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“ If the goal of the state is to place children in loving and supportive homes, why are the laws looking to create more bureaucratic red tape and barriers to helping our children? ”

– Ruth Ellis Center Executive Director Jerry Peterson
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HISTORIC DECISION (FINALLY!)



Boy Scout Casey Chambers carries a rainbow flag during June 2014 San Francisco Pride Festival.

Boy Scouts of America Ends Ban on Gay Adults, Mormons May Bolt
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VOL 2331 • JULY 30, 2015 • ISSUE 925

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Phone 734.293.7200

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MEMBER OF

Michigan Press Association
National Gay Media Association
Q Syndicate



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HTJ HIGHLIGHTS



Twentieth Annual Hotter Than July Pride Picnic Offered Up Plenty Of Fun

DETROIT – The corner of Six Mile and Woodward Avenue in Palmer Park was packed on Saturday as folks came out for the 20th annual Hotter Than July Pride Picnic. There was live entertainment, a fashion show and free HIV testing on site. LGBT Detroit, the agency that produces HTJ, offered no official crowd estimates. But there were likely thousands who passed through the park. BTL photos: Jason A. Michael



Johnny Jenkins, Kimberly Jones and Hank Millbourne were recognized for their work as past presidents of Hotter Than July by Curtis Lipscomb, the current organizer of the annual celebration. BTL photo: Jason A. Michael

Past Presidents Of Hotter Than July Honored

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

DETROIT – About 50 people came out Friday for Hotter Than July’s annual Gathering on LGBT Issues. The conference, which took place at Michigan State University’s Detroit Center, has been a part of Detroit Black Gay Pride since its inception in 1996.

Rev. Roland Stringfellow, of Metropolitan Community Church-Detroit, delivered the keynote address and took on the topics of transgender equality and the LGBT community’s political future. “As many of us know, the LG community and B community still have issues that we need to work out with accepting our trans brothers and sisters,” Stringfellow said. “So when you now take it outside the LGB community and take it to the wider community as a whole, how then do I wrap my head around understanding what it means to be transgender? And for many people, they weren’t even aware that people were transitioning because that is how silent or how covert trans lives are in our community.”

Stringfellow said although transgender issues have gotten a great deal of mainstream attention as of late, there’s still so much we don’t understand about the community.

“We now say we know transgender because we know Caitlyn Jenner, but I

“I believe the next political agenda the LGBT community needs to focus on (is) voting.”

- Rev. Roland Stringfellow, of Metropolitan Community Church-Detroit, delivered the keynote address.

argue we still don’t know gender at all, gender in the way that I thought it was,” said Stringfellow. “Like race, gender is a biosocial historical category that we all move through in different ways and in different times. Race and gender are not the same, but they are both biosocial historical categories that help facilitate and enforce the unequal distribution of power and wealth under capitalism.”

Referencing the recent victory for marriage equality handed down by the Supreme Court last month, Stringfellow said the LGBT community must look toward the future.

“I believe the next political agenda the LGBT community needs to focus

on (is) voting,” he said. “Here’s why I say this. Any type of advancement we have gotten as a people or a community can be easily stripped or taken away when the decks are stacked against us and gerrymandering happens, and we have Republican super majorities in legislature.”

Past Presidents of HTJ Recognized

Following Stringfellow’s remarks, Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of LGBT Detroit, the agency that now produces HTJ, presented awards to the three living past presidents of the event. They are Johnny Jenkins, Hank Millbourne and Kimberly Jones. The fourth past president, Robert Clark, was recognized posthumously.

“Organizing Hotter Than July is tough,” said Lipscomb. “We are an interesting people in this room with a lot of different desires, wants and personalities. Imagine being a leader having to manage not only a project that is significant, important, authentic and mandatory, but to do it with different types of people who all identify as LGBT. ... A leader of that has to have a certain kind of strength, a certain kind of tenacity, to say, ‘You know what, I’ll take that charge.’”

HTJ Kicks Off With Candlelight Vigil

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

DETROIT—About 75 people came out to Palmer Park July 21 to kick off the start of the 20th anniversary edition of Hotter Than July-Detroit Black Gay Pride. The crowd gathered around the blue spruce memorial tree, a tree organizers of HTJ planted early on in the event's history, where a memorial marker that was created last year was officially permanently installed.

Speaking at the opening ceremony was Detroit City Council President Brenda Jones. "We have been in session since 10 a.m. this morning," a tired Jones told the crowd. "We just got out of session, and we had one 10-minute break. So it's been a long day."

But Jones did not let her exhaustion put a damper on her enthusiasm for the event. "I am honored to be here with you even though it's been a long day," she said. "I'm still thankful to be here. As we pause tonight to remember those who have departed, it's important to recognize the great strides the LGBT community is making ... This candlelight vigil gives us a chance to reflect on our loved ones who have passed on, whether it was due to natural causes or any other illness, violence due to gender hate or loss of life due to depression. We pause tonight to remember them."

Jones said she has a long history of supporting the LGBT community. "I can tell you I support you," she said. "I support your rights. I'm going to continue to stand with you, and I'm going to continue to be with you."

The ceremony ended with remarks from Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of LGBT Detroit, the agency that produces HTJ.

"We did this 20 years ago," Lipscomb

“The candlelight vigil, 20 years, rain or shine ... We've been here calling to the ancestors, drumming, for 20 years.”

— Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of LGBT Detroit

said. "Just for a moment, think of something so wonderful that was created by us and has been maintained and operated for 20 years. The candlelight vigil, 20 years, rain or shine ... We've been here calling to the ancestors, drumming, for 20 years."

"For 20 years, uninterrupted, we have gathered, and for 20 years it's always been the candlelight vigil," Lipscomb continued. "We always start with God first. Yeah, we party. We have some fun. I get it. I'm a little older. I can't twerk like I used to do. But I can't stop thanking God and remembering my friends who have gone before me. And for the next 20 years we will always start off Hotter Than July (this way). It has never changed, not thinking about God and our loved ones first. I don't ever want Hotter Than July to change from that. I never want it to do that."

But for as much as Lipscomb spoke about the past, he focused equally on the future.

"We're going to be here 20 years from now," he said. "I can't wait for the 40th anniversary."



