoonist and graphic memoirist whose work intimately explores the lived realities of lesbian communities and the complexities of family. Her widely-loved comic strip, *Dykes to Watch Out For* (1983–2008), used humor to portray the political and cultural concerns of queer women and made Bechdel an icon in the LGBTQ community.

“This is a heartening sign of the times,” comments Kristina Wertz, director of engagement at Funders for LGBTQ Issues. “It’s exciting to see the MacArthur Foundation - such a respected institution -

recognize the decades-long work of the LGBTQ movement, and in particular the contributions of these two powerful queer women working to change our laws and our culture.”

In addition to Bechdel and Bonauto, openly gay playwright Samuel Hunter received a MacArthur Fellowship for his thought-provoking plays that explore audiences’ capacity for human empathy, as did Aijen Poo, a longtime ally to the LGBTQ movement and Director of the National Domestic Workers Alliance.

Previous LGBTQ MacArthur Fellows include Luis Alfaro, renowned Chicano performance artist and writer; Allan Bérubé, historian and author of acclaimed book *Coming Out Under Fire*; and playwright Tarell McCraney, whose work depicts the complexities of gay and Black identities.

Creep of the Week

Sean Hannity

OPINION BY D’ANNE WITKOWSKI

By now you’ve heard of Adrian Peterson, the professional footballer charged with child abuse. The case has ignited a national



Sean Hannity

debate about spanking and what “counts” as abuse. The takeaway: Americans love to hit children. The most common defense is: “My mom and/or dad beat my ass, and I turned out fine.” To which I say, “Uh, you turned into a full grown adult who hits children. But, hey, we all have our own definitions of ‘fine,’ I guess.”

I find it hard to excuse a man who’s over 6 feet tall and almost 220 pounds from whipping a 4-year-old boy with a tree branch until said boy has cuts all over his body, including his testicles. But a lot of people are coming to Peterson’s defense, saying he has the right to discipline his child and that it isn’t anybody else’s business.

One of those people is Sean Hannity of Fox News shame. Kind of. During Hannity’s Sept. 16 radio show, he said, “I do believe Adrian Peterson went too far.”

That said, Hannity is awfully worried that enforcing laws against child abuse will lead to banning the teaching of conservative so-called values.

“This is my problems with liberals,” he says. “Because here’s where my fear goes with all of this. You guys want to tell parents what they can and cannot do. For example, is it going to become illegal if a parent teaches the politically correct view that being gay is not normal?”

Unless you’re a paranoid conservative who believes big gov’ment is coming to get your guns and your god and your freedom, this might seem like an illogical argument. But Hannity has no need for logic. Which is how Hannity manages to simultaneously argue that Peterson “went too far” and that parents have the right to discipline their children as they see fit. And also to tell them terrible things about the gays.

I’d also like to point out that I don’t think Hannity knows what “politically correct” means. Because it is not the “politically correct view” that gays are

abnormal. At this point in time, that would probably be the politically incorrect view.

He goes on to say, “I think we’ve gotten to the point where if we don’t politically correct our kids, we might as well just hand our kids over to the government the day they’re born and let them raise them.”

In this instance, he is using “politically correct” as a euphemism for discipline, maybe? But one thing is for sure, if Americans can’t slap their kids around *because freedom*, then the terrorists have won.

Hannity’s co-host, Noelle Nikpour,

Hannity is awfully worried that enforcing laws against child abuse will lead to banning the teaching of conservative so-called values.

keeps intoning that Peterson has the right to discipline his child. And then she calls busting him for child abuse “a gateway offense.”

“Meaning how far do you want government in your life?” she asks. “There’s a difference in discipline and abuse.”

Well, no shit. But if it’s already been established that Peterson “went too far,” isn’t Nikpour then defending child abuse? This woman is an idiot.

But Hannity really isn’t interested in talking about the whole abuse thing. “My problem here is do parents have the right to instill their values in their children? The problem is we send these kids off to school and maybe they’re taught ... values that contradict whatever the parents are teaching, whatever it happens to be. You know, ‘Heather Has Two Mommies,’ ‘daddy’s roommates,’ that’s the government circumventing parental values.”

It’s a ridiculous, and homophobic, argument. In Hannity’s world, abusers aren’t the enemy, gays are.

Parents have the right to teach their children whatever stupid shit they want under the guise of “values.” But adults don’t have the right to beat the shit out of kids. And it’s unconscionable that we are debating this in what we claim is a civilized society.

Then again, Hannity has never been wild about people who need help from the government. And that extends to children.

10 M For 1 And All...



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

My friend Jon Strand is a pointillist artist. His art consists of near-micro dots of ink coloration, layer upon layer upon layer. It's no exaggeration that Jon has dotted in his art career spanning over three decades anywhere from 50 to 80 million dots. (I tell him it's a form of mental masturbation).

Jon's colorful art – many titled with poetic names honoring the Nine Muses of the Arts – are large creations, not infrequently measuring 5 ft x 6 ft dimensions.

Jon has had two major exhibitions of his work at the Detroit Institute of Arts – currently owning two of his art pieces – and a major retrospective showing a few years back at the Max Fisher Center in Detroit's Orchestra Hall.

For Jon, making art is an act of intense dedication and courage. Jon has glaucoma and is slowly losing peripheral vision in one eye. He, his studio, his pointillist techniques, his challenging story, were featured on an NBC-TV Channel 4 newscast this spring.

Challenged? Yes! But Jon persists, encouraged I'm sure by his black Labrador Retriever, Archie, now going on four loyal canine years of admiration and devotion as Jon's apprentice sidekick.

In my own right as a prolific writer/artist, I too am gayly compulsive. Since I started writing my Parting Glances column in 1999 – concise, review history of important LGBT events in the 20th Century – I have written 785 columns. At 600 words per column, my tally prints out at 471,000 words. That's a lot of verbal wind-sailing, to be sure.

As for creating my own rainbow colored, idiosyncratic art pieces, I now average about one creation a day, with over 1,000 Facebook images in five years. (Recently I was befriended by Tiger Pitcher Justin Verlander. And while I have a gay man's minimalist interest in baseball, football, soccer – his liking my art certainly speaks well of him. By the way: if he has any interesting pictures to share, I'll certainly let my readers know.)

May I herewith put to rest a rumor that – Heaven knows how it got started – has been circulating. Namely: there are no intentional, untoward, recreational phallic images. I do believe, however, that any art creation of mine should be such as to allow a viewer's own creative interpretation to be a valid aesthetic response. (Enough said).

Truth of the matter is, we live in an astonishing era that permits so many opportunities for being creative on an individual basis, whether with cellphone pictures, Photoshop techniques, computer-enhanced design, music-making keyboard orchestrations, self-published novels and poetry – all with instant sharing. It's creative magic! And also highly competitive.

