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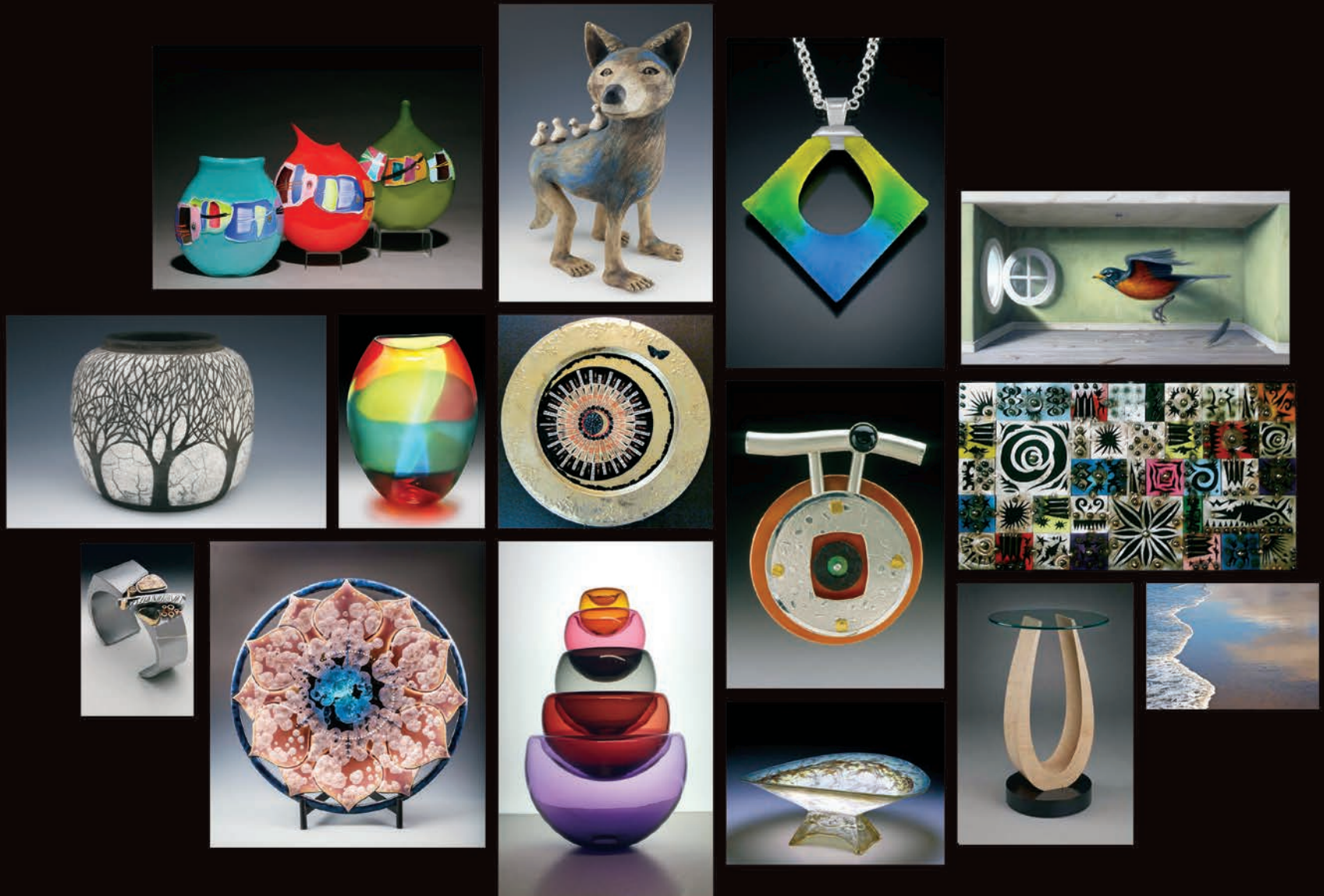
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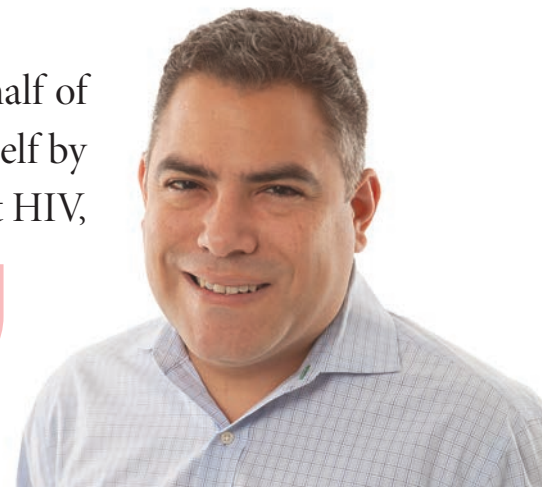
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“What I have decided, now having lived more than half of my life with HIV, is that I did the right thing for myself by forgiving him. I believe he never intended to transmit HIV, so forgiving him wasn't too difficult for me.”

- Oriol R. Gutierrez Jr.
Positive Thoughts: Passing The Test, page 16



Join The Conversation @ PrideSource.com



The Rev. Michael Briggs, left, and the Rev. Ken Malcolm, right, hug as they walk after Episcopalians overwhelmingly voted to allow religious weddings for same-sex couples Wednesday in Salt Lake City. AP photo: Rick Bowmer

Episcopalians OK Allowing Same-Sex Marriage In Churches

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Learn More About This Week's Cool City: Lansing

Access the online Cool City pages at Pridesource.com to learn about upcoming events, featured advertisers and community news.



ReDefining Home: The Fur Baby Boom

“We have discovered a value in our dogs that extends beyond the utilitarian functions of hunting, herding, and security...” Enter the animal behaviorist, Jim Lessenberry, who is a Clinical Animal Behaviorist and owner of Animal Learning Systems, Inc. He resides in rural Oakland County with his partner, 5 year-old son, and their Jack Russell Terrier.

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Midland County Judges: Courts Will Still Perform Marriages

MIDLAND, Mich. (AP) – Three Midland County judges say the courts still will perform marriages, despite a colleague's statement that he wouldn't do so in the aftermath of the U.S. Supreme Court decision upholding the right of same-sex couples to marry.

Midland District Judge Michael D. Carpenter said he decided to cut out weddings after the high court's 5-4 ruling overturning bans on same-sex marriages in Michigan and other states.

"When the decision came down from the Supreme Court, I read through the case and then read through the statutes of what the court is required to do," Carpenter told the Midland Daily News. "The district court can, but is not required, to do marriages."

The law "says may, not shall," he said.

Carpenter, a former Midland County prosecutor, said he has been making a number of cost-cutting moves as a result of staffing reductions in district court, which now has one judge and one magistrate. District court handles misdemeanor crimes and initial proceedings in felony cases, as well as civil matters.

The judge said gay marriage "is an issue that is near and dear to both sides' hearts" but didn't make a statement on its merits.

The Associated Press left a phone message for

“The people of Midland County elected us to uphold the Constitution and laws of this land.”

-In a letter upholding marriage equality signed by Carras, Circuit Judge Michael Beale and probate and juvenile Judge Dorene S. Allen.

Carpenter asking for his position on gay marriage.

On July 1, county Chief Judge Stephen Carras and two colleagues released a letter saying they're "making sure that people who want to get married are able to do so in their courthouse."

"The people of Midland County elected us to uphold the Constitution and laws of this land," said the letter signed by Carras, Circuit Judge Michael Beale and probate and juvenile Judge Dorene S. Allen. "Weddings are a source of great joy and hope for the future, and our court is honored to help families grow and prosper in our community."

County Clerk Ann Manary said she, too, will officiate for couples seeking courthouse weddings. She said she granted four marriage applications to same-sex couples on June 26 and a few so far last week.

"Most couples are setting dates and making arrangements to get married, maybe at their church or another venue, just like heterosexual couples would," she told The Saginaw News. "The big wave, I think, has passed."

Extended briefs are available online at:
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Whose Liberty? Marriage Equality Decision Reinforces Divide

Dissenters See Threat To Religious Liberty, Democracy

BY LISA KEEN

The U.S. Supreme Court's June 26 decision striking down state bans against same-sex marriage has been touted as "probably the strongest manifesto in favor of marriage" and pilloried as "a threat to American democracy." It has energized celebrations at LGBT Pride events and private living rooms across the country and prompted warnings of "an all out assault against the religious freedom rights of Christians who disagree with this decision."

But despite these vastly different reactions, there has not yet been an attempt by any state to secede from the union that President Obama characterized as "a little more perfect" now. As of June 29, 12 of the 13 states that had statewide bans in effect have started issuing licenses in at least some, if not all, their counties.

Mississippi's attorney general told clerks to delay issuing licenses until a formal order to do so is issued from the federal appeals court. Louisiana's Governor Bobby Jindal has instructed clerks that they do not have to issue licenses if they have religious objections to doing so.

The Texas attorney general is encouraging clerks to raise religious objections to issuing the licenses but has warned them that doing so could lead to "litigation and/or a fine." Mississippi's attorney general told clerks to delay issuing licenses until a formal order to do so is issued from the federal appeals court.

Republican presidential hopeful Mike Huckabee has vowed that he "will not acquiesce to an imperial court," a statement that will almost certainly come back to haunt him, given that the Constitution requires the president "shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed." (President Obama continued to enforce the Defense of Marriage Act until the Supreme Court struck it down as unconstitutional.)

Takeaways

The huff and puff will soon die down and the legal bricks that will remain standing in the Supreme Court's *Obergefell v. Hodges* ruling are these:

- The word "liberty" in the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution includes the fundamental right of a citizen to marry.
- State bans against allowing same-sex couples to marry burden the "liberty" of gay and lesbian citizens.



Days after the U.S. Supreme Court ruling making marriage equality the law of the land, demonstrators on both sides of the issue showed up in Austin, Texas. Signs reading "Honor Our Vote" were referring to the anti-gay marriage amendment that voters enacted in 2005 and overturned by the SCOTUS ruling. AP Photo.

- The bans are unconstitutional infringements on the rights to due process and equal protection.

- And states with such bans have not shown "a foundation for the conclusion that allowing same-sex marriage will cause the harmful outcomes they describe."

The word "liberty" was at the center of the *Obergefell* decision, authored by Justice Anthony Kennedy. He used the word 25 times. The dissenters used it 122 times.

Kennedy noted that the 14th Amendment to the Constitution says that "no State shall 'deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.'" He cited Supreme Court precedent saying that the word "denotes not merely freedom from bodily restraint but also the right 'to marry, establish a home and bring up children...'" The quote came from a 1923 case, *Meyer v. Nebraska*, that struck down a state ban on the use or teaching of foreign languages in schools and which referred to numerous other precedents discussing the meanings of "liberty."

None of the four justices in dissent mentioned *Meyer*. Instead, each claimed that the Kennedy majority based its decision on non-legal grounds. Chief Justice John Roberts contends the majority "relied on its own conception of liberty" and that its opinion was rooted in "social policy

and considerations of fairness." Justice Antonin Scalia said the majority engaged in "constitutional revision." Justice Clarence Thomas said the majority's opinion was "based on an imaginary constitutional protection and revisionist view of our history and tradition." Justice Samuel Alito said the majority "invent(ed) a new right and impose(d) that right on the rest of the country."

Some will argue that it was the dissenters who invented something new: the idea that, when there is a vigorous public debate about a matter, the Supreme Court should not act.

"Supporters of same-sex marriage have achieved considerable success persuading their fellow citizens – through the democratic process – to adopt their view. That ends today," wrote Roberts. "Five lawyers have closed the debate and enacted their own vision of marriage as a matter of constitutional law. Stealing this issue from the people will for many cast a cloud over same-sex marriage, making a dramatic social change that much more difficult to accept."

(A Williams Institute fellow, Adam Romero, said his research before and after the Supreme Court struck down DOMA found the court's action "fostered positive attitude changes.")

All four dissenters lamented the end of the

See Whose Liberty, page 12

Rainbow Facebook Photos: Armchair Activism Or Shifting Tide?

BY BARBARA ORTUTAY

NEW YORK (AP)— You may have noticed your Facebook friends getting considerably more colorful.

More than 26 million Facebook profile photos have taken on a rainbow hue in the days since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on June 26 that marriage is a right guaranteed under the Constitution regardless of a person's sexual orientation.

People have been covering their profile photos with the Facebook-supplied overlay that uses the best-known symbol of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights movement: the rainbow.

Call it armchair activism. Call it a mark of a shifting tide in public opinion. The rainbows are the latest sign of the important place social media has taken in our lives, when it comes to self-expression, politics and privacy.

Rainbow-tinted celebrities have popped up all around, and not just Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Leonardo DiCaprio and "Fifty Shades of Grey" author E.L. James are among those that have used the filter.

Leslie Gabel-Brett, director of education and public affairs at Lambda Legal, a national nonprofit that focuses on legal issues affecting the LGBT community, said the overlay is "fun" and "effective." But she said it's also important for people to know there are other ways to show support.