Detroit City Council President Brenda Jones speaking at the opening ceremony July 21. BTL photo: Jason A. Michael

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Creep of the Week

David Wells

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Good news for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning and intersex kids who get arrested in Kentucky! Well, I mean, bad news to have been arrested, but at least there's a policy that forbids the Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) personnel, including volunteers, from using "derogatory language in a manner that conveys bias towards or hatred of the LGBTQI community" and telling "LGBTQI juveniles that they are abnormal, deviant, sinful or that they can or should change their sexual orientation or gender identity."



David Wells

When I first heard of this I had to double-check the state. Kentucky, really? Yes, Kentucky! (My apologies to the Bluegrass State for doubting, but y'all do keep voting for Mitch McConnell).

To anyone who volunteers to work with juvenile offenders, let me first say, "Good for you!" Too often society writes these young people off as "bad

Clearly only a really terrible person would say, "You know what, I want to work with juvenile offenders and I want to tell the LGBT ones how gross and sinful they are as is my right as an American Christian."

kids" and once a young person finds him or herself in the system, it's really hard to get out. And a lot of these kids are LGBT.

According to The Center for American Progress, "Though gay and transgender youth represent just 5 percent to 7 percent of the nation's overall youth population, they compose 13 percent to 15 percent of those currently in the juvenile justice system."

Clearly only a really terrible person would say, "You know what, I want to work with juvenile offenders and I want to tell the LGBT ones how gross and sinful they are as is my right as an American Christian."

Or so argues Baptist minister David Wells who, with the help of the gay-hating Liberty Council, is suing the DJJ because they won't let him gay-bash the inmates with his "ministry."

According to Liberty Council's Mat Staver, LGBT youth involved in the criminal justice system are a bunch of sex-crimers anyway, so it's totally unfair to Wells that he can't call it like he sees it.

"Many juveniles are in DJJ custody because of sexual crimes," said Staver in a July 24 press release. "David Wells must be able to discuss what the Bible says about matters of sexuality with the juveniles he is trying to help."

Yeah, because telling a kid, "You're in here because you're a damaged perv," is Biblical healing.

Staver continues, in complete hysterics, "To remove the Bible from a pastor's hands is like removing a scalpel from a surgeon's hands. Without it, they cannot provide healing."

Let me just say, "All the nopes." Any bozo can pick up a Bible and claim to be a pastor. Being a surgeon, however, requires a medical degree, which means a lot of training and belief in science.

And let us not forget how for so long LGBT people have had the Bible used against them as a weapon. Which is what Wells wants to do. His argument is thus: "My right to hurt you trumps your right not to be hurt." Which is bullshit. By the time young people end up in the criminal justice system they have already had more than their fair share of hurt. Being an LGBT kid sadly means an additional layer of pain.

So if Wells isn't willing to sign a piece of paper that says, "I won't use my position of authority as a minister to further victimize these kids," then the DJJ is within its rights to say GTFO. And good riddance.

Boy Scouts Of America End Total Ban On Gay Adults

BY DAVID CRARY

NEW YORK (AP) – The Boy Scouts of America on Monday ended its blanket ban on gay adult leaders while allowing church-sponsored Scout units to maintain the exclusion for religious reasons.

The new policy, aimed at easing a controversy that has embroiled the Boy Scouts for years, takes effect immediately. It was approved by the BSA's National Executive Board on a 45-12 vote during a closed-to-the-media teleconference.

"For far too long this issue has divided and distracted us," said the BSA's president, former Defense Secretary Robert Gates. "Now it's time to unite behind our shared belief in the extraordinary power of Scouting to be a force for good."

Initial reactions to the decision from groups on both sides suggested the issue would remain divisive.

The Mormon church, which sponsors more Scout units than any other organization, said it was "deeply troubled" by the decision. Church officials suggested they would look into the possibility of forming their own organization to replace Boy Scouts.

"The admission of openly gay leaders is inconsistent with the doctrines of the Church and what have traditionally been the values of the Boy Scouts of America," said a statement from Mormon headquarters in Salt Lake City.

In contrast, the Human Rights Campaign, a national LGBT-rights organization, said the Boy Scouts should not allow church-sponsored units to continue excluding gays.

"Discrimination should have no place in the Boy Scouts, period," said the HRC's president, Chad Griffin. "BSA officials should now demonstrate true leadership and begin the process of considering a full national policy of inclusion."

Gates foreshadowed Monday's action on May 21, when he told the Scouts' national meeting that the long-standing ban on participation by openly gay adults was no longer sustainable. He said the ban was likely to be the target of lawsuits that the Scouts likely would lose.

Two weeks ago, the new policy

The Mormon church, which sponsors more Scout units than any other organization, said it was "deeply troubled" by the decision.

was approved unanimously by the BSA's 17-member National Executive Committee. It would allow local Scout units to select adult leaders without regard to sexual orientation — a stance that several Scout councils have already adopted in defiance of the official national policy.

In 2013, after heated internal debate, the BSA decided to allow openly gay youth as scouts, but not gay adults as leaders. Several denominations that collectively sponsor close to half of all Scout units — including the Roman Catholic church, the Mormon church and the Southern Baptist Convention — have been apprehensive about ending the ban on gay adults.

The BSA's top leaders pledged to defend the right of any church-sponsored units to continue excluding gays as adult volunteers. But that assurance has not satisfied some conservative church leaders.

"In recent years I have seen a definite cooling on the part of Baptist churches toward the Scouts," said the Rev. Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. "This will probably bring that cooling to a freeze."

A more nuanced response came from the National Catholic Committee on Scouting, which expressed interest in maintaining its ties with the BSA, but also voiced concerns. Notably, it conveyed a reluctance to accept participation by anyone who engaged in sexual conduct outside of a heterosexual marriage.

Under the BSA's new policy, gay leaders who were previously removed from Scouting because of the ban would have the opportunity to reapply for volunteer positions. If otherwise qualified, a gay adult would be eligible to serve as a Scoutmaster or unit leader.

Gates, who became the BSA's president in May 2014, said at the time that he personally would have favored ending the ban on gay adults,

but he opposed any further debate after the Scouts' policymaking body upheld the ban. In May, he said that recent events "have confronted us with urgent challenges I did not foresee and which we cannot ignore."

He cited an announcement by the BSA's New York City chapter in early April that it had hired Pascal Tessier, the nation's first openly gay Eagle Scout, as a summer camp leader. Gates also cited broader gay-rights developments and warned that rigidly maintaining the ban "will be the end of us as a national movement."