Here's one of my tried-and-true techniques I use to enhance my own creativity. I call it the "Tell Your Brain Thank You Technique." It's simplicity itself, but believe me – it works. Whenever you begin a creative project, say to your brain, "Thank you for this opportunity for making art – or making music, or cooking, or creative writing! Let's explore!"

When you finish, tell your brain, "Thanks for your extra special input!" This technique also works when your brain is supplying you with information. When a forgotten name is recalled. When a forgotten memory is brought into focus. Or, an amorous, inventive encounter. Say Thanks!

If you're LGBT, it's pretty certain you're also creative. Good Gay Genes, as the saying goes. Say thanks. Count your creative blessings. 1 by 1. 10K plus 1. 10M for 1 and all.

AT THE HOME OF CLOSETED NFL PLAYER ...



OPINION BY LEV RAPHAEL

Washington is suddenly having second thoughts about its giant giveaway of military grade equipment to local police forces. But it may be too late to reverse a decade of bad policy and bad thinking, because too many American cops already think of citizens as "The Enemy." And it's not just black citizens. All citizens. Skin color doesn't matter.

A sea change took place over the last decade that was invisible to most Americans. Across the country, in big cities and small towns, police forces gradually turned into armies. It took the events in Ferguson to blow things wide open. Now you find senators like Claire McKaskill noticing the results of a misguided policy: "The whole country and every representative and senator have seen the visuals, and at some level, it made all of us uncomfortable." Note the disgraceful understatement and the typical D.C. focus on the way things look, on "optics" over substance.

The technical term for the change is "militarization," but it sounds too clinical for what's been going on. Even

Viewpoint

America's Domestic War

before 9/11, the Pentagon was lavishing cops in every state with military equipment, but that's escalated since 2006 as the Pentagon has unloaded surplus assault rifles, armored vehicles, planes and helicopters. The total dollar amount has now reached into the billions since that terror attack made everyone think they're the next target, no matter how improbable it might seem.

Even tiny towns want armored

because their information is out of date. Sometimes they even kill unarmed citizens; they killed a child here in Michigan. And they haven't really been accountable to anyone, despite the string of news stories that have been appearing on local TV stations and in local and national newspapers for years.

I started reading about these epidemic SWAT raids about five years ago and how police forces were recruiting ex-military and radically shifting their

A sea change took place over the last decade that was invisible to most Americans. Across the country, in big cities and small towns, police forces gradually turned into armies.

personnel carriers. And they use them. For things like serving warrants and drug raids. That's right. For ordinary police work that used to be done without military hardware.

45,000 SWAT team raids take place in this country every year. The U.S. is now a war zone and our police have morphed into soldiers. They raid at night for maximum shock and awe, break down doors, use flashbang grenades, shoot people's dogs, wreck homes and commit violence on innocent citizens. They often raid the wrong house

consciousness and their perceived mission. Forget serving the public. The public is the enemy, at least potentially, and the enemy has to be crushed. As more ex-soldiers have entered the police force and more cops have been trained by the military, the danger to the general public has increased everywhere.

Nothing's going to change any time soon despite reviews. As the New York Times reports, GOP Rep. Peter T. King, who's on the Intelligence and

See War, next page

► **Agema**

Continued from p. 6

at war, but we've been at war for several years without the American public knowing it.

"The military has been extremely frustrated in the past. They should be able to fight to win. Eliminating ground troops is simply telling the enemy what he's going to do--STUPID! Obama refuses to acknowledge that Islam either is fighting us or each other, but it is the biggest threat to the world today, not global warming.



Agema's Facebook has been a constant source of controversy for the conservative leader of the GOP. He came under fire for posting anti-gay information linked to a white nationalist.

"This will take the public's attention away from the egregious behavior of a lawless president. Appearances are everything to a politician. What we need now is the president to eliminate the enemy completely, not just play around the edges as he has so eloquently done in the past."

Agema has long been a vocal leader of stopping Sharia Law – a strict Islamic law based on the Koran – from being implemented in American courts. Never mind that it's not happening, because for Agema, it is a simple equation: Islam = bad.

This is, of course, the same Agema who pals around with a guy who is likely a fake former terrorist. And why is it OK to pal around with a guy who claims to have smuggled weapons into the U.S. to wage war against our country? Well, the guy's a Christian now, so all is forgiven. 'Cause you know, Jesus.

Agema's Facebook has been a constant source of controversy for the conservative leader of the GOP. He came under fire for posting anti-gay information linked to a white nationalist. That got him a rebuke by virtually all the major leaders of his party in the state, with the exception of one – Terri Lynn Land, who served on the National GOP Committee with Agema. What's she gonna say to this one?

► **War**

Continued from p. 12

Homeland Security committees, doesn't think the money and equipment should stop flowing to local police forces. Despite the facts, despite the statistics, he insists there's no evidence "that giving the police heavy weaponry and equipment (has) led to abuses elsewhere."

But you know it's a terrible problem when organizations as different as the ACLU and The Heritage Foundation agree that America's police are out of control.

That's one reason I wrote "Assault With a Deadly Lie," a novel of suspense that explores the crushing effects of police brutality on an innocent gay couple. Because nowadays, none of us are really innocent in the eyes of the law. We're all criminals, no matter who we are or where we live. As the defense lawyer in my book says, after 9/11, "You think you have rights and freedoms, but everything is contingent now."

Lev Raphael is the author of 25 books in genres from mystery to memoir. He teaches creative writing at MSU. Learn more at www.levraphael.com. Publishers Weekly calls Lev Raphael's latest work, "Assault With a Deadly Lie," "Terrifying...compelling."

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Roadside Attractions

'SNL' Alumnus Talks Tasty Men, Stefon And His 'License To Be Totally Fabulous'

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Saturday night is a lot less spicy without Stefon, the fabulous "Weekend Update" club correspondent that turned actor Bill Hader into a comic star. But fear not. While Stefon has retired from "Saturday Night Live" to a "haunted diaper" in Chelsea, as Hader tells me in our recent chat, the funny-man flexes his impressive dramatic chops in "The Skeleton Twins," playing Kristen Wiig's twin, Milo, a struggling actor.

Aaaand, he's gay.

During our talk, Hader discussed his "license to be totally fabulous" as Milo, his regrettable transgender-centric "SNL" sketch, and the savory highlights of his A-list make-out roster.

You lip-syncing to Starship's "Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now" in "The Skeleton Twins" would make everyone on "RuPaul's Drag Race" so proud.

(Laughs) You have to get me on that show! That would just be the best.

How much drag did you and Kristen observe while training for the famed lip-syncing sequence?

I mean, we had to learn that song, and we had

a lot of fun doing that, but we didn't have a lot of time. There wasn't a lot of time in the day to do it. It was definitely a quick "we gotta go; we have a lot more to shoot today" moment, so it's cool it all came out so well.

So, what you're saying is you already knew how to sissy that walk.