"There's more to be done from voting, making donations, to speaking to your families, neighbors and coworkers," she said.

While the people who've used the overlay is a fraction of Facebook's 1.4 billion users worldwide, the number is far bigger than the last mass profile photo change on the site. In 2013, some 3 million Facebook users changed their photos to show a pink-on-red equal sign in support of gay marriage. Four years earlier, in what might have been the first large-scale profile-photo activism, Twitter users turned their photo green to support pro-democracy protesters in Iran.

Michelle Zubiato Ferchaw, a mother of two who lives in Anaheim Hills, California, found out about the Supreme Court decision on Facebook, she "cried tears of relief and of

joy." Many of her "equally joyous" Facebook friends were turning rainbow, so she did the same.

"It was a great opportunity to join the celebration," she wrote in a Facebook message.

To get the Facebook-supplied filter, users click on someone else's rainbow picture. Or they go to the "Celebrate Pride" page Facebook set up.

The rainbows didn't come without controversy. Not long after the rainbows appeared, so did questions about whether Facebook was tracking people who changed their photos and what it was going to do with the information. Facebook quickly shot those down.

"We haven't experimented with anything, and other than counting how people used it, we aren't using the data for anything else," wrote Alex Schultz, a vice president at Facebook, in a post.

Facebook also said it is not using the filters for ad targeting nor does it plan to do so.

Facebook said the fact that the filter popped up on the same day as the Supreme Court decision was not planned any more than the Supreme Court planned to issue its ruling the Friday before gay pride parades in San Francisco, New York and elsewhere.

The filter was created last week by two Facebook summer interns, Austin Freel, 21, and Scott Buckfelder, 33. They said they wanted to help other Facebook employees "show their spirit" for Pride Week, which fell on the last week of June in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The filter was popular among employees, so Facebook rolled it out to regular users.

Since then, others also have turned to rainbow as well. Ride-hailing app Uber, for example, added tiny rainbows to the cars on its map. And Beyonce posted a video of herself dancing in various rainbow-colored outfits with the hashtag "lovewins."

Counter-filters also have popped up, with some users in Russia overlaying their profiles with the country's flag instead of a rainbow. In the U.S., the website Right Wing News created a tool that lets people place a filter of the American flag over their profile photos.

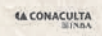
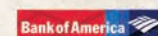
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FINAL WEEKS LAS ÚLTIMAS SEMANAS DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS TICKETS AT DIA.ORG



The exhibition has been organized by the Detroit Institute of Arts. Generous support for the exhibition has been provided by Bank of America. Additional support has been provided by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Henry and Mary Ellen Bollatney Family Foundation. Above: *Untitled (Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera, Mexico City)*, 1933; Martin Munkácsi, Hungarian. ©The Estate of Martin Munkácsi, Courtesy Howard Greenberg Gallery, NY and International Center of Photography ©2014 Frida Kahlo Corporation. All rights reserved.



BRIEFS

Michigan AIDS Coalition Announces Expanded STD Testing

On June 1, Michigan AIDS Coalition formally launched its Integrated Testing Pilot Project, which now will include chlamydia, gonorrhea and hepatitis C in addition to their longstanding screenings for HIV and syphilis.

“For many years, we had been serving high risk populations including white, African-American and Latino men who have sex with other men, providing counseling and testing services for HIV and syphilis,” said MAC CEO Terry Ryan. “The same modes of transmission provide opportunities for other STD infections, including chlamydia, gonorrhea and hep C.”

“It made sense that we could better serve our clients, but also help stop the spread of other sexually transmitted diseases as well.”

This two-year pilot project, one of the first in Michigan, will operate under the banner MAC Health, and represents Michigan AIDS Coalition’s strategy of offering expanded health services to those communities most in need. The project is funded by the Gerstacker Foundation, the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation and The Jewish Fund, providing almost \$60,000 per year in support.

“These grants also allow us to expand testing to high risk heterosexual African-American men and women as well as other groups that current funding does not allow,” Ryan said. “We are very gratified by the continued support of the foundation community, and in particular these three long-time partners.”

Other participating partners are the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and the Center for Urban Studies at Wayne State University, which will provide evaluation of the project.

Expanded testing services are offered at the MAC office in Ferndale, its MPowerment Detroit site in New Center, and the various bars, clubs and soup kitchens where MAC testing and outreach teams meet clients in their own communities.

For more information on these services, contact MAC CEO Terry Ryan at 248-545-1535, ext. 123 or at tryan@michiganidscoalition.org.

July 14 Workshop Works On Improving Services For LGBT Older Adults

Region VII Area Agency on Aging is proud to be sponsoring a small group workshop on Improving Aging Services for LGBT, Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual or Transgender Older Adults. The program will be presented by Judy Lewis, a certified trainer with the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging, from 10 a.m to 2 p.m. on July 14 at 1615 S. Euclid Ave. in Bay City. The program is free, reservations are required and lunch will be provided.

A resource round table and community conversation will follow the workshop from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Community organizations and allies are encouraged to bring information and materials about services and programs that may be relevant to LGBT older adults and ideas on how to improve efforts when serving this population. This is about increasing knowledge and skills, critically analyzing personal and professional attitudes about sexual orientation and gender identity and aging.

As workshop space is limited, and reservations are required, please respond to Annette Jeske at Region VII AAA by email (jeskea@region7aaa.org) or phone: 989-893-4506.

Improving services for LGBT older adults is a priority of the Older Americans Act, and a goal in the current Annual Implementation Plan. The agency has connected with the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging which seeks to improve the quality of services and support offered to LGBT older adults nationwide. Learn more at www.lgbtagingcenter.org

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

Goodbye Anti-Gay Billboard, Hello Equality Detroit

BY AJ TRAGER

DEARBORN HEIGHTS—Billboards around the state are starting to showcase messages of love and inclusion instead of messages of hate.

Where an anti-LGBT billboard once stood on Telegraph Road, a new advertisement of equality now stands with the message: “God Loves Gays.” The advertisement, hosted by thegoodlordabove.com, was put up on June 21, just five days before SCOTUS ruled in favor of marriage equality, and is a part of a national fundraising effort to “show everyone that all humans are equal and loved by God.”

The group called TheGoodLordAbove has purchased ad space all over the U.S. with the message “God Loves Gays” to show the country that “all humans are equal to God,” the youcaring.com page reads.

“There are so many young LGBTQ kids who face daily bullying just for who they are page. Sadly all too often LGBTQ teens take their own lives due to the extreme lack of acceptance they face from their family, religious institution or bigoted bullies. It is extremely important that this message of love is spread throughout the world,” says the Web page.

TheGoodLordAbove wants to put up two more ads in Sterling Heights and Detroit to promote inclusion.

“The billboard’s message of love and acceptance is a powerful and welcome counter-statement,” said Darrious Hilmon, Affirmations executive director. “When all is said and done, love will win out over hate.”

Tom Giesken, the owner of the billboard, told BTL that the contract for the previous ad had reached the end



of its allotted time. The controversial billboard had read, “Homosexuality is a choice. Not a civil right,” and listed two Bible verses: Genesis 2:24 and Matthew 19:5. The sponsoring group, RestrainTheJudges, did not pursue purchasing additional ad space.

In response to the RestrainTheJudges’ billboard, local man Ferman Smith launched a GoFundMe campaign in May titled “Stand Up Against RestrainTheJudges” to “show everyone that we are all equal and are not separable due to our ethnicity or sexual orientation, but that we are all human and seek equal treatment for everyone in our land.”

Smith launched his own billboard campaign on June 22 in three locations after receiving \$8,626 in donations from equality supporters across the state.

“I wanted the logo to be simple but powerful. I didn’t want to put up anything controversial. I didn’t want anyone to feel oppressed,” Smith said.

Smith’s #DetroitForEquality billboards are now visible on southbound

US-24 just south of I-96, northbound US-24 just south of I-96 and M-10 at Livernois Road. The ads will be up through the end of July.

“The biggest thing I want people to know is how thankful I am that I was able to get involvement from the community,” Smith said. “I would love to see more things like this in the future.”

After his initial team fell through and failed to return his phone calls, Smith received help with billboard advertising and media plans from Candice Simons and Emily Nelson of Brooklyn Outdoor Advertising, based in Detroit, with the logo designed by Patrick Thornton of TMV Group.

“They definitely helped make this possible,” said Smith. “It really meant something to me because they really believed in the cause.”

Visit Smith’s GoFundMe page at www.gofundme.com/thiswontstand. God Loves Gays can be found at www.youcaring.com/god-loves-gays-362857.

Dievendorf To Hold Fundraiser For Campaign

BY BTL STAFF

LANSING – Emily Dievendorf, former executive director of Equality Michigan, is running in the 2015 elections for Lansing City Council and will host an upcoming fundraiser July 13 to speak with supporters and talk about issues facing Lansing residents.

Once elected, Dievendorf will focus on maintaining the heritage of Lansing neighborhoods while enhancing and improving the atmospheres of individual communities, prioritizing public safety in the city budget and working with law enforcement agencies to foster new partnerships between police and

neighborhood associations. A partnership between the Lansing City Council and the business community will assist jobless residents.

She received her degree from James Madison College at Michigan State University in Social Relations and has since devoted her time towards improving many social causes including LGBT equality, race relations, women’s rights and public health. She has worked for the Michigan House of Representatives drafting policies to create laws focused on helping those in need, served as executive director of Equality Michigan and currently serves the Lansing Area AIDS Network Board, the Safe Schools

for Sexual Minority Youth Coalition and is on the Advisory Board of Eastern Michigan University’s Equality Research Center.

The fundraiser is hosted by Ken Ross, Brian Huggler, Brian Shedd, Thaddeus Owen, Jim McClurken, Sergei Kvitko, Mark Lee and Brandon Turcott and will be held at 5 p.m. on July 13 at The Harper House, 1408 Cambridge Road, Lansing.

Tickets are \$50. Silver sponsorship goes to those donating \$100, gold sponsors at \$250 and \$500 for host sponsors.

Visit the event’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/events/415187445337571/

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Right:
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Darrious Hilmon Shares Vulnerability At Older Adult Summit

BY AJ TRAGER

DETROIT – Dozens of LGBT Detroiters attended the Fifth Annual LGBT Older Adult Summit on June 20 at the Michigan State University Detroit Center on Woodward. Executive Director of Affirmations, Darrious Hilmon, gave the keynote address.

The Summit Committee decided to reformat the event by shortening the list of scheduled conversations, narrowing down the program so that attendees had only one track to follow. An informational conversation titled “What Now? Implications of the Supreme Court Marriage Decisions” with law panelists Jane Bassett, Angie Perone and Adrienne Watts followed the keynote address. Conversations after lunch included a workshop titled “Fraud Watch and Networking session” with Lisa Whitmore Davis and a Michigan update workshop led by Jay Kaplan.



Judy Lewis, an Older Adult Summit coordinator, gave the opening blessing.

Judy Lewis began the morning with a blessing which led directly into Hilmon’s address.

“Making sure that this community has a voice matters to me. I was raised by a phenomenal group of folks and grandparents. I am old enough to have the gift of grandparents who you honored and respected. That intergenerational transfer of knowledge that everyday, when I wake up and I look in the mirror, I see my grandfather’s face,” Hilmon said. “I remember crying as a child because people would say that we were spitting images of each other. But granddaddy was bald and lost his hair. But today at 47, when I’ve experienced so much life and I’ve cut all my hair off, I realize that the things I thought were important as a child change so much once you get some life and experience behind you.”

Hilmon’s brother passed away suddenly at 40. Amongst the group at the summit, he further described his emotional journey from the moment he was told the news to how this experience shaped who he is today.

“After my brother’s death, living my life fearlessly – without guilt or shame – became incredibly, increasingly more important to me. Even when I tried to deny it, something in my spirit refused to let me continue to live the way I had lived before the day he left this earth,” Hilmon expressed.

Directly following his address, Hilmon responded to questions and concerns posed by the audience regarding the future of



“I believe that changing the world is an individual process, which makes it a marathon and not a sprint.”

- Affirmations Executive Director Darrious Hilmon

Executive Director of Affirmations, Darrious Hilmon gave the keynote address at this year’s conference. Below, Michael Bartus, founding member of the LGBT Older Adult Summit, was awarded the first ever LGBT Older Adult Summit Lifetime Achievement Award by Chair of the Summit Committee, Cornelius Wilson, and Jay Kaplan, LGBT special projects staff attorney for the ACLU. BTL photos: AJ Trager

Affirmations; what it was like to move back to Detroit after living in Chicago; how Affirmations is going to address the polarization of the LGBT community in Detroit versus the LGBT community located closer to Ferndale; and how the center will work to bridge the gap between services provided for the two metro Detroit communities.