The BSA's right to exclude gays was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2000. But since then, the policy has prompted numerous major corporations to suspend charitable donations to the Scouts and strained relations with some municipalities.

More recently, the BSA faced a civil rights investigation in New York and lawsuits in other states over the ban.

Kenneth Upton, a lawyer for the LGBT-rights group Lambda Legal, questioned whether the BSA's new policy to let church-sponsored units continue to exclude gay adults would be sustainable.

"There will be a period of time where they'll have some legal protection," Upton said. "But that doesn't mean the lawsuits won't keep coming. ... They will become increasingly marginalized from the direction society is going."

Like several other major youth organizations, the Boy Scouts have experienced a membership decline in recent decades. Current membership, according to the BSA, is about 2.4 million boys and about 1 million adults.

After the 2013 decision to admit gay youth, some conservatives split from the BSA to form a new group, Trail Life USA, which has created its own ranks, badges and uniforms. The group claims a membership of more than 25,000 youths and adults.



The Pittmann-Puckett Gallery at Affirmations presents their latest exhibit, "Creative Monologue: A Solo Exhibition by Timothy Oriki."

Affirmations Gallery Hosts Spiritual Exhibit

FERNDALE – The Pittmann-Puckett Gallery at Affirmations presents the latest exhibit, "Creative Monologue: A Solo Exhibition by Timothy Oriki." The exhibition will feature a collection of Oriki's abstract paintings, all influenced by his new home, the city of Detroit.

Timothy Oriki, born and raised in southern Nigeria by a Baptist minister, uses a wide spectrum of vibrant colors and mixed media to create a secure world in which humanity is restored to God's intended pure state. His artistic themes – much like the messages from his father's pulpit – embrace hope, harmony and the gift of nature. Drawing on African, European and American influences, he carefully bridges the gap between the ancient

and modern.

"This show represents scripted fantasies of my dreams both near and far," says Oriki. "It's a schematic rendition of hopes for a better city."

The Pittmann-Puckett Gallery will host an opening reception at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 30. Oriki will give remarks about his artwork and themes. A brief music program and an open discussion will follow. The event is free and open to the community. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, visit www.goaffirmations.org.

The exhibition will be on view until Aug. 28.

Dievendorf Outraises Opponents In Lansing Primary Race

LANSING – Emily Dievendorf, the former executive director of Equality Michigan, outraised her four August primary opponents in the Lansing City Council At-Large race.

Dievendorf is one of five vying to advance to the November general election. The four who advance from the August primary will face off for two seats representing the entire city of Lansing. Her opponents include Carol Wood, who currently serves in an at-large capacity on the council; former city councilmember and perennial candidate Harold Leeman Jr.; Mary Ann Prince, a regular attendee of City Council meetings and a retiree; and Patricia Spitzley, who helps run the Pacer Fund which is tasked with redeveloping former General

Motors properties in the city.

Dievendorf raised \$7,650 and spent \$3,258.16. That leaves her with \$4,391.96 going into the Aug. 4 primary vote. Wood started the reporting period with \$308.96 in her campaign account, raised an additional \$5,585 and spent \$3,375.87. She has \$2,464.09 on hand. Leeman started the campaign with a balance of \$23.96, donated \$600 to his own campaign and spent \$548.23, leaving a balance of \$75.73. Spitzley raised \$3,065, spent \$275.62 and has \$2,789.38 left. Prince filed a waiver for her committee stating she would not raise or spend more than \$1,000.

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Are the Michigan laws and policies that are currently in place actually working to protect LGBT youth against bullying and harassment?

Bullying And Harassment: Where Does Michigan Stand?

BY AJ TRAGER

School-based bullying and harassment are very real problems affecting the nation's youth and school districts. State legislatures and state educational agencies play vital roles in ensuring safe and supportive learning environments for all students.

But are the Michigan laws and policies that are currently in place actually working to protect LGBT youth against bullying and harassment?

Schools are by and large heteronormative and cisnormative. Even though the LGBT community accounts for less than 8 percent of the national population, younger generations are introduced to LGBT identities at higher rates than older generations due to social media and the growing acceptance of the LGBT community. The majority of Americans that support LGBT identities now exceeds 50 percent of the population.

In spite of growing acceptance, the statistics for LGBT youth are staggering. Forty percent of homeless youth identify as LGBT. LGB youth are four times as likely and trans youth are nine times as likely to have attempted suicide compared to their non-

LGBT peers. GLSEN, an organization that has led national efforts to create safer schools by advocating for the development, adoption and implementation of comprehensive anti-bullying policies for the last 25 years, has reported that nine trans youth have already committed suicide this year.

In the first major vote on LGBT equality since the Supreme Court's same-sex marriage decision June 26, the U.S. Senate recently failed to pass the Student Non-Discrimination Act. If passed, the bill would have prohibited public schools from discriminating against any student on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. It was modeled after Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., offered SNDA as an amendment to the Every Child Achieves Act, which would update federal education law; however, the amendment failed on a vote of 52 - 45, across party lines.

Currently, federal statutory protections address discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex and disability, but federal civil rights laws do not expressly protect students from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Neither does current Michigan law.

History demonstrates that civil rights laws are effective in decreasing discrimination because they provide strong federal remedies targeted to specific vulnerable groups.

A recent report by GLSEN, "From Statehouse To Schoolhouse: Anti-bullying Policy Efforts in U.S. States and School Districts," found that nearly 30 percent of U.S. school districts in the country did not have an anti-bullying policy. Of the 70 percent that do provide policies, only 14 percent had enumerated protections for students based upon sexual orientation and gender identity. A quarter required professional development for staff in addressing bullying and harassment in their schools. Less than one-third stipulated accountability for incidents of bullying and harassment to the district and/or state. In all, only 3 percent of district policies included LGBT enumerated rights, professional development requirements and accountability stipulations as an approach.

Accounting for all school districts, the GLSEN report found only one in 10 had enumerated rights for sexual orientation and gender identity/expression; three in 10 have

enumerated rights for sexual orientation but not gender identity; two in 10 required professional development for staff and accountability for bullying incidents; and only a staggering 2 percent were providing anti-bullying policies that included all examined elements.

Michigan's "Matt's Safe School Law," as it is now known, was introduced in May 2001 in the state Senate. It was named after Matt Epling, a student who committed suicide following years of bullying and harassment. The first draft of the bill was fairly comprehensive and was the first iteration of the law that enumerated sexual orientation but not gender identity. In 2006 sexual orientation was added to a later version of the bill, but was thrown out in the final version.