(Laughs) I knew... I mean, I've gone out with enough of my gay friends to know.

The finger in the ear during the money note - was that Mariah Carey-inspired?

No, no. It was just me messing around. So much of that stuff was me just trying to make Kristen laugh and just knowing her sense of humor and what will make her laugh. I thought that was something that would.

You're a natural in that lady garb.

Oh, thank you.

Before "The Skeleton Twins," how experienced were you with cross-dressing?

Well, I had done some of it at "Saturday Night Live," but not in my life. Not a lot of cross dressing in my life.

Not yet.

Not yet. Maybe I will now. I remember we did a senior sketch in high school where we made fun of a group of moms called the "Brown Bag Lunch." They were these moms who put a lot of money into our high school, who would have these brown bag lunch things where they'd sit around and gossip about school - just a bunch of rich moms. We did a sketch at our homecoming and I played the main mom. We just recently watched that - my dad found it - and I'm essentially doing Stefon. I mean, it's pretty crazy. I'm in high school! It's pretty insane. But, I look goooooo! My wife's like, "Wow, you look great. You're an attractive woman."

There's a scene in the film where you go to a gay bar only to find yourself there on "dyke night." What's been your real-life gay bar experience?

You know, I haven't hung out that much in gay bars, but I don't go to bars in general. I remember going to one with writers from "SNL." There was a group of us and we went to a gay bar, because two of our writers were gay. It was fine. I had a good time. But I don't really go out. I'm reeeally boring. (Laughs)

You're such a dad.

I'm a total dad. I'm really boring. I stay at home and I read. Because I did Stefon, people assume that I go to all these clubs and I get invited to a lot of those things, but nah.

And yet you live this exciting life onscreen. I mean, you've maybe made out with more men than I have... and, Bill, I'm actually gay.

(Laughs) I have my wife run up to me a lot of times and be like, "Don't brush your teeth. Let me kiss you. This is the closest I'll get to kissing James Franco," or whoever it is I just made out with. I've made out with Paul Rudd so many times on "SNL" it's insane!

You made out with Ty Burrell during the shoot for "The Skeleton Twins."

Yeah, but it didn't make the cut. I'm gonna tell you right now, that was actually pretty hot. It was a hot scene.

What does Paul Rudd taste like?

He tastes like chicken, and James Franco tastes like cinnamon.

You even got to fondle Paul's man-aries.

Yeah, I touched his nipples.

Bill, this doesn't sound like a very boring life to me.

Yeah, I know. It's weird because we'll be doing it and our wives are just watching the show in the green room like, "Hahaha. OK, guys."

Given your history of make-out sessions with men: If you could play spin the bottle with any group of guys, who would you invite to that party?

Paul, James, Ty...

But they've already been to the party.

Yeah, they're already part of the party, but I just know they're all good kissers. I guess those guys, and then to mix it up, Danny McBride because I feel like I'd get the shit kicked out of me.

"SNL" has been criticized for its portrayal of the gay community and some of its homoerotic cheap shots. Did you ever turn down a skit or were you ever hesitant to do a sketch because it might offend the gay community? As a comedian, how conscious are you of avoiding stereotypes whether on "SNL" or in "The Skeleton Twins"?

In "Skeleton Twins" I honestly didn't think about it. The thing I liked about the script was that Milo being gay wasn't his problem. That wasn't the big issue in his life. He had a lot of other issues, and he just happens to be gay, which I thought was really great.

A journalist from another gay magazine said something that I liked – that I didn't try to iron out his gayness. He's flamboyant, but he's drawn from people I know, people I'm friends with, people Craig (Johnson, the director) knows. I mean, that dyke night scene was me basically just mimicking Craig. (Laughs) When Craig went (to me), "You know, you sit down" – and I could tell it was something that had probably happened to him before – "and you look around and it's fucking dyke night! You kind of go, 'Where's the boys at?'" So that is me impersonating Craig.

As far as "SNL" is concerned, Stefon was the same thing. His joke isn't that he's gay – the joke is that he's just really bad at his life. And that he's on a lot of drugs. I don't know if I ever said no to anything, but I know the transgender community got really mad at a sketch I was in about estrogen – Estro-Maxxx, about a pill – which made total sense. But it happens, and the show takes responsibility for it. We have a ton of gay people who work on the show.

In retrospect, would you have passed on that skit had you known it would offend the transgender community?

Yeah. I mean, I think the writers wouldn't have written it. I don't think anyone wrote it to hurt anybody's feelings, but once that happened it was like, "Oh yeah. Point taken. Sorry."

Actors who take LGBT roles often say you can't really play gay, but you're effortless as Milo. What's the trick? As a straight man, how do you transcend sexuality for a role?

I didn't think about it that way, to be completely honest. You just kind of do it and you find a part of you that's this Venn diagram, where you overlay with the character. So, my relationship with Ty Burrell's character: I just thought of high school romance, that's what I thought of – a girl I dated in high school and how that made me feel. And it's also just kind of hanging out with Ty. He's a really funny, nice guy. Things like that – actual feelings of like, "What a great guy, he's so nice" – play into it. You have to be very open. He's giving you something and you have to give back, and you just play off each other. But I trusted Craig. I was just like, "I'm gonna try a bunch of stuff," and Craig would tell me if it was too much. Usually his note was, "You can go a little further with it. You don't have to be so subtle."

And if a gay man is giving you permission to go gayer, you know you can.

Yeah, exactly. He's like, "I think you can be a little bitchy to (Kristen) now. Be a little flippant. I think he would be sassy with Kristen right here." I remember when I was in drag and he was like, "You have complete license to be totally fabulous," because (I was playing him) the opposite. I would try to sometimes play him in a way that was too subtle, and Craig was like, "Don't worry about people saying it's gonna be stereotypical – these are my friends."

Because of your role as Stefon on "SNL," how often are you pitched gay roles?

Actually, not that much, to be honest. Let me think. This might be the only one that I've been sent. It's interesting. During the Q&A, after the first screening of the movie at Sundance, someone asked us about (the similarities between) Stefon and Milo and I went, "Oh, yeah!" Craig, who is gay, took the question because I didn't know how to answer it. I went, "Uhhh." The only thing those two guys have in common is that they're gay, which is a good way of answering it.

Would Stefon and Milo be friends?

Craig says no, and I think he has a better idea than I do. Craig was like, "Oh my god, no." I think Stefon would freak Milo out.

I think Stefon would freak a lot of people out.

Yeah, you would be missing for a couple of weeks. If you went out with him, you'd have friends, parents, people pleading on the news, "Where's our son?"

Where is Stefon these days?

He's on the corner of 23rd and 9th some place. Somewhere in Chelsea hanging out inside a haunted diaper.