In the next weeks and months to come, Affirmations will launch new programs in both Detroit and Ferndale that include creating a more sustainable structure addressing the needs of trans women of color and youth of color along with professional staff



developments and youth programming. Hilmon believes that because of America’s history, Affirmations must always, no matter what the issue, look through the lens of race.

“We cannot say we are Metro Detroit’s community center if we are not engaging Metro Detroit,” he said.

Barriers For LGBT Seniors

Aging services are known for being hostile to the aging LGBT community, resulting in fear, avoidance and too often older LGBT adults falling back into the closet. Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE) reports. LGBT seniors face more barriers due to the lack of provider knowledge and training, inequitable policies and lack of resources. The Older Adult Summit was designed to provide LGBT seniors, caregivers and families the available resources that can help members grow, adapt and remain motivated.

“We are facing a number of challenges, but, despite setbacks, we should all be very proud of where we are today and excited about where we are headed,” the committee wrote in their welcome letter.

Michael Bartus, founding member of the LGBT Older Adult Summit, was awarded the first ever LGBT Older Adult Summit Lifetime Achievement Award by Chair of the Summit Committee, Cornelius Wilson, and Jay Kaplan, LGBT special projects staff attorney for the ACLU. Bartus has been an activist for more than 50 years and has worked for the state office on aging, is emeritus commissioner working with the office of aging services and has been an advocate for the LGBT community focusing on aging issues.

Michigan Dems Send Letter Asking For Amendment To Civil Rights Law

BY AJ TRAGER

LANSING – Ten Democrats from the state Senate delivered a letter to Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof July 1 calling for a hearing on legislation that would add sexual orientation and gender identity protections to the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, Michigan’s non-discrimination law.

State Senators Rebekah Warren, D-Ann Arbor; Curtis Hertel, D-Lansing; Jim Ananich, D-Flint; Hoon-Yung Hopgood, D-Wayne County; Morris W. Hood III, D-Dearborn; Bert Johnson, D-Detroit; Steve Bieda, D-Warren; David Knezek, D-Dearborn Heights; Vincent Gregory, D-Farmington Hills; and Coleman A. Young II, D-Detroit, sent a letter to the chair of the Senate Government Operations Committee requesting that Senate Bill 315, which would update Michigan’s Civil Rights Act

to include sexual orientation and gender identity to a list of protected classes in the state, receive a hearing before the Senate Government Operations Committee.

“As the national landscape continues to shift dramatically around LGBT equality, it has never been more clear that morally and economically, it is time to pass this legislation and ensure that no one faces discrimination because of who they are or who they love,” the letter reads. “In doing so, we will not only bring state law in line with the will of the people, but also ensure Michigan remains competitive as we work to grow our economy and put our state back on track.”

The letter includes a mention to a 2013 Michigan Department of Civil Rights study which cited numerous examples of economic benefits that could be brought on by adding sexual orientation and gender identity and

expression to the state’s civil rights law, including the statistic that “92 percent of businesses consider this type of civil rights protection to be good for their bottom line,” the letter reads.

Though the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of marriage equality on June 26, which overruled Michigan’s 2004 state ban on same-sex marriage, under current law it is still legal to be fired, denied housing or services and be the target for hate crimes for being LGBT.

There have been many attempts to amend Elliott-Larsen in recent months, including a formal statement by Gov. Snyder who stated he would not sign any Religious Freedom Restoration Bill that did not include updating the statewide protections for LGBT citizens.

Legislation has been introduced in both the state Senate and state House to amend ELCRA.

OBITUARY: Grace A. McClelland

Jan. 27, 1958 - June 16, 2015

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

LINCOLN PARK – Grace McClelland, former executive director of the Ruth Ellis Center, suffered a fatal heart attack on June 16.

McClelland, 57, was born in Camden, New Jersey. After graduating from St. Joseph's High School she studied law and criminal justice at Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey and later did graduate work in psychology at California Coast University in Santa Ana, California. McClelland worked for over two decades in the nonprofit arena, often focusing on youth causes. She was associate director of Three Rivers Youth in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and executive director of Harbor Creek Youth Services in Erie, Pennsylvania.

In 2003, after a national search by its board of directors, McClelland was selected to be the first executive director of the fledgling Ruth Ellis Center. There she focused on generating new revenue by leveraging long-term relationships with funding sources and building financial stability. While at REC, McClelland oversaw tremendous growth. She moved the agency out of its small space in Detroit into a huge industrial building in Highland Park and expanded hours and services. She also was responsible for the purchasing and remodeling of a house on Philadelphia Street that opened in 2004 as Ruth's House, a transitional living program for young LGBT adults. For her efforts, McClelland was given the Spirit of Detroit award presented by the Detroit City Council and the Leadership Award from the National Association of Lesbian and Gay Addictions Professionals.

"Grace was very generous and always helped others in need," said Martone Williams, who served as her administrative assistant for two years. "She would give you the shirt off of her back if you needed it. She always had a very encouraging word to say to everybody."

Karla Handley, who served on REC's board during McClelland's tenure, remembered her creativity.

"Grace was a dedicated and creative executive director," Handley said. "She worked tirelessly, and loved and respected the kids. She had a knack for stretching every donated dollar to its limit. Grace arranged site visits with many politicians and other influential people. As a result of a tour by Sen. Carl Levin in 2008, REC received a grant of over a quarter of a million dollars from the federal government."

In all, McClelland spent five years at REC until a disagreement with the board caused her to leave. She then opened her own consulting firm, Liberation Consulting, in 2009.



Grace McClelland, former executive director of the Ruth Ellis Center, died June 16. BTL file photo

In addition to youth causes, McClelland cared about civil rights and animal welfare. She was the proud mother of Apollo, a German Shepherd. She enjoyed swimming, basketball and riding her motorcycle.

McClelland is survived by her partner of six years, Pamela Dumouchelle.

"She was a beautiful person and lived in a loving and authentic way," Dumouchelle said in a statement she posted on Facebook. "Her dedication to the community filled my heart and fulfilled hers. ... Every life she touched seems to carry a deep respect and love for her. I am proud to have been with her and will miss and love her deeply every day I am here."

Memorial Service Planned For Former REC Staffer Jack VanHecke

Jack VanHecke, who worked under Grace McClelland as Ruth Ellis Center's director of business development, died March 27. A celebration of his life has been set for Saturday, July 18, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, located at 4800 Woodward Ave. in Detroit. The service begins at 2 p.m. Reception will follow immediately after at Barth Hall at the Cathedral. A fund has been set up for VanHecke's 13-year-old son Aidan. Donations can be made to Aidan VanHecke Education Fund, c/o Chuck VanHecke, 2912 Provence Lane, Muscatine, IA 52761.

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Creep of the Week

Justices Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito and John Roberts

BY DANNE WITKOWSKI

We are gathered here today to celebrate something that many of us didn't think would happen in our lifetimes. Marriage Equality is, at long last, the law of the land. Thank you Supreme Court Justices Anthony M. Kennedy, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor, Stephen G. Breyer and Elena Kagan.

Justices Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito and John Roberts, on the other hand, are pissed. Their dissenting opinions in the case make clear that they think that same-sex couples should not be allowed to get married and that they have the utmost disdain for both same-sex couples and the Justices who voted in the majority.

Chief Justice John Roberts, for example, doesn't see same-sex couples as people, exactly, more like hypothetical entities that exist solely to be the fodder of debate.

"Supporters of same-sex marriage have achieved considerable success persuading their fellow citizens — through the democratic process — to adopt their view. That ends today," he wrote. "Five lawyers have closed the debate and enacted their own vision of marriage as a matter of constitutional law. Stealing this issue from the people will for many cast a cloud over same-sex marriage, making a dramatic social change that much more difficult to accept."

As if those folks who think gays are going to hell and are ruining marriage for everyone would have been appeased by this ruling coming from somewhere else. Haters gonna hate.

Roberts continues, "However heartened the proponents of same-sex marriage might be on this day, it is worth acknowledging what they have lost, and lost forever: the opportunity to win the true acceptance that comes from persuading their fellow citizens of the justice of their cause. And they lose this just when the winds of change were freshening at their backs."

In other words, anti-gay folks

just needed a wee bit more convincing and I'm sure they would have been just fine with the whole thing. They just needed more time. And now the very important and not at all demeaning work of convincing everyone we come across that we, as gays and lesbians, are real people who feel real people feelings and aren't a bunch of child-recruiting perverts has been stolen from us! This is an outrage!

Keep in mind: this is not work that Roberts has ever had to do in his male, white, heterosexual life. But he knows what's best for the gays!

Antonin Scalia was also upset that "the people" don't get to vote on whether gays are capable of love and commitment or not.

"To allow the policy question of same-sex marriage to be considered and resolved by a select, patrician, highly unrepresentative panel of nine is to violate a principle even more fundamental than no taxation without representation: no social transformation without representation," he wrote.

If Scalia saw gays and lesbians as actual human beings, he'd likely (but who knows, it's Scalia) not be so quick to throw them to the wolves — er, I mean, the voting public — to sort it out.

Clarence Thomas essentially said that since gays didn't have it as bad as slaves or people in internment camps, they had nothing to complain about in the first place and should STFU.

Samuel Alito bemoaned that people who think gays are icky would be reduced to "whisper(ing) their thoughts in the recesses of their homes" lest they "risk being labeled as bigots and treated as such by governments, employers and schools."

Ah, nobody wants to be called a bigot these days, but they do want the freedom to be bigoted. It's funny how that works. But it's not funny coming from members of the Supreme Court who have made certain that they will go down in history as bigots themselves.

Oregon Issues Final Order In Gay Wedding Cake Case

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Owners of a Portland-area bakery that denied service to a same-sex couple must pay \$135,000 in damages, the Bureau of Labor and Industries has ruled.

The damages are for emotional suffering caused by Sweet Cakes by Melissa, which two years ago refused to bake a wedding cake for Laurel and Rachel Bowman-Cryer.

A 2007 Oregon law protects the rights of gays, lesbians, bisexual and transgender people in employment, housing and public accommodations. It provides an exemption for religious organizations, but the agency ruled that exemption does not allow private businesses to discriminate against potential customers.

"This case is not about a wedding cake or a marriage. It is about a business's refusal to serve someone because of their sexual orientation. Under Oregon law, that is illegal," Oregon Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian said in the final order.

In April, an administrative law judge proposed the same damages.

The bakers said their refusal to bake for the lesbian couple was prompted by religious beliefs. The case has been cited in the national debate over religious freedom and discrimination against gays.

Owners of a Portland-area bakery that denied service to a same-sex couple must pay \$135,000 in damages,

Bakery owners Aaron and Melissa Klein closed their Gresham store in 2013 and operate the business from home. They can still file an appeal with the Oregon Court of Appeals.

One of the Kleins' attorneys, Anna Harmon, criticized the order, saying it was a case of "an overpowered elected official using his position to root out thought and speech with which he personally disagrees."

Avakian's order is unconstitutional, Harmon said, because "the right to speak freely, to think uniquely, and to live according to our faith is the bedrock of this country."

But Jeana Frazzini, co-director of the gay-rights group Basic Rights Oregon, praised the order.

"This case struck a chord with many Oregonians because allowing businesses to deny goods and services to people because of who they are and whom they love is hurtful and wrong," Frazzini said in a statement.

Kansas Governor Pondering Religious Objections Legislation

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Republican Gov. Sam Brownback said July 2 that he's considering proposing a new religious objections law for Kansas following the U.S. Supreme Court's legalization of gay marriage, and he defended his administration's cautious response to the ruling.

Same-sex couples can obtain marriage licenses in all 105 Kansas counties, but the state is not allowing gay and lesbian spouses to change their names on driver's licenses, nor has it said whether couples can file joint income tax returns. The state has not extended coverage to gay spouses under its health insurance plan for government workers.

Brownback has been a strong supporter of the state's gay marriage ban, which was reinforced in 2005 by an amendment to the Kansas Constitution overwhelmingly approved by voters. In February, he rescinded an executive order issued in 2007 by then-Democratic Gov. Kathleen Sebelius to protect gays and lesbians from discrimination

in state hiring and employment decisions, saying legislators should approve such a policy.

The conservative governor said the state will move "as expeditiously as we can" to make changes, but he didn't have a timetable.

"You have to understand and get the mechanisms in place," he told reporters. "We've had meetings with the attorney general, with the relevant Cabinet agencies. We want to make sure to do this right."

Asked whether he'd outline a proposal for legislators next year, Brownback said, "We're looking at that." Lawmakers are out of session for the year.

"We want to make sure that people's religious liberties are protected," he said.

Arkansas and Indiana enacted religious objections laws this year but were forced to change them because of a national backlash, including from business groups.

► Whose Liberty?

Continued from p. 6

national debate over same-sex marriage.

The debate over marriage for same-sex couples, wrote Scalia, "displayed American democracy at its best."