"The Michigan Legislature has been firmly in the hands of Republican control since the Matt's Safe School Law was introduced in 2001. The only time the Dems had the house was for two sessions in 2007 and 2009, which was the first time that the law got any traction at all," said Thomas Zook, Wayne State University College of

See next page

Education doctoral student who studied the state Safe Schools Law and who's dissertation will include Transformative Leadership Theory and how it relates to LGBT youth bullying and harassment.

"The law never became an enumerated bill," Zook said. "Specifically speaking about sexual orientation and gender identity, there was a state Representative who, in a thinly veiled attempt to hide their homophobia, said that enumeration was unnecessary and should be left up to the local governments and agencies."

Eleven iterations of the bill came. Then, in 2011, the state Senate introduced SB137 which was later called the "License To Bully Law" by opponents of the legislation. Legislators slapped on a last minute amendment which allowed for children, parents and teachers to disparage LGBT kids if their motivation was from "deeply held religious beliefs." The Senate later passed the generic bill without religious freedom protections following a firestorm of protest from Michigan communities and families. Michigan became the 48th state to pass an anti-bully law.

Current State Policy

"Given the devastating and often tragic consequences of bullying in our schools, and in recognition that a safe and secure climate for learning can and must be created in every Michigan school – the State Board of Education has, on a bi-partisan basis since 2000, asked Michigan schools to adopt and implement an effective, research-informed model anti-bullying policy and practice." State Board of Education Superintendent Michael P. Flanagan wrote in a statement dated November 2011, directly preceding Gov. Snyder's signing of Matt's Safe School Law.

Kim Kovalchick, program supervisor for coordinated school health and safety programs at the Michigan Department of Education, has been with the state's office for 13 years, working specifically on policy work around school health and adolescent behavior.

"We have our State Board of Education policy on bullying. It's not state law, but it makes a statement. We don't have the power of law to dictate to the districts what they have to do," Kovalchick said.

The Michigan Department of Education can suggest to school districts that they adopt fully

LGB youth are four times as likely and trans youth are nine times as likely to have attempted suicide compared to their non-LGBT peers.

inclusive anti-bully policies; however, the decision is ultimately up to the districts on which policies they adopt.

In his review of three major Metro Detroit school districts, Zook found that only one of 22 Macomb County school districts included enumerated sexual orientation and gender identity rights for students, with five out of 28 in Oakland County and six out of 33 in Wayne County.

In just those three counties, 14.6 percent were sexual orientation and gender identity enumerated despite the fact that the Board of Education provides a comprehensive state policy for anti-bullying and harassment.

"Violence against me prevented me from being me for many years. Kids today realize that there is a hope for them to have a life, but in order to live a life of who they are, they have to have one. They deserve the right to safe and supportive environments," Zook said. "And sadly you've got 10 kids that committed suicide due to bullying during the time this law was being debated, and that just isn't right. We can't play with kids lives."

Bullycide Project

According to the 2009 National School Climate Survey published by the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network: 84 percent of LGBT students reported being verbally harassed, 40 percent reported being physically harassed and 18 percent reported being physically assaulted at school in the past year because of their sexual orientation. Nearly two-thirds of students reported that they felt unsafe in school because of their sexual orientation and more than a third felt unsafe because of their gender expression.

Fenton High School theater teacher Lori Thompson started working on The Bullycide Project eight years ago after editing a play on bullying and school violence. A Fenton High parent who had lost a child to bullying introduced Thompson to Brenda High's "Bullycide In America: Mom's Speak Out About the Bullying/Suicide Connection."

After reading one personal story after another, Thompson knew that it would make a good traveling theater performance. She arranged to meet with the mothers, family and friends of the individuals whose stories were told in the book. They showed her poetry, artwork, clothes and even some bedrooms of the youth who had lost their lives to bullying.

Since then she has worked with students and graduated thespians on a nine-piece theater show titled "The Bullycide Project," which showcases real-life experiences of youth enduring bullying and harassment. Thompson has even granted the opportunity to some actors to perform their own stories, including Fenton High School graduate Nick Swatz, who has shared his story about being bullied in high school for being gay with thousands of captive audiences. The Trust Theatre Ensemble has performed the Bullycide Project in over 100 locations and two countries.

"At my school, being the teacher I am and with my involvement with the bullycide project, I have had more students open up to me over the past few years about what is going on in the hallways and what is going on with them personally. Just this last year I have had students open up about self harm and depression," Thompson said. "Teachers and the administration are always focused on standardized testing, but we are losing kids because we are not taking the time to make them feel human and to show that we are human too."

Thompson reports that Fenton High adopted a system over a decade ago to prevent further bullying in the hallways, and the school administration is focused on eliminating bullying and harassment on campus. If she witnesses an instance of bullying, Thompson will report it to administration, cohorts and even parents.

"We need to have a support system behind that young person. They're already feeling like an outcast. That is not right. We need them to know that they aren't alone," Thompson said. "As teachers, it is part of our job to not just be the curriculum teacher but we also need to start

taking 15 minutes, two times a week, and address how kids are doing. We need to listen. They're bringing more and more into the classroom than just their backpacks."

Policy Change

"Even if you aren't the kid being bullied, it is impacting all the students because of the climate," Kovalchick said. "We have a variety of resources to encourage schools to make these safe environments that are inclusive and a place where students want to be."

The State Department of Education has provided professional development training for teachers for the last 15 years. Kovalchick reports that, even with limited funding and resources, the State Department of Education provides training and support for school districts to further help their LGBT students.

"We provide a variety of support to help schools," Kovalchick said. "It is a really great training, though we don't have a lot of resources to get it widely spread and to help plan and help with these trainings."

There has been a demand from schools and staff asking how they can better understand and support our students."

The recent GLSEN report indicates that state laws, regulations and policy guidelines can have an impact on the presence of district anti-bullying policies and their content. It found that states with enumerated laws did influence districts' anti-bully policy efforts.

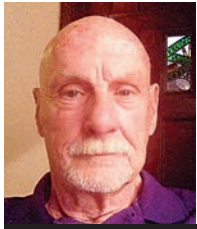
"If we cannot get state laws to protect LGBT kids, then we need to push for local guidance leadership at the school and district level to change the culture of these schools," Zook said. "State and national laws are never going to change people's minds; you can never legislate people's values, opinions and beliefs."