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Michigan-Born YouTube Sensation To Slay Royal Oak

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

Tyler Oakley may not be a household name, but the Michigan-bred vlogger is quickly becoming a fixture of the Tumblr and YouTube circuits. Considered an “A-Lister of the digital age,” Oakley will be bringing his “Slumber Party” event to Royal Oak this weekend, one of only two locations hosting the “#TylerOakleyTour,” the other being Chicago.

The event will feature inside scoops, interactive games and plenty of other surprises. According to Oakley’s video about the event, the sleepover format “means that you are going to show up in your pajamas; that means that we are going to play pranks. That means that I am going to gossip with you, and we are going to tell stories, and I’m going to get you guys on stage, and I’m going to meet tons of you in my own way, and it’s going to be so much fun, and we’re going to take selfies.”

Oakley is known for his “unapologetically personal weekly



celebrities like Grace Helbig (ItsGrace), Mamrie Hart (YouDeserveADrink) and Miles Jai (MilesJaiProductions).

Born March 22, 1989, Oakley lived in Jackson and attended Michigan State University, where he uploaded his first video to YouTube in 2007 as a freshman. The video has since received 70,000 views, with the majority of his 300+ videos garnering millions of views each, with a cumulative 212,000,000 views on his channel. Oakley currently has over 4.9 million subscribers to his YouTube channel and nearly 2.7 million followers on Twitter.

The video star has used his publicity to fuel his advocacy work, including support of The Trevor Project, an organization that works to prevent suicides in LGBTQ youth. Oakley’s work with the support group includes interning with them in 2009, co-hosting the charity’s annual red carpet event (TrevorLIVE) and raising \$29,000 for the project

videos” at www.youtube.com/user/tyleroakley, as well as collaborative videos with other YouTube

See Tyler Oakley, page 18

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Fall Harvest At Birmingham Farmers Market

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

This Sunday, head to Birmingham for the beginnings of a ripe harvest at the city's Farmers Market. Locally and regionally grown produce, garden plants and flowers, organics, fresh prepared foods and handcrafted items are just some of the offerings. Children

in attendance stop by the "Kids Zone" for arts and crafts catered to "little farmers."

The "End of Season Celebration" will be held the last Sunday for the market, Oct. 19, featuring hayrides, corn shelling, live music, pumpkin crafts, trick-or-treating, pumpkin carving and old-fashioned kettle corn.

The Birmingham Farmers Market

is held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Sunday through Oct. 19 at Municipal Parking Lot Six, N. Old Woodward, Birmingham. Located just off of Harmon, the market is free to the public with various lots and structures available for parking. For more information, email info@enjoybirmingham.com or visit www.birminghamfarmersmarket.org.

► Tyler Oakley

Continued from p. 16

on his 24th birthday. In March of this year, Oakley again had the goal to raise money for the organization as part of his birthday; his \$150,000 goal was quickly met, with funds of \$525,704

raised by the campaign's close.

Some of the YouTuber's most popular videos include doing multiple "challenges," whether its getting his legs waxed or holding a tarantula. Oakley's most popular video to date has over six million views and involves him teaching gay slang to twin "twinks." He's also quickly moving beyond the Internet video hosting

service, finding himself in a Taco Bell commercial, on various shows and winning awards like "Choice Web Star: Male" at the Teen Choice Awards.

The all-ages show will begin at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 5 at the Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St. (The show is sold out.) For more information, call 248-399-2980 or visit www.royaloakmusictheatre.com.

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Boeing Once, Boeing Twice: Bold Comedy At The Hilberry

BY JOHN QUINN

“Timing is everything.”

That fact was observed, not only by the long-time Hilberry Theatre patron seated on my right, but by guest director Lenny Banovez, co-founder and artistic director of New York City’s Titan Theatre Company, in his director’s note. While the adage is true of all plays, its application is never more critical than in the comic sub-genre, farce. Long-time patrons of the Hilberry will recall that the company explored farce in its infancy last season with Moliere’s “A Doctor in Spite of Himself.” This year we experience farce matured with Marc Camoletti’s 1960 hit, “Boeing Boeing.”

The French have a phrase for it. “À chacun son gout – ‘To each one his taste.’” “Hit” can be a relative term when culture is factored in. “Boeing, Boeing” is the most popular French play ever, but it closed after only 23 performances in its 1965 Broadway run. The 2008 revival, though, won two Tony Awards and two Drama Desk Awards, so maybe tastes change. Certainly the definition of “erotic” has changed, since this “erotic farce” derives its comedy from the traditional building blocks of character and situation, rather than shock or innuendo.

But make no mistake – Bernard (Brandon Grantz) is an utter cad. Enjoying mid-century joie de vivre in Paris, Bernard is something of a sexual juggler – balancing three engagements, all at the same time. His secret? They’re all “air hostesses” on international airlines, and he knows their schedules down to the minute. Thus his unsophisticated American girl, Gloria (Sarah Hawkins Moan), his fiery Italian innamorata, Gabriella (Annie Keris), or his Lufthansa lover Gretchen (Bevin Bell-Hall) don’t suspect that she’s not his one-and-only. He’s safe – as long as faster planes, tail winds and mid-Atlantic storms don’t upset the schedules.

But this is farce, so of course there are complications – not only for Bernard, but for his overwrought cook, Bert (Miles Boucher) and his visiting pal from Wisconsin, Robert (Brandy Joe Plambeck).

There’s real comic power in Camoletti’s script; there’s real comic joy in the English version by Beverley Cross and Francis Evans. Rarely do you find a translation that flows so well in colloquial English. But



“Boeing Boeing” opens the Hilberry Theatre’s 52nd season. Photo: Hilberry Theatre

REVIEW

Boeing Boeing

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wit is only part of the charm of “Boeing, Boeing.” Director Banovez refers to farce as “the most difficult style of comedy.” “Farce, at its best, is an articulate portrayal of chaos or ‘controlled chaos,’ if you will.”

This is a tremendously physical production, yet his careful choices never let farce bleed into slapstick. While the cast demonstrates a fine example of ensemble acting, performances of the more absurd characters are memorable. These include Plambeck as the American in Paris man-child; Bell-Hall’s take on Gretchen’s Wagnerian-sized emotions; and

Boucher’s skill at turning the character of a snooty woman housekeeper, “Berthe,” into downright snotty “Bert” the cook.

A standard of farce is the fast entrance – or exit. To this end, Michael Sabourin’s scenic design spans the wide Hilberry stage to accommodate seven – count ‘em – seven doors. Above the living room set soar eye-catching silhouettes of a Parisian skyline. Lighting designer Tom Schraeder shows solid craftsmanship in the warm, even glow that marks the apartment lighting, and a playful whimsy in the rich backlighting of the silhouettes. John Woodland’s costumes are stylishly retro, particularly the eye-popping primary colors of the ladies’ flight uniforms.