"Individuals on both sides of the issue passionately, but respectfully, attempted to persuade their fellow citizens to accept their views... Win or lose," Scalia wrote, "advocates for both sides continued pressing their cases, secure in the knowledge that an electoral loss can be negated by a later electoral win. That is exactly how our system of government is supposed to work."

But that's not the system Scalia defended in 2000 when he went along with the 5 to 4 decision in *Bush v. Gore* that delivered the presidential election to Republican George W. Bush. That opinion (which did not identify an author) said that the majority admired the Constitution's design to leave certain matters "to the people, through their legislatures, and to the political sphere" with one

notable exception:

"When contending parties invoke the process of the courts... it becomes our unsought responsibility to resolve the federal and constitutional issues the judicial system has been forced to confront."

That latter line might well have fit into the majority opinion for *Obergefell*. Instead, Kennedy wrote, "the Constitution contemplates that democracy is the appropriate process for change, so long as that process does not abridge fundamental rights."

"The dynamic of our constitutional system," Kennedy wrote, "is that individuals need not await legislative action before asserting a fundamental right."

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders attorney Mary Bonauto put it most succinctly on "The Rachel Maddow Show" June 26: "In our system, you don't have to convince every single person before the court vindicates your constitutional rights."

Online: Read the *Obergefell* decision at www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/14pdf/14-556_3204.pdf

Episcopalians OK Allowing Same-Sex Marriage In Churches

BY BRADY MCCOMBS AND RACHEL ZOLL

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) – The Episcopal Church has completed its embrace of gay rights, changing church law to allow same-sex religious marriages throughout the denomination, just days after the U.S. Supreme Court legalized gay marriage nationwide.

The new policy won overwhelming approval from the top Episcopal legislative body July 1, following decades of debate and conflict. It came 12 years after the denomination blazed a trail by electing the first openly gay bishop.

“To finally get to this day is an incredible moment,” said the Rev. Cynthia Black, of Morristown, New Jersey, a lesbian who has been campaigning for gay acceptance for years. “It is the beginning. It is not the end. There will still be people excluded, but at least we’ve gotten to this point.”

The vote came in Salt Lake City at the Episcopal General Convention. Many dioceses in the New York-based church of nearly 1.9 million members already had been allowing their priests to perform civil same-sex weddings, using a trial prayer service to bless the couple. Still, the church hadn’t changed its own laws on marriage until July 1.

The new law eliminates gender-specific language on marriage so same-sex couples could have religious weddings. Instead of “husband” and “wife,” for example, the new church law will refer to “the couple.” Clergy can decline to perform the ceremonies.

The changes were approved 173-27 by the House of Deputies, a voting body of clergy and lay people. The deputies also approved a gender-neutral prayer service for marriage on a 184-23 vote. The House of Bishops had given authorization for both measures a day earlier.

The measures take effect the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 29.

The Episcopal Church is the U.S. wing of the Anglican Communion, an 80 million-member global fellowship of churches. Ties among Anglicans have been strained since Episcopalians in 2003 elected Bishop Gene Robinson, who lived openly with his male partner, to lead the Diocese of New Hampshire. Many more conservative Episcopalians either split off or distanced themselves from the national U.S. church after Robinson’s election.

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, spiritual leader of the world’s Anglicans, earlier this week expressed deep concern about the move to change the definition of marriage.

During debate, the Rev. Jose Luis Mendoza-Barahona of Honduras said the new church law goes against the Bible and would create a chasm in the church.

Ties among Anglicans have been strained since Episcopalians in 2003 elected Bishop Gene Robinson, who lived openly with his male partner, to lead the Diocese of New Hampshire. Many more conservative Episcopalians either split off or distanced themselves from the national U.S. church after Robinson’s election.

“The fight has not ended, it’s starting,” he said during debate at the convention. “Those of us in the church who are loyal followers of Christ are going to remain firm in not recognizing what happened today.”

But in an interview after the vote, Robinson said he was “delighted” and “proud” of the church.

“It’s a day I wasn’t sure I would live to see,” said Robinson, who is now retired. “What we’re seeing I think in the Episcopal Church, and last week with the Supreme Court decision, is an entire culture evolving into understanding that gay and lesbian, bisexual and transgender people contribute just as much as anyone else to this society and deserve all the same rights.”

The Episcopal Church joins two other mainline Protestant groups that allow gay marriage in all their congregations: the United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The 3.8-million-member Evangelical Lutheran Church in America lets its congregations decide for themselves, and many of them host gay weddings.

The United Methodist Church, by far the largest mainline Protestant church with 12.8 million members, bars gay marriage, although many of its clergy have been officiating at same-sex weddings recently in protest.

Black and her wife Becky Walker, who had a commitment ceremony in their home in 1988 and formally married four years ago in Massachusetts, said they hoped the changes would help reverse dwindling church membership, drawing young people looking for a welcoming religion.

“People under the age of 30 don’t understand what the fuss is about. They’ve grown up having LGBT folks as their friends and part of their life,” Black said. “They don’t understand why the church would ever exclude them.”

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Hare Today, Gone Tomorrow

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

“Your problems can be solved with this box of amazing cure-alls,” hooty hooted Exodus P. Barn Owl, Q.D., shoving a package of Miracle Elastics, Assorted Colors, Funny Farm, LTD., across his polished oak-apple desk to Reginald Rabbit, referral patient number 583.

“They’re color coded,” added Dr. Exodus, blinking his big hypnOotic eyes behind his horned-owl-rimmed glasses, and grandly fluttering his fine feathers.

“Pink’s for mania – your obsession with chasing after hares. Red’s for over stimulation – your premature ejack-rabbitulation. And orange is for those hip-hop thoughts that get you tossed into the briar patch. The sOOner you start snapping, Reggie, my boy, the better. Call me Barney.”

Reginald Rabbit wiggled his cottony tail, crinkled his pinky nose, and hummed softly, “I trust you, Barney. Barney, I do.”

“You’re a southpaw, so put the Miracle Elastic on your right wrist. Elastics come in different widths. The thinner, the sharper the sting. You’ll need a sting that’s sharp as a wasp but not as sharp as a bumble bee.”

“I don’t suppose a hornet sting would do the trick,” asked Reginald, who thought he knew a thing or two about things horny, tricking and getting stung.

“Tut. Tut. Tut. You shouldn’t be lOOking for the easy way out,” hOOted Dr. Exodus. “With these elastics you’ll get 500 snaps each. That’ll get you through the day without wanting to bunny hop in the bramble every hapless hare you fancy.”

“I advise you to change rubbers, er, elastics at bedtime,” the redoubtable shrink continued. “That way, should you be aroused by an off-color dream of misbehaving in Mr. McGregor’s garden, you’ll get around-the-clock protection of the Barn Owl Queerly Doctors Association, never-fail, pre-scare-a-tOOty-therapy.”

“How hard should I snap, Barney,” asked Reginald, wanting to make sure the cure, for which he emptied two piggy banks, would work. “Light, medium, hard or, zippy-do-dah, that hurts like heck?”

“The harder, the better. Oh, yes: here’s a ginger snap-happy tip. If you see a lively hare that really gets your tail in a twitter, snap with a Sky Blue elastic. There’s twelve to a box.” “Sky Blue?”

“Yes. For holy-roly-poly reinforcement. Hare-raising thoughts can be banished forever with these power-of-positive-thinking whippersnappers. Remember: If things get too hare-oooh-ing: Be true. Go Blue.”

“I’ll try anything, Barney, if only I can hide Easter eggs without feeling guilty. How long does this pre-scare-a-tOOty-whatever take?”

“I can’t say for sure – it’s not professional – but I’ve seen hare-raising changes in 12 snappy months. And do wear long sleeves. Bruises can cause gossip from starlings, crows and magpies. (Ding bats all!) When you’ve worn out these magic elastics, come back for another box – 10 percent discount.”

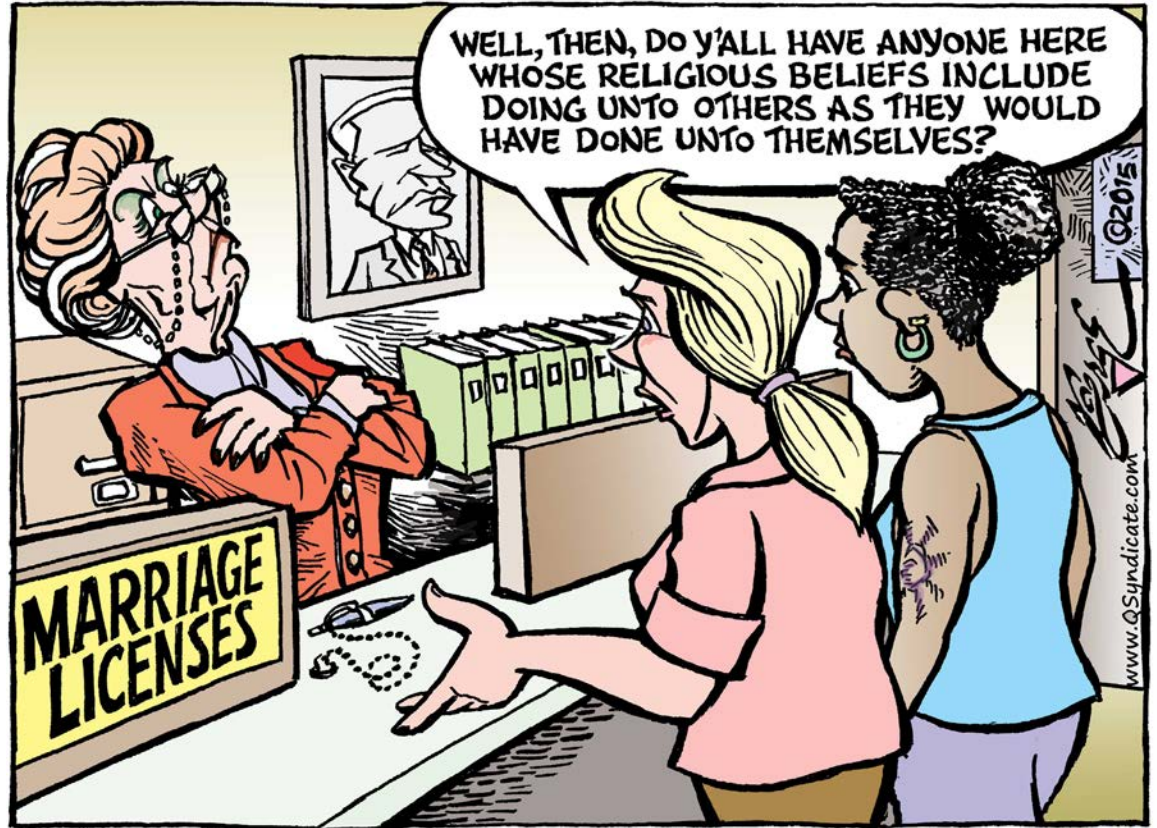
Whereupon Dr. Exodus P. Hoot Owl shut his big OOs and – straight as an arrow – fell asleep, dreaming of mice, rats and delectably fat, but rarely obtainable, voles. Reginald Rabbit took the Miracle Elastics, chose a Sky Blue one, slipped it next to his Mickey Mouse watch, and *snapped* it hornet strength, then hopped hopefully and gaily into the glen to pick daisies.

“Well, Reggie, are you still having thoughts about humping hares instead of jumping rabbits?” asked Dr. Exodus P. Barn Owl one year, seven days, four hours, three minutes later.

“I’m afraid so,” answered Reginald sheepishly. “I’ve snapped – snapped so many times my wrist’s gone perfectly limp. Say! What’s up, doc? I’d like my money back.”

“Well, isn’t that a hOOt,” said Dr. Exodus, staring blankly into space. “Sorry, Ex-Patient Number 583. There’s no refund for hare brains like you.” (OO!)

Charles@pridesource.com (July is National Take A Dyke to Lunch Month)



Scouting For Every Girl Transmissions

OPINION BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

#ForEVERYGirl

Several decades ago, a cousin of mine was a member of the Girl Scouts of America. Her mother – my aunt – became troop leader for her troop. My own mother got roped in to help. My mom would pick me up after school and drag me along to the meetings. And this is how I ended up being an unofficial Girl Scout.

While this was long before I came out, I already had a good sense that I was transgender. I, of course, never had a uniform, never received a patch – though I did ask for them once – and wasn’t exactly a formal member: I doubt it would have been allowed at that time. All that said, it was a boon to me back then to have an experience where I could participate in some of the same events and projects as the rest of the troop. It made me a better person.

Several decades later, a transgender girl by the name of

The Girl Scout law charges its members to be, amongst other things, courageous and strong. It also demands that scouts make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout. And so they have remained true to their oath.

Bobby Montoya wanted to join the Girl Scouts of Colorado. When her mother attempted to get Montoya into the local troop, however, she was turned down. The troop leaders told her that Montoya’s “boy parts” precluded membership.