Kovalchick echoed Zook's opinions.

"If you're looking at a hierarchy, if there is no state law existing, then district law takes precedent," she said. "You could have a district policy, but if a state law comes into effect, that takes over the importance of the district policy."



Nick Swatz with Paige Windsor and Chase Davis. Photo Credit: Jessica Wilkowski. Trust Theatre Ensemble



Anita, Who? OJ Cheers! Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

When I was a kid, my mother would dose me with castor oil for what she perceived as alimentary crankiness on my part.

This extract of the humble castor bean tastes horrid. Its end result: to leave its victim as clean as a penny whistle. (Toot free.) My dosage served as a warning. Best not to indulge in any constipating shenanigans, if you know what's good for you, young man.

But my mother – kind heart that she was – would temper my dosage by mixing it in a glass of OJ – to no avail. The oil floated in little bubble-up pools, clueing me in that the motor oil from hell was about to be swallowed.

OJ with castor oil is a perfect metaphor for a lest-we-forget harridan from our not-too-distant past: Anita Bryant – talented vocalist, OJ (seedless variety) role model, Florida-based homophobe, who in 1977 kicked off a massive Save Our Children, Inc. anti-gay campaign in the Sunshine State. And she had the credentials and the clout.

A Miss America runner-up, a Southern Baptist pew polisher, a gospel and pop singer, she was popular. Her big hit was the saccharine “Paper Roses.”

She was also a spokes-personality for the Florida Citrus Commission, and nationally televised commercials featured her singing “Come to the Florida Sunshine tree.” (“Breakfast without OJ is like a day without sunshine.”)

Her TV accounts were Coca-Cola, Kraft Foods, Holiday Inn and Tupperware. (She sang “The Battle Hymn of the Republic” during the graveside services for Lyndon B. Johnson, and performed the National Anthem at Super Bowl III.)

But Miss Anita was not happy with a gay rights ordinance passed in Dade County, January 1977. She spoke out as a born-again Christian mom, launching a campaign six months later for repeal. She used lies and stereotypes. Crooned Anita to the rafters: gay people are wicked, godless and out to recruit on America’s playgrounds.

“As a mother I know that homosexuals cannot biologically reproduce children,” she preached. “Therefore, they must recruit our children. If gays are granted rights, next we’ll have to give rights to prostitutes, people who sleep with St. Bernards, nail biters.” (Sound familiar?)

Her campaign of venom and hatred worked. On June 7, 1977, Dade County’s anti-discrimination ordinance was rescinded by a margin of 69 percent to 31 percent. But Anita and cohorts didn’t count on a nationwide gay backlash.

Our community quickly became galvanized and cohesive, forging a united front. Unwittingly, Anita did us an important and long-lasting favor.

Since then things haven’t gone too well for poor Anita. Gay activists successfully organized a nationwide OJ boycott (some enclosing \$2 and asking for a copy of a nonexistent pamphlet linking OJ with homosexuality.) And she got a custard pie in the face during a TV interview.

The fallout from her political activism destroyed her career; and her contract with the Florida Citrus Commission was allowed to lapse because of negative publicity generated by Save Our Children, Inc. and the OJ boycott.

Her marriage to Bob Green squeezed out, and in 1980 she dumped him. She married a second husband, Charlie Hobson Dry, in 1990, and they tried to salvage her career in a series of small venues (including one Windsor, Ontario supper club stint).

But comeback has been nonexistent, and the Dries have left behind them many unpaid employees and creditors. They filed for bankruptcy twice: Arkansas (1997) and Tennessee (2001). In 2005, Anita, 65 – all but forgotten – was parodied on “Will & Grace.”

Screwdrivers, anyone?

Charles@pridesource.com



Viewpoint

Michigan Children Could Suffer From Religious Exemption Legislation

OPINION BY JERRY PETERSON

Pending legislation in Michigan stands in stark contradiction to the stated goals of prioritizing the welfare and best interests of children. The proposed legislation states that placing a child in a safe, loving and supportive home is a paramount goal of the state. House Bill 4188 allows for agencies to object child placement for foster care based on religious or moral convictions.

If the goal of the state is to place children in loving and supportive homes, why are the laws looking to create more bureaucratic red tape and barriers to helping our children?

As the Executive Director of the Ruth Ellis Center, I represent the real people harmed by this legislation. They are the very children and youth the system claims to support! Yet, this legislation seeks to eliminate the consideration of “best interest of the child,” and it sets up barriers to accessing safe, loving and supportive homes for lesbian, gay, bi-attractional, transgender and questioning (LBGTQ) children and youth when an agency asserts a

religious or moral objection.

Through this kind of legislative action, the state of Michigan is doing harm to a significant – though undocumented – number of children and youth, exposing them to multiple traumas and rejections simply because of who they are. This is an unacceptable practice in a taxpayer-funded system with the stated goal of looking out for the best interest of every child in its care.

I call out the hypocrisy of any system that turns a blind eye to discrimination, thereby institutionalizing harm, trauma and serial rejection to the very children and youth it has a moral and ethical obligation to take care of.

Legalizing discrimination against adults on the basis of personal moral or religious principles, and claiming that it does no harm to anyone else, is misleading and in contrast to the stated objectives of the child welfare system.

The Ruth Ellis Center operates a Michigan-licensed and contracted residential foster care Intensive

Treatment Unit. Annually, The Center serves seven to 15 young people aged 13 to 17 who identify as LGBTQ. Due to the demand of alternative placement for LGBTQ youth, The Center is expanding from five to nine beds.

Many of these children and youth have been rejected by up to seven foster families, particularly for transgender and gender expressive youth – and the number of these children is on the rise.

LGBTQ couples are more likely to adopt children or youth with special needs or who are hard to place within the foster care system. There is no reason why those loving homes should be discriminated against, when the paramount goal of the state is to place children in loving and supportive homes.

Jerry Peterson is the executive director of the Ruth Ellis Center. The Ruth Ellis Center is located at 77 Victor St., Highland Park. Visit www.ruthelliscenter.org for more information.