As the Hilberry Theatre enters its 52nd season, it’s time to give pause and reflect on its significance. Its fundamental purpose is to provide an advanced education in the performing arts. They’re graciously letting us tag along. We’ve watched Boucher move from Macbeth to the comedic Bert, and Plambeck play both the Marquis de Sade and the hapless Robert. That’s just to name two of the artists who are expanding their potential under this program. What an education the audience gets on their journey!

So happy 52nd, Hilberry. Many happy returns.

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wear women’s clothes and makeup, to me I’m not dressing like a woman. I’m just doing whatever I want to do! I feel like I was being more myself when I did that, not more like a woman. When I first allowed myself to do that, I went nuts and I was wearing tons of costume jewelry and paisley maxi skirts all the time. I really went for it! (Laughs) It’s kind of evened out now.

I have my nails done. I’ve figured out where I naturally want to be. You know when women tap their nails on the table? Growing up I was like, “That is the bomb!” I wanted to do that. Now I can. One time before a show in Chicago I actually got acrylic nails and I wanted them long, but when I got up on stage I couldn’t play my guitar. It was really embarrassing! (Laughs)

How intentional are you being with your subversion of gender norms?

As much as it is just me being myself, I know it is a defiant act to leave the house or make a video with these things in them, and so there are times when I exaggerate it. I push it a bit just because that’s what I like to do. It’s important to me.

I like that when I play shows boys wear crazy outfits because they feel like they can. It’s super, super heartwarming. I mean, it’s a really corny feeling, but if I’m ever kind of contented for a moment or feel like I’m doing exactly what

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I’m supposed to, it’s when I’m doing things like that.

Is “Too Bright” a response to the fact that some people have pigeonholed you as a downer?

(Laughs) I guess. A lot of people call my albums “depressing,” and I don’t feel that way. I think that some of the songs are very sad, but that’s very different than depression to me. I’ve been depressed in my life, and I didn’t do *anything*. I couldn’t even bother to microwave a burrito let alone write a song! (Laughs) Some people mistake patience or compassion for wimpy things when they’re some of the toughest and strongest modes you can be in. Maybe I was a tiny bit resentful of that (for this album).

You know, people qualify me as a “gay musician” right away. I have interviews in France, and they’ll do the introduction on the radio and they’re like, “His name is Mike Hadreas. He’s very depressed. He’s very gay.” Because of that, people told me before I made this album that maybe I should tone it down or talk about less explicitly gay themes.

I did the opposite. People think that because I’m tiny or because I’m wearing a lot of silk that I can’t hurt you, but I can. I’m just as capable of murder as everybody else.

How much of “Too Bright” is a representation of you currently? Is this how you want to perceive yourself?

Yeah, hopefully. I mean, a lot of it is how I’m feeling now, and a lot of it is about how I hope to feel. I guess the first two albums were all about me processing and thinking about what had already happened, but I didn’t feel like it was important to do that anymore – to look back. This album is very confident and sort of confrontational, and I have some of that in me, but the music is almost more than that how I am. Some of it’s a projection.

How did you get into that mindset for “Too Bright”?

(Long pause) I did a lot of things for many years that sort of ... it made me lost. I just wasn’t really present or paying attention or recognizing what was actually going on with me or outside of me. Then, when I got sober, there were a lot of really big problems that needed to heal and that I needed to figure out. Now, I’ve been healthy long enough that those big issues have sort of gone, and I’m just kind of left with myself for

See Perfume Genius, page 26



Photo: Luke Gilford

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Mike Hadreas is tapping his “really long” nails on a table. “Can you hear that?” he asks.

The act seems insignificant, but for the Seattle-based musician – better known as Perfume Genius – it’s a rite of passage. That *tap, tap* encapsulates independence,

rebellion and fearlessness – all facets of his confrontational third album “Too Bright,” where Hadreas redefines his musical genius to reflect a revelatory breakthrough.

Are you trying to make a statement with your androgynous look?

Originally it wasn’t a protest-y thing – I was just allowing myself to do whatever the hell I wanted. When I



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► Perfume Genius

Continued from p. 24

the first time as an adult. I've been thinking about things that I never really thought about, like my place in the world and how I want to feel. You know, it was just a very complicated and weird thing, and I guess this is sort of a therapeutic figuring out.

How long have you been sober? And how long have you felt like a grown up?

Well, I don't feel like a grown up yet. (Laughs) But I've been sober for four years.

On the album, you express feelings of anger, empowerment and defiance. How have they manifested within you? Is that part of the recovery process?

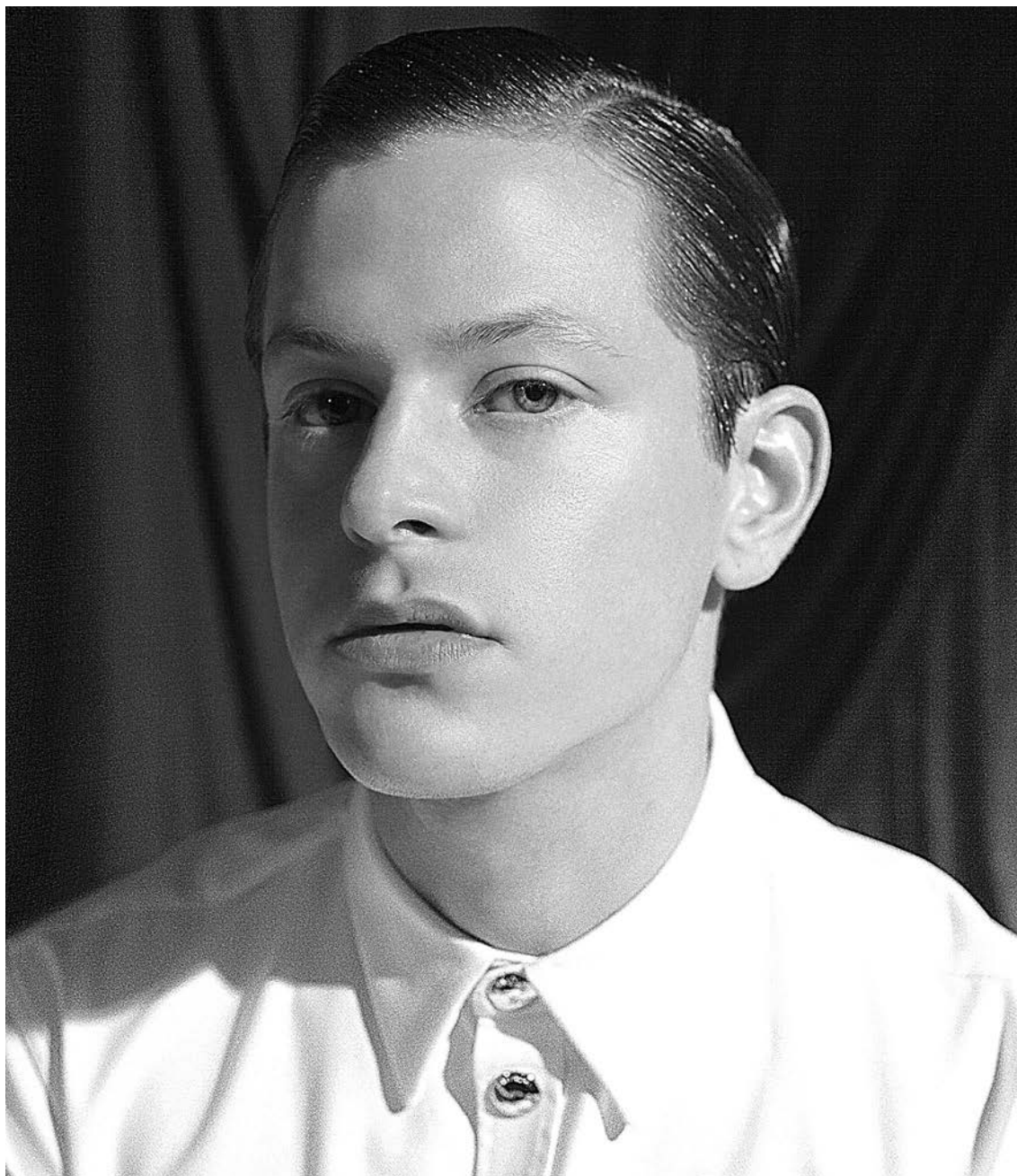
It's partly that. But a lot of it is... I don't know. (Long pause) I mean, growing up people would give me shit in class or on the street and it would magnify this otherness that I feel. Originally I would be ashamed at myself or feel like something was wrong with me, and I also just felt very victimized. Parallel to that is this resentment and anger about the whole thing. When I got older, that whole victim-y outlook was not working for me anymore. I mean, it never did, but it's very clear to me that that was not helpful, so I wanted to deal with these things and think about them in a more defiant and badass way, I guess. That's how I feel and that's how I want to feel, and I thought it would help for others to hear it put that way.