The story did not end there: the Girl Scouts of Colorado, in light of the store, said that a mistake was made and that Montoya was indeed welcome to join.

In May of this year, the American Family Association published an online petition asking the Girl

Scouts to restrict membership, threatening that, “Boys in skirts, boys in make-up and boys in tents will become a part of the program,” and that “this change will put young innocent girls at risk.”

In response, chief girl expert Andrea Bastiani Archibald of Girl Scouts reaffirmed their inclusive policies on the Girl Scouts’ blog.

“If a girl is recognized by her family, school and community as a girl and lives culturally as a girl, Girl Scouts is an organization that can

See Transmissions, next page

► Transmissions

Continued from p. 14

serve her in a setting that is both emotionally and physically safe,” said Archibald. “Inclusion of transgender girls is handled at a council level on a case by case basis, with the welfare and best interests of all members as a top priority.”

It’s a good policy, and one that serves all girls – but a policy is only as good as how the individual Girl Scout councils stick to it.

The Girl Scouts of Western Washington recently received a \$100,000 donation, which would benefit some 500 girls in the organization. Such a sum is a boon to such an organization, and could really do a lot of good.

There was only one catch: after the aforementioned blog post and the media surrounding, the donor insisted that none of the money be used for transgender participants.

A lesser organization may have done just that, perhaps being somewhat duplicitous in order to keep the donor happy while serving the majority of their members. But this is no such organization.

The Girl Scouts of Western Washington returned the money – and then went public with the story. They turned to an Internet-based fundraising platform with a campaign called “Girl Scouts is #ForEVERYGirl.” This is located online at www.indiegogo.com/projects/girl-scouts-is-foreverygirl. Through it, they sought to replace the \$100,000, offering a number of nice perks, such as T-shirts, patches and even time at camp.

Word of the fundraiser quickly spread. They quickly exceeded their \$100,000 goal and doubled it within 24 hours. The fundraiser topped \$300,000 within its first week. As of press time, the campaign still has an additional 21 days to go, and could likely hit at least \$400,000 by its end.

We’ve seen so many big victories recently, most notably the marriage decision from the Supreme Court. These have all been important, yes – but I can’t help but look at the legacy that the Girl Scouts is building and realize what a fundamental shift is underway for transgender people.

The Girl Scouts of Colorado could have turned away Bobby Montoya in 2012 and, quite honestly, that could have been the end of it for a while. Certainly they could have covered it up well enough with a nice letter about how they would review the incident and consider what they might do in the future, and so on.

The Girl Scouts of the United States of America could have not chosen to include transgender girls in their mission. It probably would still be a while before such would be challenged, and again, they could have easily kicked the can down the road a bit. Likewise, Andrea Bastiani Archibald could have just as easily not responded publicly to the fear mongering of the American Family Association.

All of this would have likely been the politically expedient, the careful and – frankly – the cowardly way to react. It would not, however, have been the Girl Scout way to respond.

The Girl Scout law charges its members to be, amongst other things, courageous and strong. It also demands that scouts make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout. And so they have remained true to their oath.

My cousin won’t speak to me now, and my aunt refuses to set foot in my house. Clearly, they chose not to embody that law I learned oh so many years ago. Girl Scouts, however, have set themselves up to continue to lead in the 21st Century and continue to support every girl.

I cannot help but salute them for that.

Gwen Smith gives a shout out to the Spanish Trails council. You’ll find her on Twitter at @gwenners.



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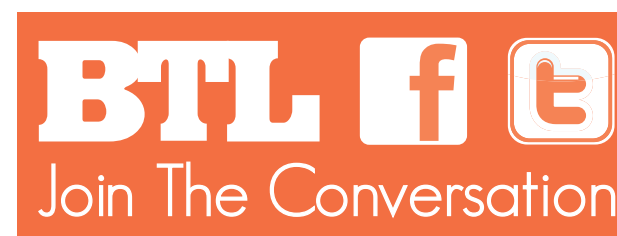
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Positive Thoughts

Passing The Test

BY ORIOL R. GUTIERREZ JR.

Getting tested for HIV nowadays is a snap. In the era of over-the-counter rapid in-home testing, I'm befuddled why so many gay men, especially young guys, lack awareness of their HIV status.



I suppose part of the answer, at least for young guys, is plain old feelings of invincibility. All young and young-minded folks share in those feelings.

Perhaps, for some guys, not knowing gives them license to say they're HIV negative, since for all they know they are. For others, perhaps not knowing insulates them from any potential pain of a positive result.

I could keep that list going, but the point is that countless reasons exist for not knowing. Many of those reasons may even seem reasonable. Well, I'm here to tell you that no reason you can come up with is a good one.

Maybe you're just a procrastinator. No matter. I'm a world-class procrastinator myself. Procrastination isn't a good reason. Being fine with getting tested in theory but delaying doing so in practice is only asking for trouble.

Knowing your HIV status is crucial. If you test negative, you have incentive to stay that way. If you test positive, you can start the process of staying healthy. Better to know now than to be blindsided later.

Although I've been living with HIV for more than two decades, I still remember what it's like to get tested for the virus. The fear is understandable, but it shouldn't stop you. Your health is paramount.

I passed my first HIV test with flying colors: Negative. At the time, I had just turned 21 and boy was I psyched. I was cleared for duty, so to speak, as well as legal to drink. Watch out world, here I come.

However, I was more careful this time around. Before that test, I hadn't always adhered to the condom rule, although I knew the risks. Now that I was given this reprieve, I was determined not to squander it.

A year later, I failed my second HIV test: Positive. I found out the day after my 22nd birthday. My commanding officer in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve read my diagnosis from a script. Cold, but tactful.

I knew the positive result was correct, but denial took over. I retested twice before accepting the reality of my situation. At that moment, I started believing that I was going

to die before I turned 30.

It was 1992. Effective HIV treatment wouldn't arrive until 1996 and AIDS-related deaths were still increasing. The death of my boyfriend in 1994 only increased my fear that I wouldn't live much longer.

Fast-forward over two decades. Turns out I'm still here and I plan on being here for a long time. Failing that HIV test wasn't the end of the world, but I must admit that I still wish that I had passed it.

I've learned to live with HIV in my body, but the virus remains an unwelcome guest. If the cure for HIV was here tomorrow, I would quickly get in line. I have no romantic attachment to the virus.

I also have no attachment to any resentment about getting HIV. Despite my late boyfriend not telling me the truth about his being HIV positive, I agreed not to use condoms with him. We both shared in that decision.

I'm not alone. Much of why the epidemic continues can be explained by folks not knowing their status and transmitting HIV unintentionally, but also by couples who ditch condoms before they know for sure each is negative.

You could argue that my late boyfriend had a moral imperative to disclose his HIV status that was higher than my moral imperative to protect myself. Perhaps you could even be right. However, even after all this time, I still haven't decided.

What I have decided, now having lived more than half of my life with HIV, is that I did the right thing for myself by forgiving him. I believe he never intended to transmit HIV, so forgiving him wasn't too difficult for me.

The anger I felt toward him in the first few years after I seroconverted was soon trumped by the experience of now being in his shoes. Not pretty. Rejection was everywhere. The stigma was stifling. I now understood.

And I still understand. Little has changed when it comes to HIV stigma. Not only has the virus proven resistant to a cure, it also has resisted decades of attempts to eradicate the stigma surrounding it.

Strangely enough, I believe testing regularly for HIV would do wonders in stomping out stigma. If everyone did it, and did it often, folks would finally start feeling like it's not so scary. Peer pressure at its best.

Oriol R. Gutierrez Jr. is the editor-in-chief of POZ magazine. Find him on Twitter @oriolgutierrez. This column is a project of Plus, Positively Aware, POZ, The Body and Q Syndicate, the LGBT wire service. Visit their websites — <http://hivplusmag.com>, <http://positivelyaware.com>, <http://poz.com> and <http://thebody.com> — for the latest updates on HIV/AIDS.

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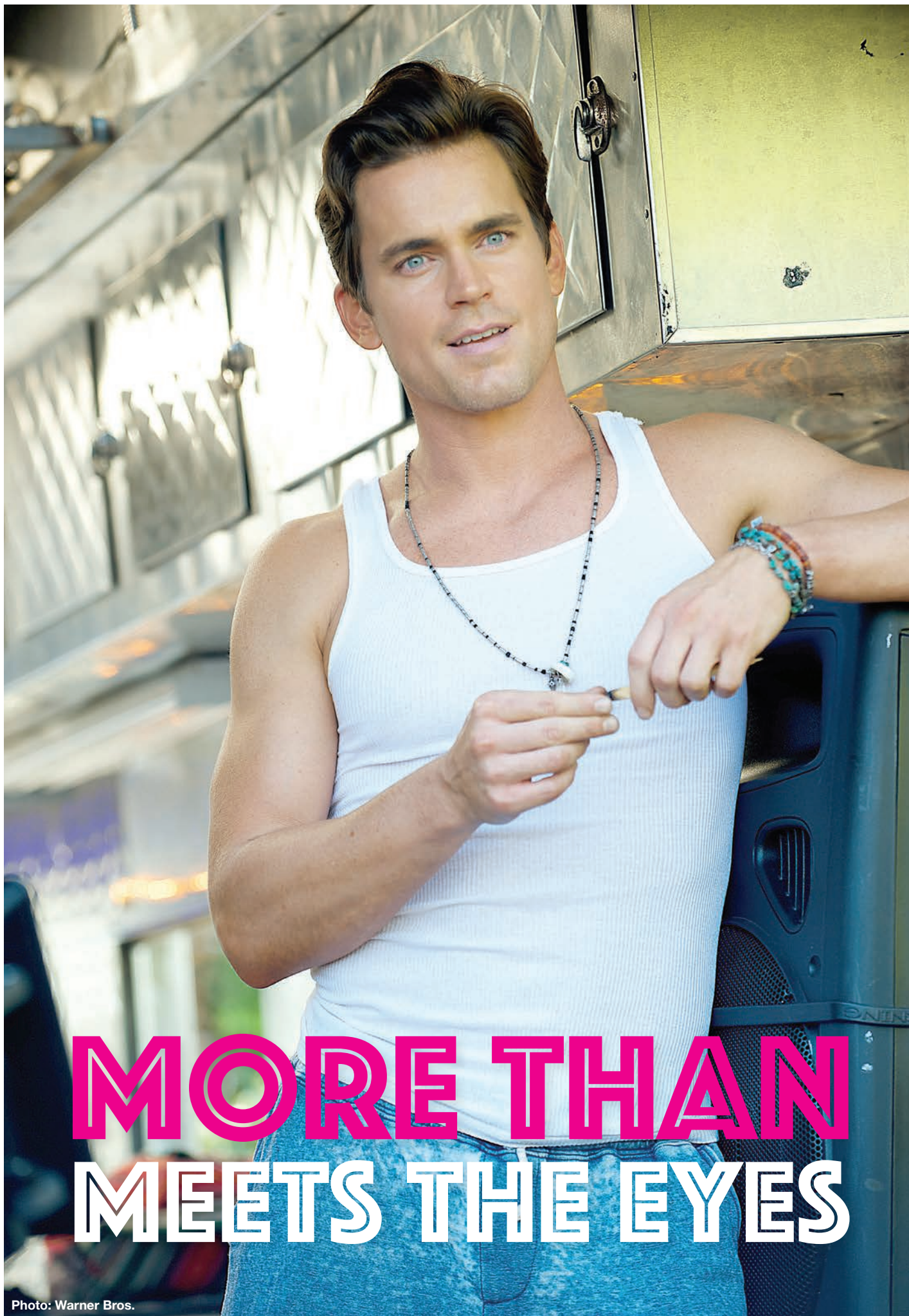


Photo: Warner Bros.

MORE THAN MEETS THE EYES

Matt Bomer Talks Channing Flattery, Coming Out & Indecent Gyrations

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Matt Bomer is not buying all the buzz about Matt Bomer. Channeling his trademark charm, the actor calls it “sheer fallacy” that anyone – let alone heterosexual men – could possibly find his piercing baby-blue eyes swoon-worthy.

And then there’s his body. On display in all its near-nakedness in “Magic Mike XXL,” Bomer is modest about his sculpted physique. You expect it, of course. The 37-year-old dreamboat – just ask Channing Tatum – was born in Missouri and raised in Texas, and he hasn’t strayed from his humble Southern roots despite scorching screen after screen.

Not just with a striptease, either.

His Golden Globe-winning performance as Felix Turner in HBO’s powerful adaptation of Larry Kramer’s 1985 play “The Normal Heart” was a tear-jerking tour de force. And soon, Bomer will bring the spooks, starring alongside Lady Gaga during the upcoming “American Horror Story: Hotel,” another collaboration with Ryan Murphy (both worked together previously on “Glee” and “The Normal”).

We talked to Bomer about geeking out to Gaga, explaining “Magic Mike” to his sons and how Channing Tatum made him blush.