Viewpoint

OPINION BY MARA KEISLING

The Equality Act Is The LGBT Rights Bill We Want And Need

BY MARA KEISLING

In 1974, the Equality Act was introduced to add sexual orientation throughout the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Twenty years later, for various political reasons, the bill was stripped down to be only an employment rights bill and renamed ENDA, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. ENDA has been the centerpiece federal legislation ever since, although gender identity was excluded from the act until 2007. And this week, we are very pleased to announce that ENDA is being replaced with the Equality Act, a more comprehensive bill that when passed will offer protection in employment, housing, public accommodations and four other areas.

For more than 10 years, NCTE has advocated for refocusing on a comprehensive bill more akin to the original Equality Act. The most notable difference between the Equality Act and its 1974 namesake is that it includes both gender identity and sexual orientation — and unlike in 2007, removing gender identity is now completely unthinkable.

Here's what you may want to know:

- The Equality Act was introduced Thursday, July 23 by Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., in the U.S. Senate and Rep. Cicilline, D-R.I., in the U.S. House of Representatives, along with many co-sponsors: Sens. Tammy Baldwin and Cory Booker, and Reps. Nancy Pelosi and John Lewis. They will be joined by a large number of co-sponsors.

- The bill will explicitly prohibit discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation in employment, housing, education, credit, public accommodations, jury service and federally funded programs. (Gender identity and sexual orientation are defined the same way they were in ENDA.)

- The bill will also codify the existing interpretations of sexual orientation and gender identity bias as being forms of sex discrimination, which many courts and federal agencies — including the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission — have already embraced. Think of it as wearing both a belt and suspenders. So for instance, if a trans person is discriminated against in their job, it will be clearly illegal as both gender identity discrimination and sex discrimination. This is important for various reasons, including

This bill was written to address the real discrimination that LGBT people face in real life — discrimination that is often pervasive in the workplace but goes far beyond it.

that it will help cement these interpretations under various other laws not directly amended by the bill.

- Interestingly, the types of businesses considered to be public accommodations would be expanded by the Equality Act, not only for sexual orientation but also for the existing categories of race, color, religion and national origin. Additionally, the category of sex would be added to the public accommodations section of the Civil Rights Act for the first time, greatly advancing women's rights.

- In the same way the law protects people on the basis of their race and religion, the Equality Act will make clear that discrimination because someone is (or is perceived to be) LGBT, or is a parent, child, partner or otherwise associated with someone who is LGBT, is also illegal.

- Whereas ENDA would have created a new law specific to LGBT people, the Equality Act will add LGBT protections to existing civil rights laws like the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Fair Housing Act, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and the Jury Selection and Service Act. It is being done this way to ensure that LGBT people are protected equally compared to other marginalized groups that are already protected.

- No special religious exemptions would apply for discrimination against LGBT people. Amending existing civil rights laws means that the religious exemptions that have been in place for 50 years will remain in place. Mainly this means that religious institutions can continue to prefer individuals of their own faith.

This bill was written to address the real discrimination that LGBT people face in real life — discrimination that is often pervasive in the workplace but goes far beyond it. And

See Keisling: Equality Act, page 13

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New Poll Finds Majority Of Voters Prefer Candidates Who Support Non-Discrimination Protections

BY BTL STAFF

WASHINGTON D.C.—A recent polling by Democracy Corps has found that 59 percent of voters are less likely to support candidates who oppose non-discrimination protections.

Polling shows strong bipartisan support for LGBT non-discrimination protections, including nearly two-thirds of likely Republican voters. The results come just before a new federal LGBT non-discrimination bill is expected to be introduced in Congress.

The survey also found that 64 percent of likely Republican voters support protecting LGBT people from workplace discrimination compared to the 90 percent of Democrats who support the same protections. Eighty-four percent of college students, 73 percent of non-college voters and 70 percent of observant Christians also favor protecting LGBT people from discrimination in employment.

The HRC reports that while millennial voters supported Obama in 2008, many of them voted Republican in 2010, 2012 and

2014 signaling a frustration with the slow pace of change.

Results from this survey are consistent with past surveys; in 2011, 79 percent of voters supported ending workplace discrimination.

“Opposing LGBT non-discrimination protections is costly and will grow costlier by the day,” said JoDee Winterhof, HRC vice president for policy and political affairs. “The overwhelming majority of voters who believe that LGBT people should be protected from discrimination in the workplace – a value that reaches across party lines – also makes clear that the time to pass explicit, comprehensive LGBT non-discrimination protections is long overdue.”

In March, polling conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner for HRC revealed that nearly two-thirds of LGBT Americans have faced discrimination in their lives, with LGBT people reporting workplace discrimination the most frequently experienced form of discrimination.

New Research Reveals How Body Size Influences Romance In Same-Sex Relationships

BY BTL STAFF

CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY – Research hasn’t focused on the influences of body size with regards to the romantic relationships of same-sex couples, says Charlotte Markey, a professor of psychology at Rutgers University – Camden, until now. New findings have shown the influence of social relationships on behaviors around body size for LGB couples.

Markey teams with Villanova University researcher Patrick Markey; fellow Rutgers – Camden faculty researchers Kristin August and Christopher Nave; and Lindzee Bailey, a recent graduate of Rutgers – Camden’s master of arts in psychology program, who initiated the project as part of her thesis, to examine the topic in a groundbreaking study, titled “Understanding same-sex male and female partners’ restrained eating in the context of their relationships,” in the June issue of *Journal of Health Psychology*.

“The study aims to advance not only an understanding of same-sex relationships, but a more complete understanding of all romantic relationships,” says Markey, a resident of Swarthmore, Pennsylvania.

According to the researchers, restrained eating is defined as the deliberate, long-term restriction of food intake in order to lose, maintain or avoid gaining weight. It is characterized by alternating episodes of cognitive dietary restraint, uncontrolled eating and emotional eating. Although exercising some restraint is critical in the current food environment, where supersized portions can be found around every corner, explains Markey, dietary restraint – as the researchers studied it – is considered dysfunctional.

“It is important for all of us to be cognizant of practices conducive to weight management, but it is not healthy to vacillate between restraint and bingeing or emotional eating,” says the Rutgers – Camden researcher. “Understanding factors that contribute to dietary restraint can aid in the prevention of disordered eating and unhealthy weight

management.”

Over the course of the study, the researchers surveyed 288 participants in monogamous, romantic same-sex relationships. The majority of the couples, who were participating in a larger study examining predictors of relationship quality and health among gay and lesbian couples, were cohabitating and romantically involved – on average – for about five and a half years.