I remember being bullied and then growing up to feel victimized by the whole world. Then, you get to a point where you say, "Fuck everybody." I mean, not everybody – not the good people.

But it feels like everybody. That's how it gets twisted, and that's how it got twisted for me. Even though I would be in situations a lot where probably nobody was gonna pick on me or nobody was gonna say shit, I still carried myself as if they were going to. I have a guard up all the time just in case, and I'm very resentful and pissed off about that. I don't feel like doing it anymore.

When you shot the video for "Queen," the first single from this album, what did it feel like to get on top of that conference table looking all lesbian chic in front of a group of presumably heterosexual men? Was it cathartic?

It was. That was my main idea, you



“People think that because I'm tiny or because I'm wearing a lot of silk that I can't hurt you, but I can. I'm just as capable of murder as everybody else.**”**

know what I mean? Doing it, I was a little timid at first, but then I was like, "Fuck y'all. I'm gonna give it to you."

What kind of kid were you?

I was just a little weirdo. On top of being feminine, I'm a very tiny person. I'm also weird – like a Gollum lady-like creature. But, you know, creatively I'm strange. I'm proud of that, though. I don't think of that as a negative thing.

I felt strange, too, when I was a kid, so I tried to counterbalance that by doing "normal" kid things, like playing

soccer. Have you always been proud of your weirdness?

I guess I worried about it and was very self-conscious and thought a lot about how I carried myself, but never to the point where I really changed all that much. (Laughs) I was getting shit, but I rarely if ever did it differently. I mean, I don't think I could've even played soccer even if I felt like it. But maybe. I was on the wrestling team until my sophomore year in high school. I would've kept doing it except I came out when I was 15 and didn't think I could stay on the wrestling team, which is a shame – there's

nothing really sexual about it. If anything, it's the opposite.

At what point in your life did you feel empowered as a gay man – not just identity-wise, but sexually too?

Oh god. When I was writing this album there were times where I was actually giggling afterward because I was going for it so much with some of the things I was saying. I actually surprised myself by how swagger-y and middle finger-y I was being about things. I was very insecure my whole life, so when I just do shit anyway is when I feel empowered. I'm still nervous and

I still get that frightened feeling a lot, but I just do everything anyway now.

Do you remember when you first felt sexually liberated?

When it happened for me was (during the music video for Tupac's "I Get Around") where these girls are sponge bathing Tupac. I originally went in thinking I wanted to get in the bath, but then I started to realize that I wanted to bathe Tupac. I wanted to sponge Tupac! Then I was like, "You know what, let's just be real."

How does somebody who's naturally nervous like you get on stage and perform?

You just do it. I commit to everything. I also realized that how I'm feeling is not real a lot of the times. You can lie to yourself and things wax and wane, so I never really feel like I'm in the right spot to perform. I never feel like I'm 100 percent ready, but I know that's a lie.

How important is it to you that people connect to your music on an emotional level?

I like the idea of singing songs about things that people might feel lonely in. Maybe I'm giving myself too much credit, but that's at least my intention.

I think your music is capable of that. I wouldn't have asked if I didn't think there was truth to that.

I know. It's just that I've noticed now as I'm doing interviews that I kind of have to be pretentious. There's no way getting around it. I'm sort of embarrassed to ... (long pause)

To talk about yourself? Yeah.

Which song on "Too Bright" do you feel closest to?

"My Body." It's not an uplifting song, but I can always get in the right mood for it.

What do you mean by "the right mood"?

The song is about body image issues and feelings of just feeling icky – of just being an "icky" person. Icky physically. Just icky in general. But during the song I'm almost yelling at people. There's no apologizing or feeling bad for myself. It's almost like an exorcism; there's something very cathartic about it. Telling these secrets about myself in a really big way to people is weirdly liberating.

Hear Me Out

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Jennifer Hudson, Tim McGraw



Jennifer Hudson, 'JHUD'

Jennifer Hudson has never needed the post-studio polish her contemporaries depend on. Hudson proved she had the pipes on "American Idol," and then later, as Effie in "Dreamgirls," she triumphantly tore into "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going." (Stop and think: Can you name a single one of her peers capable of covering that behemoth? Ariana Grande lacks soul. Adele, maybe.) Yet, even with Hudson's rip-roaring voice – one that, had it been around in the '90s, would have had Whitney and Mariah shaking at the knees – producers are at a loss when it comes to finding Jennifer a place in the pop pantheon. Unfortunately, "JHUD" isn't an exception. Even though she's riding the return of the '70s-disco wave, a major shift from the R&B/hip-hop sound of her eponymous debut and its 2011 follow-up, it's hard imagining any of these momentarily-satisfying songs carrying a legacy. That's not to say the sassy "He Ain't Goin' Nowhere" (featuring Iggy Azalea) or the Daft Punk-y "It's Your World" with R. Kelly are bad – they're just not good enough for Hudson. That Hudson is far more talented than the otherwise mediocre "JHUD" is clearest on "Moan," a powerful tear-jerking gospel tribute to her late mother, who

was murdered in 2008. With the disco lights turned down, and with total disregard to trends, it's just Jennifer's heart pouring out through her. It's the best thing on the album – actually, one of the best things of her career. Should Hudson go straight-up soul next time around, we'd be totally fine with that, right? *Grade: C+*