You and your “Magic Mike” co-star Channing Tatum recently made a surprise appearance at LA Pride. As a gay man yourself, what was it like having Channing show his support for you and the rest of the LGBT community?

It’s one of the many things that makes him the magnanimous, amazing, cherished soul that he is. It was his idea, to be honest with you. And he didn’t have to do it. The reality of the situation is, it wasn’t some PR move on his part – he wanted to be inclusive, and that’s a big part of who he is as a human being. So, given the opportunity to work with him, and really everybody in this cast – they’re just a great example of what we all can be, which are people who are secure in themselves, and loving and accepting of people no matter who they are and where they come from.

Channing was very complimentary toward you in his recent Reddit AMA interview. He said he “absofuckinglutely” gets lost in your eyes, and that “I don’t know what they are made of outside of dreams and rainbows and amazingness...” How did you react when you

learned of his enthusiasm for you?

(Laughs) I mean, obviously, I blushed. Knowing Channing, and what a kind soul he is, I guess when you're the most handsome man on the planet – and probably the most desired man on the planet – you have the security to give those kinds of compliments. And so, it was great. It made my day, of course! I and the rest of the world feel the same way about him.

Your eyes get a lot of attention from a lot of people. Have they always stopped traffic?

I don't think they do! I think that's sheer fallacy and kindness on the part of others. (Laughs) No – I'm still just trying to wake up in the morning with the kids, so I don't really have time to think about that. More like, "Do I look like I got five hours of sleep last night?!"

So there's a gay bar scene in "Magic Mike XXL."

How great is that, to have a gay bar scene with a full-on drag show and some of the best voguers in the world? I mean, it was like a little vogue ball going on.

Did you shoot at a real gay bar?

I'm not sure, to be honest with you. They sure made the location feel like it! I didn't ask; you roll up on set and that's where you are that day. I wasn't like, "Guys, is this a legit gay bar?!" The set-dec team on this movie is so gifted, so everywhere you go you just think, "Oh, this is what it is!"

It's good to see you have more lines in "XXL."

Well, that wouldn't be hard. I would only have had to say, like, two or three words to have more lines than I had in the first one. (Laughs)

And the singing! You get to cover D'Angelo's "Untitled (How Does It Feel)."

Oh my god. I mean, that was the best white man's attempt I could make at that song. I just tried to stay in the game, man. I mean, that vocal and that song – I couldn't believe we were even trying to touch it.

Were you intimidated?

Of course! The whole thing was Channing's idea. We did the first movie on a tiny budget, and we entertained the extras between takes. One time he just threw them right in front of my face and was like, "Do something entertaining." That's the creative, spontaneous soul that Channing is, and Joe (Manganiello) has known me since we were 18 and so (Joe) was like, "You should sing something!" And I was like, "What do I sing?" Channing was like, "I don't know – sing some Jodeci." And so I did!

He remembered that for the second movie. He was like, "Why don't you sing something? What song would you sing?" I was like, "Obviously the sexiest song of all time is 'How Does It Feel' by D'Angelo, but I'm not gonna touch that song." He was like,

"Why don't you give it a try?" So I basically recorded a vocal over a karaoke track, more or less – I ended up singing it live in the movie – but that recording is basically what we used to choreograph the piece and what we based the eventual performance on.

What do you remember thinking the first time you saw D'Angelo bare almost all during the "Untitled" video?

Honestly, I got "Voodoo" as soon as it came out (in 2000), and I remember hearing that song and just playing it over and over again. And there's an extended cut of that song that's, like, seven minutes long! I was just so fascinated to hear a song that's in six-eight time, and I know that's musician lingo, but it was so inherently sexy in such an effortless way. Seeing the video was icing on the cake. I think I was like, "How do you get that jacked? How do you get in that kind of shape?" And then I was also like, "Was he really naked?!"

And now you are that jacked in "Magic Mike."

Oh please! Not even.

As they get older, how will you explain "Magic Mike" to your three sons?

You know, I think the dialogue has already begun. I think it's dangerous to just ignore something. Fortunately or unfortunately there are billboards on the way to their school, so when I'm driving them to school in the morning – the first couple of times I tried to duck my head – they realize it's me. So, I told them when I was doing the movie, "This is a movie I'm doing where we play dancers and we have fun and we try to entertain these ladies." I try to frame it in a context that they can understand so that they're not just operating in the dark and going, "Why is my dad naked on a billboard?" Because I'm trying to help them make sense of their world. In terms of a real conversation as to what that is, that probably won't start until they're teenagers. (Laughs)

And by the way, they keep me real grounded and real down to earth about it all. I remember I was actually taking my older son to see "Jurassic World," and on the way there was the billboard and I was like, "Ah, crap." And he brought it up. "Hey, that's you on that billboard." I was like, "Yeah." And he goes, "But they're not *all* you." Like, you ain't that cool. (Laughs)

The interesting thing about kids is, they don't care what you do so much or what other people think about you; they're more interested in what your relationship with them is like and how you prioritize them in your life. I try to make a strong effort to make them know they're always number one for me.

As an actor, what's it like to go from a role in a movie that's as intense as "The Normal Heart" to "Magic Mike XXL"? Is that balance critical for you

See Matt Bomer, page 20

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► **Matt Bomer**

Continued from p. 19

as a person?

I'll be honest with you, it was for me, man. I went from "Normal Heart" into the last season of a show I'd done for six years (USA's "White Collar," 2009-2014), and then into a couple of more serious roles in other films, and this was the perfect break. The thing about being an actor is you approach your work the same regardless of what the role is or what the genre is or what the themes are – you try to put the same amount of work into it – but it was certainly nice and a breath of fresh air to get to chill out and have fun with these guys.

You came out publicly in 2012, and you handled it with so much grace and subtlety. These days, there's a lot of pressure on Hollywood actors to take that step. Where do you stand on the role of public Hollywood figures in terms of advancing the gay movement?

You know, it's not my business to get up on a soapbox and tell people what they should and shouldn't do. I think one thing that people don't always take into consideration is a holistic aspect of what may or may not be going on in that individual's life – you know, what kind of relationship they have with their family, how the people around them feel about it. But for me, having kids and being married, it was important to maintain the integrity of those relationships and not teach my kids that this is a shameful secret and that my husband (Simon Halls) has to be waiting in the wings all the time. So that's why it was important to me

personally. By the same token, I don't hold anyone else accountable. It's their choice.

Now onto "American Horror Story."

According to a tweet from Ryan Murphy, Lady Gaga has to choose between you and actor Finn Wittrock during the upcoming season of "American Horror Story: Hotel." First of all, have you even read the script yet?

(Laughs) That's a great question. You're the first person who's started with that question, which I think is, ultimately, the most important question. I've read a couple of them. I wish I could tell you more. Honestly, I have no specifics of who's playing which role and what Finn is playing, but I have a tremendous amount of respect for him as an actor and a person, and I'm incredibly excited to work with Stefani (Germanotta, aka Lady Gaga) as well and see what she brings to the table. And listen, Ryan is a creative genius. He really is. Nobody does a show quite like he does, so I'm really excited to get to play in that twisted and beautiful world they've created. Whatever they bring my way, I'm down.

Which Lady Gaga song could you see yourself stripping to?

Oh, you mean which one do I blast full volume in my car? I don't know which one I'd strip to, to be honest with you, but I definitely get down to "The Edge of Glory" in my car and just geek out to it. If anyone saw me at a stop light, they would think I was crazy. I just let it fly in the car. I'll do that.

Do you ever watch that show "Broad City"? It's everything. I'm so in love with these two girls who are the leads, and one of them at one point finally gets

the apartment to herself and she blasts "Edge of Glory" and just does a full-on dance around her apartment. I will straight up do the same thing at my house when I get, you know, two free seconds.

How have the moves you've learned from doing two "Magic Mike" movies been an asset to you in your own life?

Um, they haven't been. (Laughs) First of all, after we finished the first film, my sister got married shortly thereafter, and I took some of my new gyrations to the dance floor at her wedding reception. I realized very quickly, after getting some scathing looks from my cousins, that some things are just best left in the club and not brought to your sister's wedding reception party. Like, "Oh, I better check myself – I'm not in 'Magic Mike' anymore!" (Laughs)

The nice thing about this movie, and what I personally love, is it's about freedom, it's about being comfortable with yourself – especially the second one. It's about acceptance and a lack of judgment no matter who you are or where you come from. What I love about this world, this kind of odyssey that these guys all go on – yeah, they're in a drag club, and then they're at this party where people are doing drugs, but there's no judgment about it. It's these guys who are in this world trying to forget who they are but also accepting everything and everyone around them. That's me and something I take with me in my life.

Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service. Reach him via his website at www.chris-azzopardi.com and on Twitter (@chrisazzopardi).

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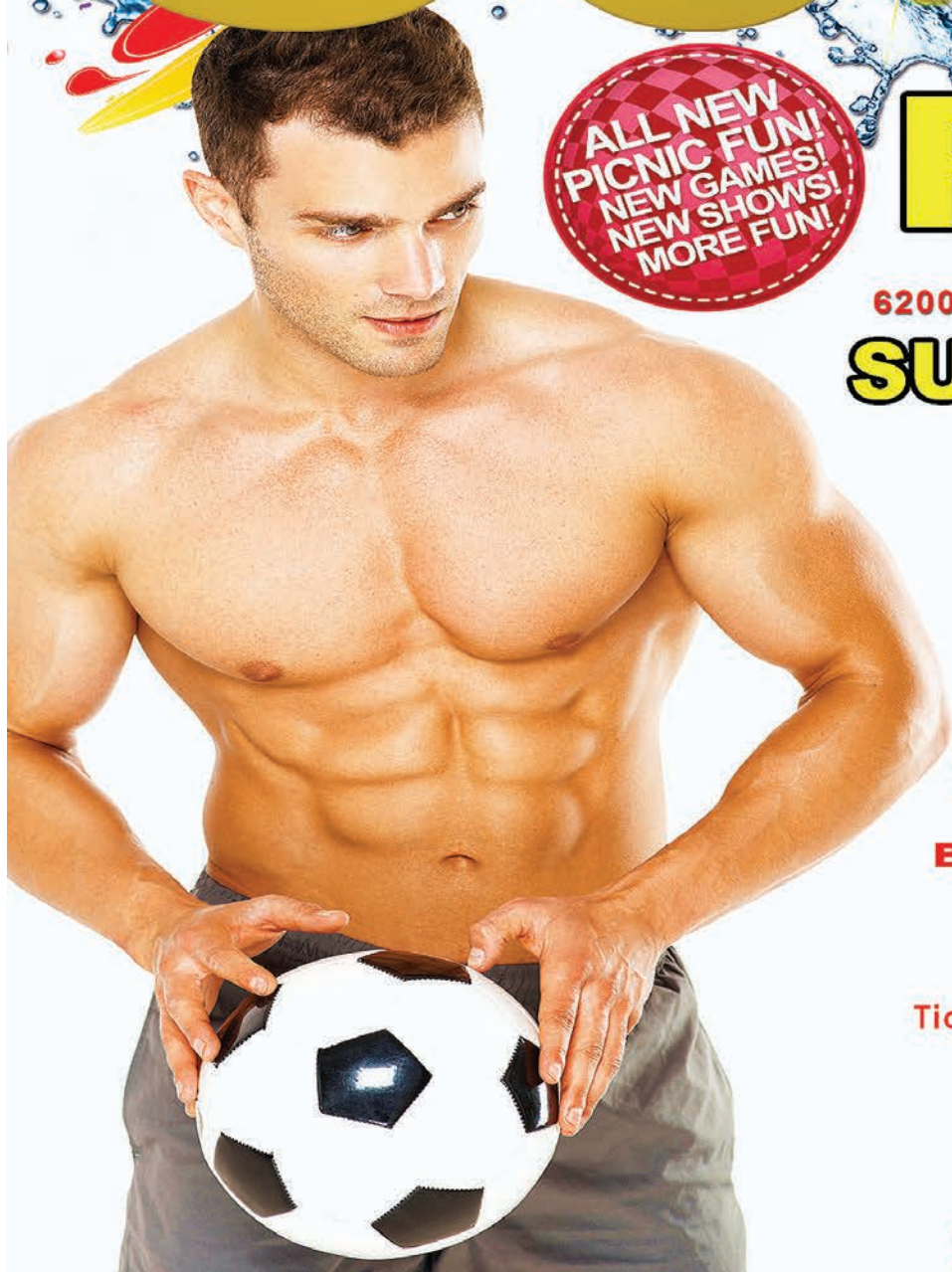
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Wharton Center Announces Senior Level Leadership Transitions

East Lansing's Wharton Center for Performing Arts is pleased to announce that Greg Weber has been hired as the Center's new director of operations and administration. Weber replaces Diane Baribeau, who is moving to Traverse City to become the executive director of the City Opera House on behalf of Wharton Center.