Consistent with their previous research on same-sex couples linking body mass index and concerns over weight issues, the study found significant evidence that men and women who were relatively heavier than their partners were at particular risk for engaging in all facets of restrained eating that they studied.

The researchers posit that the findings may be explained in part by the need for individuals in both same-sex and heterosexual relationships to conform to body ideals of close reference groups – in this case, their romantic partners. This tendency can be increased, they add, when the partner is of the same gender.

According to Markey, the results of the study have a variety of significant implications for this traditionally understudied population. She notes that there has been discussion among researchers who study eating behaviors that lesbian women are not as concerned about their bodies and weight as heterosexual women and that gay men are more concerned about these issues than heterosexual men.

“What this study suggests is that the relationships that any individual maintains – regardless of sexual orientation – may be critical in determining their eating behaviors,” she says. “This implies that therapeutic interventions may improve not only their relationships, but their eating habits and even their overall well-being.”

The researchers are now conducting research studying the influence and effects of body image in same-sex relationships, with plans in the works for additional studies focusing on other aspects of these relationships and their effects on health and well-being.



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► **Keisling: Equality Act**

Continued from p. 11

while a bill can always change as it moves through the legislative process, we need to stake a claim and introduce a bill that really is what we need. That is what the Equality Act is.

Passing the Equality Act will probably take time, and there are things you can do to help. First, contact your Representative and your two U.S. Senators and ask them to co-sponsor the Equality Act. Remember, support for LGBT people is changing quickly, so even if your members of Congress haven't supported LGBT equality in the past, contact them anyway — their stance may be evolving.

Second, we need to make sure Congress and the public understand that anti-LGBT discrimination is very real, which means we need your stories. Next month, NCTE will launch the 2015 U.S. Trans Survey — the biggest survey yet of trans people in the U.S. This survey, a follow-up to the National Transgender Discrimination Survey conducted six years ago, will clearly make the case for the Equality Act along with all of our other efforts to improve the lives of trans people.

A final word: We all know that getting any legislation through a very polarized Congress is really hard right now. But we also know that the transgender and LGBT movements are stronger and better connected than ever. So, though we can't say that we see a clear

pathway to pass the Equality Act through the current Congress, we know that the politics of LGBT equality are shifting in our favor. When the original Equality Act was first introduced more than four decades ago, its passage may

We all know that getting any legislation through a very polarized Congress is really hard right now. But we also know that the transgender and LGBT movements are stronger and better connected than ever.

have seemed to some like a pipe dream. Today, it is not. The promise of Equality Act is still urgently needed. The question is how quickly we can hasten its inevitable passage.

Keisling is a transgender rights activist currently serving as the executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality based in Washington D.C. Keisling founded the center, which has contributed to efforts that have resulted in numerous victories for the transgender equality movement.



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An LGBT Tour Of The Great Lakes

BY AJ TRAGER AND BTL STAFF

For LGBT and allied Michiganders, access to beautiful and historic vacation destinations is often only a few hours away. From in-state sights – Traverse City, Saugatuck and Lansing – to nearby Chicago, Illinois, residents can take a world-class vacation without ever setting foot on a plane. For those looking to fit in one last summer vacation, or plan for a cooler-temperature fall retreat, take a look at these nearby LGBT-friendly cities.

West Michigan

If driving from Metro Detroit, the cozy town of Saugatuck and its sister city, Douglas, are only three hours away by expressway. Saugatuck was recently named the 2015 Best Coastal Small Town by USA

Today Readers Choice and offers vacationers a unique look into West Michigan history. Downtown Saugatuck is seated right on Lake Michigan and the area is filled with ice cream stores, unique restaurants, beaches, sand dunes and shopping.

There is a reason that Saugatuck is named The Art Coast of Michigan. The city is home to over 140 LGBT-owned companies, over 20 galleries, the Saugatuck Center for the Arts, the Ox-Bow School of Arts and plenty of permanent and temporary art installations. The area features many opportunities to take to the water, whether sailing on a sailboat, paddling in a kayak or taking the Victorian style Chain Ferry across the Kalamazoo River for just a dollar.

The west side of the state is covered with wineries and craft breweries due to the lake effect climate, which makes it easier to grow grapes. The Lake Michigan Shore Wine Trail begins in Saugatuck and flows south

to New Buffalo, passing by 24 notable breweries and wineries. The Fenn Valley Vineyard and Virtue Cider are some highlights. For more information, visit www.michiganwines.com.

Traverse City Area

Summer is “beach season” in Traverse City. Named as one of its top 10 summer trips by National Geographic, Traverse City has over 150 inland lakes, more than 20 golf courses and miles of hiking and cycling tracks as well as locations for boating, sailing, paddling, swimming and beachcombing.

Five historic lighthouses surround the Traverse City area: Mission Point, Grand Traverse, South Manitou, North Manitou and Point Betsie. Sleeping Bear Dunes

See Travel, page 16



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Lansing has over 1,000 businesses and is home to Michigan Pride held Aug. 28, which will welcome members of the LGBT and allied community from across the state to celebrate equality. BTL file photo: AJ Trager

► Travel

Continued from p. 14

National Park is nearby, as well as large schooners, sloops and frigates offering tall ship summer excursions on Grand Traverse Bay and an opportunity to attend the “floating classrooms” to learn about the area’s aquatic environment and maritime history.

Don’t forget to step into Side Traxx, the local gay video-dance bar, located at 520 Franklin St. and visit www.traversecity.com/summer/things-to-do/kids-activities for more information on what children’s activities are available in the region.

Lansing Area

Located along the banks of the Grand River in the heart of the Lower Peninsula, Lansing is a blend of small town and busy city. The city has a lot to offer from late-night evening dancing and entertainment to quiet evenings in one of the many state parks.

Lansing has over 1,000 businesses and is home to Michigan Pride held Aug. 28, which will welcome members of the LGBT and allied community from across the state to celebrate equality.

Home to Michigan State University, nearby East Lansing is packed full of fun and exciting activities for the whole family. If traveling during school months, catch an MSU sporting event. Home to Michigan State University, nearby East Lansing is packed full of fun and exciting activities for the whole family. If traveling during school months, catch

an MSU sporting event. Stop into the MSU LGBT Resource Center and see what activities and support services are currently being offered for marginalized sexualities on one of Michigan’s top college campuses.