Tim McGraw, 'Sundown Heaven Town'

Country artists are really good at making you feel bad about "the now." Whether it's Miranda Lambert returning to her childhood house or The Judds asking gramps to share stories of yesteryear, these people love nostalgia. No surprise, then, that "Meanwhile Back at Mama's," a charming duet with wife Faith Hill, is another hit for Tim McGraw. That it's musically reminiscent of the Music Row superstar's traditional pre-pop, no-Nelly origins isn't only refreshingly rootsy – it really brings its message of "simple things" home. As far as these sentiments go, it's business as usual. But McGraw also knows the up-and-coming competition is nipping at his heels, so

with "Keep On Truckin'" – thankfully not just another ditty about a dude and his Chevy – the veteran uses the apt idiom for a ridiculous-but-irresistible burst of dancey pop-country (these are actual lyrics and I'm not kidding you: "So your flop don't flip, 'cause your hop don't hip"). Equally as absurd is "Portland, Maine," a sweet-but-naive guitar ballad that's out of touch with the fact that you can no longer say "I don't know where that is" in 2014. There's this thing called GPS. Still, as laughable as some of "Sundown Heaven Town" is, McGraw makes every effort to sustain a career in the ever-changing country culture. Because even without Google Maps, he has a pretty good idea of not just where he's at but where he's going. *Grade: B-*

Also Out



Perfume Genius, 'Too Bright'

Mike Hadreas' delicate outpourings from his first two LPs were misinterpreted as

feeble, something the singer himself observed from web babble. But no one can make that claim of his bold and beautiful junior release. "No family's safe when I sashay," the Seattle pianist (better known as Perfume Genius) swaggers on "Queen," a fiercely gay anthem that grunts, sparkles and browbeats everything in its path. A nonconformist opus drawing from a throng of musical influences, "Too Bright" is the epitome of an artist in full bloom.



Broods, 'Evergreen'

With the evocative female-fronted electro sounds of Lorde, CHVRCHES and Banks redefining the zeitgeist, New Zealand's brother-sister duo Broods couldn't have dropped their debut at a better time. Standouts are the somber, drum-driven "Mother & Father" and the wistful heartbreaker "Killing You," but Georgia and Caleb Nott's handsome indie-pop is sleek and mesmerizing throughout. For once: a sad dream you won't want to wake up from.

Puzzle solution on pg. 28

L	E	A	K	C	A	S	T	S	E	I	R	E
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M	U	T	E	R	I	A	T	A	S	P	E	D
		C	L	I	V	E	B	A	R	K	E	R
S	A	R	T	R	E		O	I	L	I	N	G
A	L	I		O	R	P	H	A	N	S		V
L	A	T	I	N		R	E	N		S	C	A
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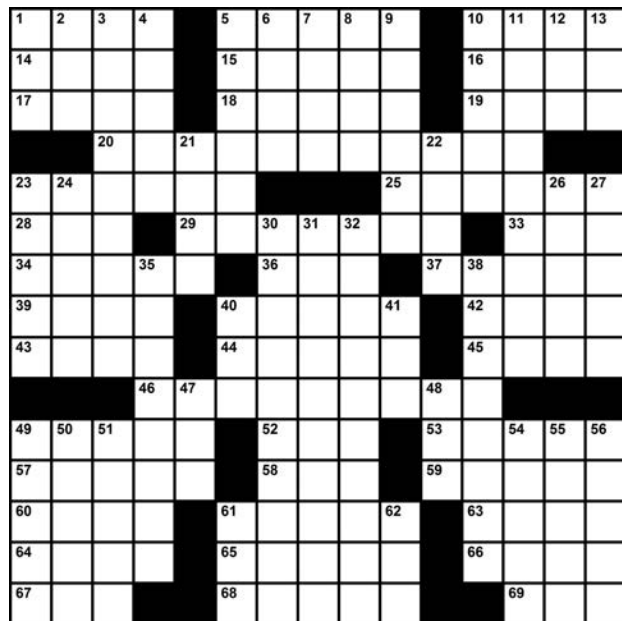
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Q Puzzle

Man Of Many Talents



Across

- 1 Dike problem
- 5 Playlist lists
- 10 Setting for "At Swim, Two Boys"
- 14 Pull down
- 15 Islam's deity
- 16 Quotation notation
- 17 Not using the tongue
- 18 Gay rodeo accessory
- 19 Zipped
- 20 English film director, visual artist, and source of three items in this puzzle
- 23 He wrote "The Flies," but not about zippers

- 25 Lubricating
- 28 Bard of boxing
- 29 Broadway Annie, and others
- 33 Govt. broadcaster
- 34 Language that may be vulgar
- 36 Kevin Bacon in "Footloose"
- 37 Gives the once-over
- 39 Like a muscle Mary's waist
- 40 River of Ghana
- 42 Straddling
- 43 Song title spelled in pantomime
- 44 Deep thrust receiver?
- 45 Costner character
- 46 What a beard pretends to be
- 49 Silky undies material
- 52 ____ Francisco
- 53 Winona of "Girl, Interrupted"
- 57 Part of a woody erection
- 58 Hurry, to Shakespeare
- 59 They won't pose for nude photos
- 60 Laying out
- 61 Pains in the rear
- 63 Opening amount
- 64 Not once, to Lord Byron
- 65 Deal with
- 66 Depilatory brand
- 67 Roseanne's pair
- 68 Toss off everywhere
- 69 Go down

Down

- 1 The Eagle, to NASA
- 2 Colette made a splash in it
- 3 Brian Sewell, for example
- 4 Acknowledged a queen
- 5 Thanksgiving V.I.P.
- 6 What Washington couldn't tell
- 7 Mound feature
- 8 "Catch you later"
- 9 Stone of "Basic Instinct"
- 10 Stand next to Klumpke
- 11 Where a top soldier wants to put it?
- 12 Lesbian opponent of Wade
- 13 Drop the curtain on
- 21 Club for Patty Sheehan
- 22 Lip service?
- 23 Like like seaman language
- 24 It arouses you in bed
- 26 Prejudice and homophobia
- 27 Intense sounds in the sack
- 30 List of alcohol percentages?
- 31 Rowdy type, or a book and film series
- 32 Marie of cake advocacy?
- 35 Idea person, or a book of artwork released this year
- 38 Sammy Davis Jr. song, with "The", or a book and film series
- 40 Remote target
- 41 Request for Vanna
- 47 What an octopus shoots off
- 48 Heston was its pres.
- 49 Bone from the back
- 50 Pilgrim John
- 51 Stories of the city
- 54 Enjoys a Star Canyon restaurant, e.g.
- 55 Name on a drag queen's compact
- 56 "Gone with the Wind" guy
- 61 Ends of letters
- 62 Spill one's seed