Weber brings 30 years of leadership and management experience in the performing arts, having worked at Tulsa Opera, San Francisco Opera Association, the Geva Theatre Center in Rochester, New York and Houston Grand Opera Association. He has a record of successful event management and execution of productions and is very excited to be joining the Wharton Center family.

"Wharton Center not only presents outstanding artistic productions; it represents one of the most forward-thinking performing arts centers in connecting its region to arts education and cultural community services. I am delighted to be joining the organization and management team, which is a leader in all parts of the dramatic arts."

Diane Baribeau's contribution to Wharton Center has been, and continues to be, immense. She led the Center's \$18.5 million renovation in 2009; that same year, Wharton Center signed a management agreement with the City Opera House, a move designed to further Wharton's mission to serve as a leading resource for arts entertainment and education programs statewide, and Baribeau successfully has helped to lead the City Opera House team. Baribeau also served as MSU's operations manager for the successful U2 360 degree concert at Spartan Stadium in 2011.

Wharton Center's Executive Director Mike Brand says, "Diane Baribeau is one of the hardest working people I know, and although we won't see her daily at Wharton, we know she will continue the Center's mission to strengthen the value of arts across the state. Her 38 plus years on campus, the first 13 with University Development, signify her dedication to MSU and to Wharton Center."

Diane Baribeau's move to Traverse City will allow her to spend more time at her favorite vacation spot, which will now become her permanent home. This permanent move north will allow her to focus more on the day-to-day operations at the historic City Opera House. Baribeau says, "I've had a remarkable career at Wharton Center and MSU and am looking forward to moving to Torch Lake and enjoying a somewhat slower pace with the City Opera House. I feel very fortunate to have enjoyed both of my positions at MSU and am proud of the recognition Wharton Center has achieved."

Brand also says he is looking forward to the addition of Greg Weber to the Wharton team. "Greg brings an array of management experience mixed in with his excellent communication skills, professionalism and knowledge of the business. His management knowledge and appreciation for the arts along with his commitment to community engagement is a perfect fit for Wharton Center." Weber and Baribeau will transition into their new roles this month.

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Editor's Pick

The Detroit Actor's Theatre Company presents "bare: a pop opera," the story of a group of high school seniors at a Catholic boarding school who face issues of sexuality and personal identity. As they struggle to come to terms with who they are, and who the world thinks they should be, they seek answers from their church, their friends and, ultimately, from themselves. Its rich, vibrant score draws on many styles of contemporary music.

The DATC is proud to be partnering with Affirmations in downtown Ferndale to help support the LGBT and community outreach programs. Five percent of all ticket sales for the run of "bare" will go to benefit those causes.

Showtimes for "bare" are 8 p.m. on July 10, 11, 17 and 18. Tickets are \$15 for students and seniors, \$20 for adults. The shows will be held in the Social Hall Theatre, located inside Ferndale First United Methodist Church, 22331 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Visit www.thedatc.org for more information.

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Thursday, July 16

MAC Health 1 a.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), Detroit. www.MichiganAIDScoalition.org

Summer of Service Open House 11 a.m. Detroit VA, Detroit. www.Va.gov/vasummerofservice/

Friday, July 17

Garden Tour 6 p.m. Tickets: \$75. Detroit's Historic Palmer Woods Garden Tour, Detroit. www.Palmerwoods.org

LGBT Dinner 6:30 p.m. Lansing Association for Human Rights, Lansing. www.Lahronline.org/

MAC Health 11 p.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), Detroit. www.MichiganAIDScoalition.org

Saturday, July 18

bare: a pop opera 8 p.m. Tickets: \$15-20. Five percent of proceeds to benefit Affirmations. Detroit Actor's Theatre Company, 22331 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. www.TheDatc.org

Julianne and Derek Hough:

Move Live On Tour 2015 8 p.m. Tickets: \$25-79.50. Olympia Entertainment, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-471-6611. www.Olympiaentertainment.com

The Wizard of Oz 8 p.m. Free. Cinetopia, 2826 Bagley Ave., Detroit. www.Cinetopiafestival.org

Sunday, July 19

LGBT Parenting Support Group 1 a.m. The purpose of the group is for LGBT families to have a monthly opportunity to get together to get to know one another and to discuss topics of interest. Free. Organization Name, 318 W. Nine Mile, Ferndale. 248-955-3219. info@naturesplayhouse.com www.Naturesplayhouse.com/

Yoga and Pilates in the Garden 12 p.m. Tickets: \$0-10. The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. 313-831-1250. www.Scarabclub.org

Bisexual Peer Group 4 p.m. Our group meets monthly on the third Sunday & discussion relates to bisexual identity. Building is handicap accessible using ramp to rear entrance. Bisexual Peer Group, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. paylor9@icloud.com [Facebook.com/groups/110918256984/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/110918256984/)

Tuesday, July 21

MAC Health 2 p.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), Detroit. www.MichiganAIDScoalition.org

Wednesday, July 22

MAC Health 10 a.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), Detroit. www.MichiganAIDScoalition.org

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

MUSIC & MORE

Ann Arbor Art Fair "Ann Arbor Street Art Fair". Downtown Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor. July 16 - July 18. www.Artfair.org

Concerts

Quicken Loans "Free Summer in the Parks" Running through Sept. 2, will be held in: Campus Martius/Cadillac Square, Capitol Park, Grand Circus and Paradise Valley. Four historic parks, Detroit. June 4 - Sep. 2.

The Ark "The Leftover Cuties" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. July 9. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

The Ark "Griffin House" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. July 12. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

The Magic Bag "Joshua Davis" Tickets: \$20. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. July 9. 248-544-3030. www.Themagicbag.com

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint "Mama Gina in Concert" Bard, pagan musician featuring fearless storytelling and bluesy vocals. Tickets: \$10-15. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint, 2474 S. Ballenger Highway, Flint. 7 p.m. July 13. 810-232-4023. www.Uuflint.org

Festivals

Wyandotte Street Art Fair "Wyandotte Street Art Fair". Wyandotte Street Art Fair, Downtown Wyandotte. July 8 - July 11. www.Wyandottestreetartfair.org

See Happenings, page 28

Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, July 9

MAC Health 2 p.m. Mondays by appointment only. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), Ferndale. www.MichiganAIDScoalition.org

MAC Health 11 p.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), 928 McNichols Road

W, Detroit. 313-863-3934. www.MichiganAIDScoalition.org

Friday, July 10

MAC Health 11 p.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), Detroit. www.MichiganAIDScoalition.org

Sunday, July 12

Metra Picnic 10 a.m. 35th Anniversary.

All new shows, male dancers, food vendors and more. Tickets: \$10-20. Metra Magazine, 62000 Gratiot Ave., Lenox Township. 248-543-3500. metramag@aol.com

Monday, July 13

Lansing Capital Roller Derby Summer Boot Camp 6 p.m. Six week, 12 session Roller Derby basic skills training boot camp. \$60 due day 1 of camp,

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JULY 8-9

10-11 2015



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▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 24

THEATER

Civic/Community Theater

Alice in Wonderland . Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. July 17 - July 26. 517-482-5700. www.Riverwalktheatre.com

Professional

2AZ Michael Brian Ogden's world premiere thriller digs deep into the recesses of our souls to face the monster that may be lurking in all of us. Tickets: \$12-42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Aug. 29. 734-433-7673. www.purplerosetheatre.org

Always a Bridesmaid Four friends have sworn to keep the promise they made on the night of their Senior Prom: to be in each other's weddings - no matter what. Tickets: \$35-41. The Dio - Dining & Entertainment, The Dio - Dining and Entertainment, 135 E. Main St., Pinckney. Through Aug. 2. 517-672-6009. www.diotheatre.com

As You Like It This timeless comedy highlights the liberating journey of self discovery while reminding us that "all the world's a stage." Tickets: \$30. Interlochen Shakespeare Festival, Upton-Morley Pavilion at Interlochen Center for the Arts, 4000 Highway M-137, Interlochen. Through July 11. 231-276-7800. www.interlochen.org

Cabaret At the provocative Kit Kat Klub in 1930s Berlin, an English performer and an American writer fall in love on the brink of World War II. Tickets: \$36-43. Mason Street Warehouse,

Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. Through July 12. 269-857-2399. www.sc4a.org

Ghost the Musical A young New York couple's connection takes a shocking turn after Sam's untimely death. Tickets: \$37. Barn Theatre, 13351 West M-96, Augusta. Through July 12. 269-731-4121. www.barntheatreschool.com

Hatfield's & McCoy's We have all heard of this feud, but who knows the truth! No one, really. This musical comedy adaptation is sure to help you pick sides. Tickets: \$43.50; includes meal and show. Cornwall's Dinner Theatre, 18935 15 1/2 Mile Rd., Marshall. Through Aug. 22. 269-781-4293. www.turkeyville.com

Other Desert Cities The story of a wounded family and the secrets they share. Tickets: \$25-41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through July 11. 734-663-0681. www.pntheatre.org

Sheer Genius' Laugh Factory Wacky jokes, off-the-wall games, and insane contests provide fun for all ages. Tickets: \$8. Tibbits Popcorn Theatre, Tibbits Summer Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. Through July 10. 517-278-6029. www.tibbits.org

To Kill a Mockingbird Through courage and compassion, lawyer Atticus Finch seeks truth and justice, while his feisty daughter, Scout, learns what it means to be an instrument of hope. Tickets: \$15-24. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through Aug. 8. 616-395-7890. www.hope.edu/hsrt

ART 'N' AROUND

N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art "Susan Aaron-Taylor: Journeying" . N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art,

52 E. Forest, Detroit. June 12 - Aug. 22.

Detroit Artists Market (DAM) "The Essential Self: Meditations on the Politics of Identity" . Detroit Artists Market, 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 12 - July 18. 313-832-8540. www.Detroitartistsmarket.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Beauty, Passion and Bliss: 19th Century Masterworks" . Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. May 17 - Aug. 16. 810-234-1695. www.Flintarts.org

MOCAD "Interchange Art + Dinner Series" Tickets: \$200+ . Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 18 - Sep. 24. 313-832-6622. www.Mocadetroit.org

MOCAD "Detroit City: Detroit Affinities" Detroit: Affinities, Speaks and Stages. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sep. 12 - Aug. 2. 313-832-6622. www.Mocadetroit.org

MOCAD "The Obama Paintings and the Lincoln Monument" . Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. May 15 - Aug. 2. 313-832-6622. www.Mocadetroit.org

N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art "Sam Gilliam: Prints" . N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, 52 E. Forest, Detroit. June 12 - Aug. 22.

N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art "Gregory Coates: Minutes" . N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, 52 E. Forest, Detroit. June 12 - Aug. 23.

The Scarab Club "Third Thursday" . The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. March 19 - Aug. 20. 313-831-1250. www.Scarabclub.org

UMMA "In Focus: Lynn Davis, Iceberg" . University Of Michigan Museum Of

Editor's Pick



The Detroit Artists Market presents "The Essential Self: Meditation on the Politics of Identity," an exhibition curated by Stephanie James, the Curator and Collection Educator for the Mott-Warsh Collection. "The Essential Self" is a powerful group exhibition of artists that explore the complexities of "identity."

Since the 1970s, the conception of identity has been in a constant state of flux. Its components which once amounted to the data found on a driver's license evolved during the latter part of the 20th century to form a complex framework reflective of a global and pluralistic society in which groups united by race, gender, class, religion, sexual orientation, geography and more were given a voice. The dialogue created was ripe for visual artists who, through their art, often challenged audiences to question pre-conceived notions and beliefs surrounding aspects of identity.

The exhibit will be on view through July 18. The Detroit Artists Market is open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and is located at 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Visit www.detroitartistsmarket.org for more information.

Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. May 1 - July 19. 734-763-4186. www.Umma.umich.edu

UMMA "Hana Hamplova: Meditations on Paper" . University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Feb. 21 - Aug. 9. 734-763-4186. www.Umma.umich.edu

UMMA "Flip Your Field: Objects from

the Collection" An exhibition from the Museum's collection of three-dimensional objects. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Jan. 24 - July 19. 734-763-4186. www.Umma.umich.edu

UMMA "Mine More Coal: War Effort and Americanism in World War I Posters" . University Of Michigan Museum Of

Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. May 9 - Sep. 20. 734-763-4186. www.Umma.umich.edu

UMMA "Sophie Calle: North Pole" . University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. May 2 - Aug. 9. 734-763-4186. www.Umma.umich.edu

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Puzzle solution on pg. 28

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I	C	I	E	R	A	S	T	I	A	X	L	E
R	E	N	A	L	D	U	E	L	L	I	M	B
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W	A	T	T	R	E	A	D	S	E	D	E	R

Redefining Home: The Fur Baby Boom

BY JIM LESSENBERRY

A year before I was born in 1955, a television classic debuted. Lassie, a rough coat Collie, was a rural superhero. "Lassie," the television program, is pragmatically summed up by June Lockhart, who played Ruth Martin (1959-64), mother of young son Timmy and their family dog Lassie, as "...a fairy tale about people on a farm in which the dog solves all the problems in 22 minutes, in time for the last commercial."