Solution on pg. 27



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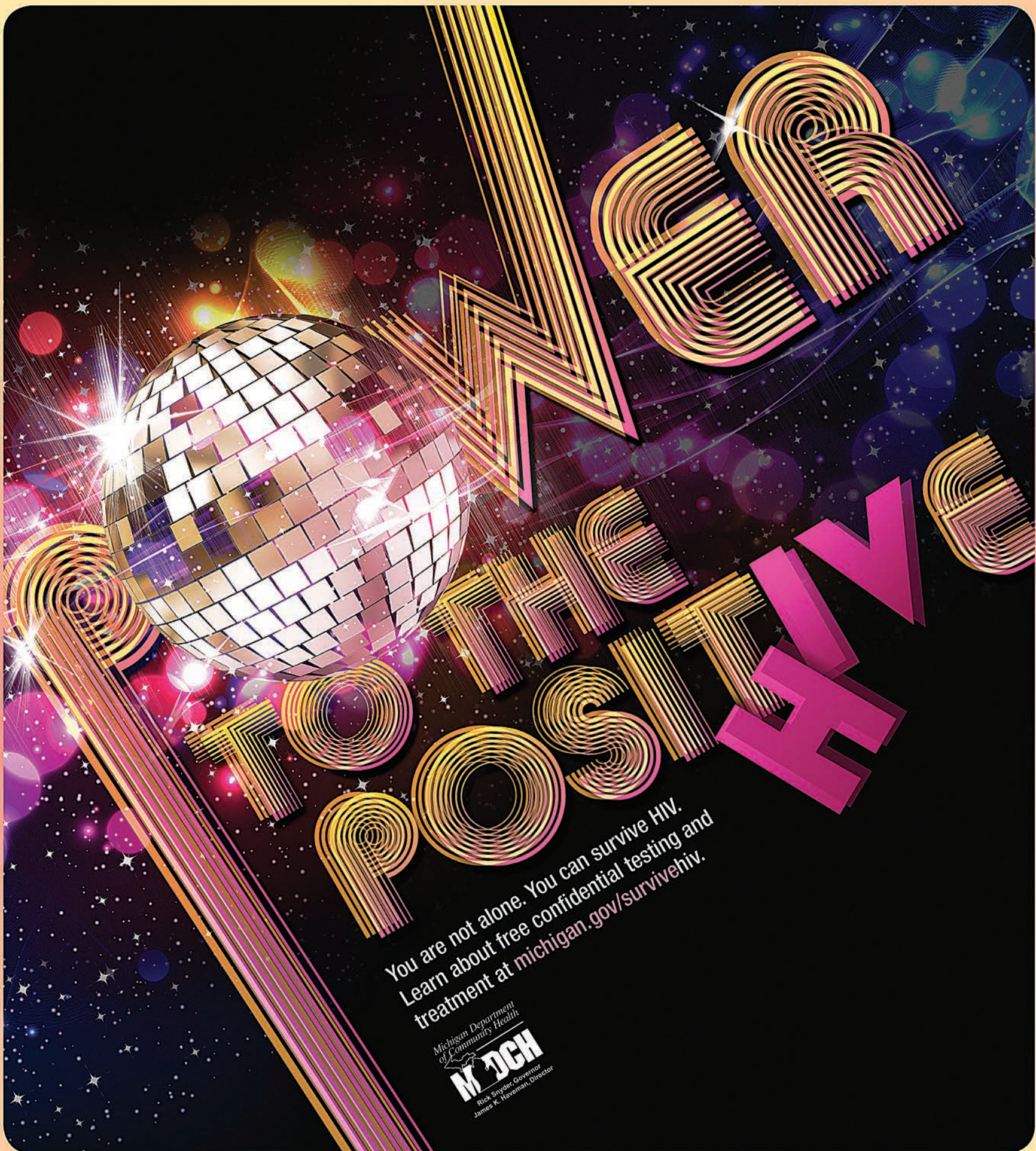
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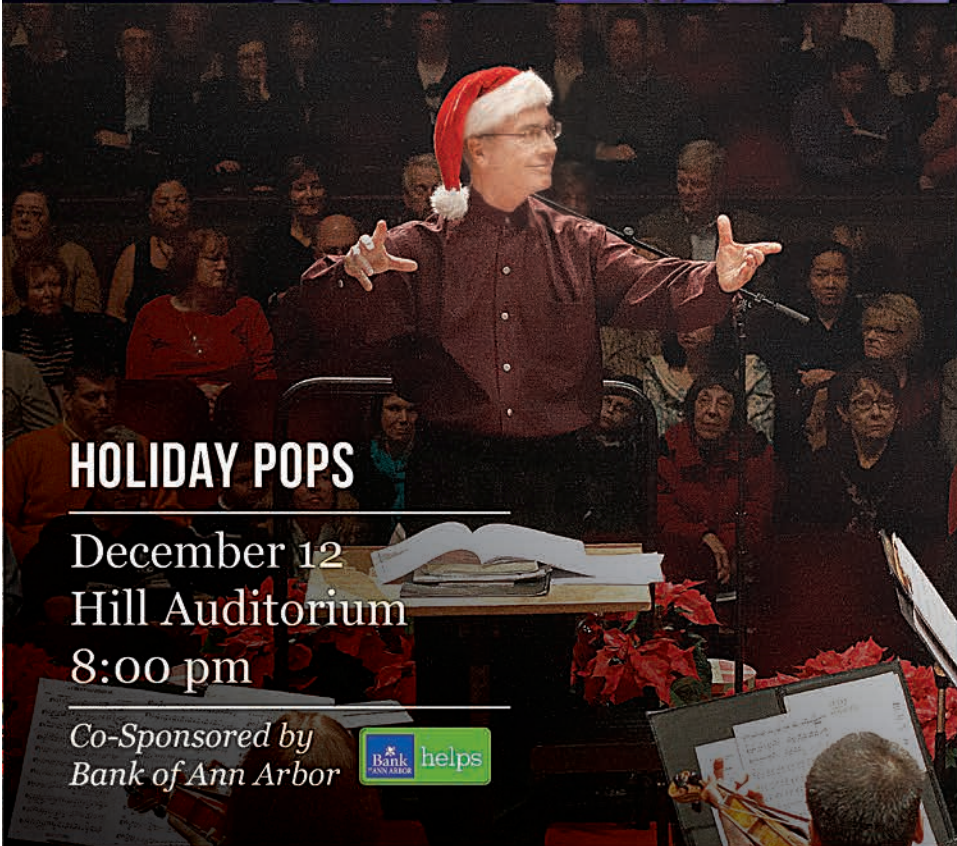
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