No, Lassie, the cross-dressing Collie (the female role always played by male dogs), had nothing to do with my eventual vocation as an animal behaviorist, but I always think of June Lockhart, when people snicker, "a dog shrink?"

It was not long ago that our family values saw dogs as chattel, personal property and not a part of the family. But, in the last few generations, there has been a shift in families moving from the farm to the cities and then the suburbs, and today, with the renaissance of Detroit, we find dogs in the even-more dense living quarters of apartments, lofts and condos. And with that shift in environments we call home, our relationship with our dogs has evolved by forcing us to live closer, spend more time together and, most importantly, develop a personal and emotional relationship with the animal that defines us as family.

We have discovered a value in our dogs that extends beyond the utilitarian functions of hunting, herding and security. We have come to value the emotional relationship they allow us and, as humans, we empathize with their dilemmas and feel guilt for their unmet needs.

Enter the animal behaviorist.

My first career in the 1970s and early '80s was in information technology. I assessed organizations and systems and designed software for intelligent automation. In time, thinking about thinking and behavior lead me to study the biology and psychology of learning and memory in living organisms. As an emerging yuppie, I had the requisite house in the suburbs, a backyard. Hobo was a stray taken in after days of seeing him wandering the rail tracks near my house and became my first child surrogate. His life with me overlapped my career transition and I soon saw how my new academic insights could be applied to the family pet. Applying my trade gave me a very well-mannered dog that turned heads and elicited compliments from everyone he met.

Soon I was helping others to train their dogs in the basic tricks of: "sit," "come," "down," "stay," and household rituals like stay off the furniture and where to poop. As I coached families to teach their dogs these tricks, I saw that having physical control alone did not necessarily make for a well-mannered dog. I also saw the infinite variation in behavior, temperament, personality and emotion in these



animals; along with the variations in behavior, personality, emotion, and expectations of the people they were living with.

I was hooked.

I began training dogs professionally in 1986 and was practicing clinical animal behavior by 1989. Thirty years of happy clients speaks to the profession's legitimacy. Animal behavior therapy is a little art backed up by a lot of science.

When dogs are fighting, biting, fearful, anxious, depressed, unruly, difficult to train, or exhibit truly bizarre behaviors, or are faced with challenges like deafness, blindness, or the cognitive deficits of old-age, a clinical animal behaviorist begins with an assessment of the ecology of the situation. Artfully, the assessment is interpreted against an understanding of the central, peripheral and autonomic nervous systems, behavioral genetics, endocrinology, and developmental issues that effect emotion and motivation.

The holistic approach of the

MAVERICK, a 6 year old Rottweiler and popular Family Training Course teaching assistant, gets a well deserved hug after a day's work.

clinical animal behaviorist involves the entire family, the animal, and the veterinarian when disease states or physiologic issues suggest benefit from further medical testing, procedures, or the use of pharmacologic treatments. Clinical animal behaviorists keep abreast of the science of behavior and learning, behavioral pharmacology, and technology.

Combine all of these with a complete understanding of the household, its players, expectations, and capabilities and the clinical animal behaviorist is better equipped to understand, make predictions, and implement successful strategies that are practical, affordable, safe and humane for the entire family.

James F. Lessenberry is a Clinical Animal Behaviorist and owner of Animal Learning Systems, Inc. He resides in rural Oakland County with his partner, 5-year-old son and their Jack Russell Terrier. For additional information: AnimalLearningSystems.com

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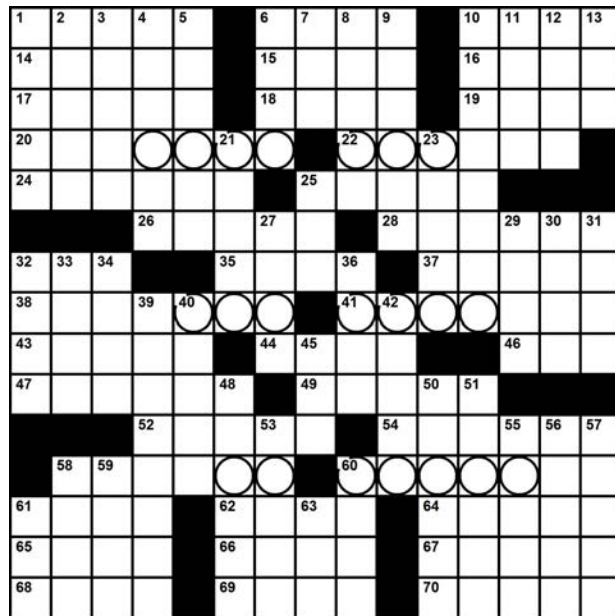
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Q Puzzle

I Refuse To Be Invisible



Across

- 1 Jane of "Grace and Frankie"
- 6 Member
- 10 Will of "The Waltons"
- 14 Slicker in the winter
- 15 Wine region of da Vinci's land
- 16 Trucker's rod

- 17 Kidney-related
- 18 Fight for a twosome
- 19 Life partner
- 20 Nelson, who championed LGBT rights
- 22 Broadway district
- 24 Sondheim's "___ Can Whistle"
- 25 "Another card" in S/M-speak?

Down

- 1 Like ground that's hard
- 2 South Beach setting
- 3 Boob
- 4 Completely faithful
- 5 Francis of old TV
- 6 Cry of pride
- 7 Coll. of Phil Andros
- 8 Cheri once of SNL
- 9 Frasier's ex
- 10 Abercrombie & Fitch locale, perhaps
- 11 Come out
- 12 Sailor's patron
- 13 "Gone With the Wind" extra
- 21 Will and Grace shared one
- 23 Precious strings
- 25 Sweetie pie
- 27 Albee's "Three ___ Women"
- 29 Nathan of "Modern Family"
- 30 Cosmetics businessman Laszlo
- 31 "Serpico" author Peter
- 52 Free verse "rhyme scheme"
- 33 Fifth-century pope
- 34 Perfect serves from Mauresmo
- 36 Limp watch painter
- 39 Kate Clinton or Margaret Cho
- 40 Stage offering
- 42 "Dancing with the Stars" routine
- 45 Hagen of "The Boys from Brazil"
- 48 Drag queen's hose problem
- 50 Boo-boos, to Billy Bean
- 51 Human Rights Campaign fundraiser
- 53 Word before "ho!"
- 55 Lost some of its size
- 56 Pilot's place
- 57 Artist Hernandez
- 58 Elizabeth of "Transamerica"
- 59 Part of a title by Tennessee Williams
- 60 What libraries do
- 61 "Orange Is the ___ Black" (source of the line in the puzzle's title)
- 63 Actress who said the line whose name is visible in this puzzle

Solution on pg. 26



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Official Selections From Outfest To Stream Online

Starting July 9, DIRECTV will present Outfest Online, which gives nationwide access to official selections from the Outfest Los Angeles LGBT Film Festival – the nation’s leading LGBT film festival. Featuring a special collection of LGBT shorts, documentaries and feature length films from Outfest past and present, Outfest Online will be available for streaming on computers, phones and tablets to coincide with the start of the 2015 festival. Users can download the app or visit www.outfestonline.com to be a part of the festival anytime and from anywhere in the U.S.

“Outfest Los Angeles, which attracts audiences exceeding 40,000 annually, delivers creative, diverse and innovative films,” said Dan Ferguson, senior director of marketing for DIRECTV. “As a proud supporter of the LGBT community, and a sponsor of Outfest Los Angeles festival for the past several years, DIRECTV is excited to take this next step, and help expand the reach of these films beyond traditional festival attendees.”

“The films showcased at Outfest Los Angeles increase LGBT visibility; sharing them strengthens understanding, and in turn, creates meaningful change,” said Christopher Racster, Interim Executive Director for Outfest. “Outfest is an irreplaceable launch pad making sure that our storytellers are supported and with the help of partners such as DIRECTV, assuring that their work reaches around Outfest – the Los Angeles-based nonprofit organization promoting equality by creating, sharing and protecting LGBT stories on the screen – recently announced the complete programming lineup for 2015 being held July 9-19.”

For more information and for a complete listing of films

in 2015 Outfest Los Angeles LGBT Film Festival, log on to www.outfest.org/fest2015 or call 213-480-7065. Films participating in Outfest Online include selections such as “The Heroes of Evil,” “Tomgirl,” “Gideon’s Cross,” “Maybe Next Season,” “The First Date,” “Caged,” “Gay Over,” “The Brockington,” “No Boundaries,” “Tomorrow,” “Noah and Anya,” “Calavera,” “Elise,” and more.

The full lineup of films will be available on www.outfestonline.com on July 9.

Outfest was founded by UCLA students in 1982. Outfest is the world’s leading organization that promotes equality by creating, sharing and protecting LGBT stories on the screen. Outfest builds community by connecting diverse populations to discover, discuss and celebrate stories of LGBT lives. Over the past three decades, Outfest has showcased thousands of films from around the world, educated and mentored hundreds of emerging filmmakers and protected more than 35,000 LGBT films and videos. Outfest Los Angeles LGBT Film Festival is 11 days of world-class films, panels and parties.



The festival will stream for the first time online beginning July 9, making access to the festival available to viewers around the globe.

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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

'Top Gun 2.' Seriously, You Guys, 'Top Gun 2.'

Remember back in the day when everybody was like, "Oh, Tom Cruise is gay," but then it turned out he was just weirdly sci-fi religious? Well, he may not have been gay, but he did star in one of the strangest, gayest, films of the 1980s, a right-wing, Reagan-esque military fantasy that was somehow dunked "ride-my-tail-anytime"-first in the deep end of homoerotic signifiers. That's right, we're talking about "Top Gun," the queerest cultural object of the 1980s side of "Torch Song Trilogy." Well, guess what? Maverick is coming back to the shirtless beach volleyball court of public adoration in what is right now known as "Top Gun 2." David Ellison, CEO of production company Skydance, revealed at a recent press junket that a shooting script is in development and that Cruise is interested. Which means it might not happen at all. Or it might be ready for Christmas 2016. Or 2019. We don't know. But we believe in the lesbian superpower of Kelly McGillis, and that alone, in a perfect world, would make it so.

'Clueless' The Musical, As If You're Not Excited by That

When Cher Horowitz leaves Beverly Hills, her next logical stop is, of course, Broadway. And it will be that next stop if "Clueless" director Amy Heckerling has her way. Heckerling's been kicking around the idea of a "Clueless" musical for a while; she's already written the book for it, and is currently pushing even harder for a Broadway stage adaptation (of the film that she already adapted from Jane Austen's "Emma"). The director envisions the project as a jukebox project — we're guessing with period '90s pop nuggets — rather than one with original songs. And since the critically acclaimed comedy has aged very well over the last 20 years (yep, you are totally old now), there's no reason why this thing couldn't be a monster hit. Nothing's official at all, but Katy Perry is reportedly interested in taking part. This casting move would, of course, make Cher a 30-year-old high school student, but the 90210 zip code has already seen a few of those kicking around its pop-culture campuses. So why not?

Trans Filmmaker Mikki del Monicos Moment

There are times when it seems like you can count the number of trans filmmakers on one hand, and if you think about it, that's not really an exaggeration. So when a new trans director pops up with finished product ready to



Colin Firth.

screen for an audience, that's news. Welcome, then, "Alto," the debut feature from Mikki del Monico, which recently had its premiere at San Francisco's Frameline, the venerable international LGBTQ film festival. Starring Diana DeGarmo ("American Idol," season 3, whose musical theater career has kept her busy ever since), "Alto" is a lesbian rom-com musical set in the world of organized crime. And no, that's not a typo. The shoestring budget indie will be making the film festival rounds as the months roll on, and del Monico will be working it hard to make sure you remember all the relevant names. Keep your eyes peeled for this one.

Hey Genius, Get Ready for 'Genius'

You might not recognize the name A. Scott Berg, but he's a gay writer who's won both a Pulitzer and the National Book Award. He's also responsible for the story that became Barry Sandler's screenplay for the classic gay drama "Making Love." Now his 1978 biography, "Max Perkins: Editor of Genius," about the literary editor of novelists Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald and Thomas Wolfe, is a film. The directorial debut of English actor Michael Grandage, Genius boasts a script by John Logan ("The Aviator," who's also co-producing alongside Berg) and an awards-season-ready cast. Colin Firth plays Perkins, and the film co-stars Nicole Kidman, Jude Law, Guy Pearce, Dominic West and Laura Linney. In other words, it's the kind of period picture you'll see over Christmas, place bets on during the Oscar telecast, spend time wishing you could live in the vintage clothes the actors are sporting, and feel smarter for having seen it. It's called "Genius," after all.

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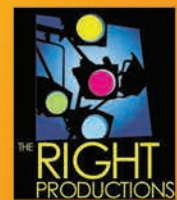


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