Located in the northeastern side of Lansing, Old Town was established in the mid-1800s. Old Town will host JazzFest beginning Aug. 7; the district hosts other festivals throughout the year including Old Town Oktoberfest, Old Town Renegade Festival, Chalk of the Town and the Old Town Festival of the Moon and Sun celebrating the beginning of summer in late June.

Visitors can take one of various guided tours of the State Capitol and the R.E. Olds Transportation Museum and can explore Michigan history and culture at the Library of Michigan and Historical Museum. Travelers can even learn firsthand how cheese and ice cream are made at the Michigan State University Dairy Complex or attend one of 30 annual fairs.

Chicago

Chicago is a very popular vacation destination for Michiganders and is located just on the other side of Lake Michigan. Chicago is known as a world-class center of culture, commerce, education, architecture, dining and shopping. Lakeview contains Boystown, a gay community located five miles northwest of downtown. Over the years, Boystown has become a mix of artsy-types, working families, young professionals and the LGBT community.


See next page



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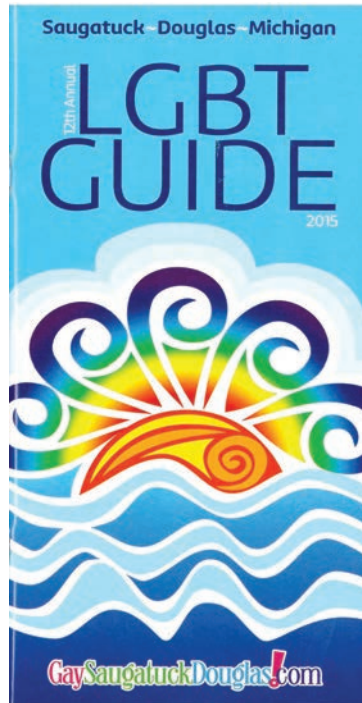
Northalsted Market Days takes place Aug. 8-9. See the event ad on page 15

In recent years, neighborhood real estate values have risen and Boystown has become increasingly more mixed with the LGBT and allied communities.

Vacation “must sees” for the “Windy City” include Wrigley Field, the Field Museum, the Chicago Botanic Garden, Hancock Tower, Navy Pier, the Willis Tower, Shedd Aquarium and the Steppenwolf Theatre Company.

While Chicago may be miles from the nearest ocean, the west side of Lake Michigan provides a waterfront destination that has 28 miles of lakefront shoreline, including 24 beaches and an 18-mile bike path. Many visitors rely on the elevated rail transport system, or “The L,” instead of cabs to get around the city.

Lakeview will host its Fine Art Festival beginning Sept. 11 followed by Oktoberfest Chicago on Sept. 26 and the Chicago LGBT International Film Festival Sept. 17-24.



LGBT Resources

SAUGATUCK/DOUGLAS

LGBT Guide To Saugatuck and Douglas: www.gaysaugatuckdouglas.com
The Dunes Resort: <https://dunesresort.com>
PFLAG Holland/Lakeshore: www.pflaglakeshore.org

TRAVERSE CITY

Northern Michigan Pride: <http://northernmichiganpride.org>
Side Traxx: <http://sidetraxx.com/>
PFLAG Traverse City, Tollfree Number: 800-442-7315

LANSING

Michigan Pride: www.michiganpride.org
LAHR: lahronline.org
Lesbian Connection: www.lconline.org

Lansing Area AIDS Network: www.laanonline.org
PFLAG Lansing: 517-332-4550

CHICAGO

Windy City Times: www.windycitymediagroup.com
Chicago Pride: <http://chicago.gopride.com>
LGBT Community Organization: www.centeronhalsted.org
AIDS Foundation Chicago: www.aidschicago.org

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Photo: Dean Stockings

Boy George On Finding His Better Self, Caitlyn Jenner & His Massive Hat Collection

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

The falsetto is gone.

When Boy George sings now, a rich tone resounds. He refers to it as “the voice of experience.”

The voice, once fluttery and high, can be traced back to the early '80s by way of a long, glittery trail that George blazed as the front man for Culture Club. The band formed in 1981, at the onset of a second, MTV-aided British invasion, and the foursome turned out a treasure trove of sonic gold, most notably “Karma Chameleon” and “Do You

Really Want to Hurt Me?”

Within a few years of their emergence, Culture Club was a bona fide act of great significance. Instantly, they became the first band since The Beatles with three songs from their debut album, 1982’s “Kissing to be Clever,” to reach the top 10 on Billboard’s Hot 100. And it wasn’t just music they were influencing.

It was fashion. It was politics. It was gender. It was the queer community as a whole.

Now, Culture Club is back. After more than 12 years apart, the original members of Culture Club are reuniting for a tour and

their forthcoming LP, “Tribes,” their first album together since 1999’s “Don’t Mind If I Do.” As part of the tour, the foursome will perform at 9 p.m. Aug. 7 at The Colosseum at Caesars Windsor.

George, 54, recently rang to sound off on a smorgasbord of topics: Culture Club nostalgia, the Madonna vs. Lady Gaga rivalry, his massive hat collection and the lack of any pop star “stand outs.”

Why is now the right time for Culture Club to reunite?

The idea first started about four years ago.

With all the different management, and just so many complications, it’s taken this long to actually get everybody together. When I suggested it four years ago it seemed like a really simple idea; it turned out to be quite complicated! (Laughs)

Now we’ve gotten into rehearsing, and we recently did “Today,” although we didn’t have Jon (Moss) there, but it was our first live thing together in a while. The thing about Culture Club, but also just bands in general: The fun is always the playing and the recording and the writing. It’s the other stuff that’s kind of boring.

“People say to me, ‘You were so confident!’ I probably appeared confident but, perhaps underneath, I wasn’t. I think life is about growing into yourself, accepting who you are and maybe having a better relationship with who you are, sort of liking yourself, and I think I’m closer now than I’ve ever been.”

INFO

Culture Club

9 p.m. Aug. 7

Caesars Windsor

377 Riverside Drive East, Windsor
www.caesars.com/caesars-windsor

Culture Club makes the most sense when we’re on stage and concentrating on what we’re doing musically. (The tour is) gonna be interesting. It’s as much a surprise for me, but obviously, we know there’s a lot of affection out there for what we are collectively.

Do people expect you to be the same band you were 20 years ago? Are you still the same band?

I don’t think anybody expects me to be what I was 20 years ago. If they do, they’re deluded. (Laughs) I’ve never spoken to anybody who said, “You’re nothing like you were 20 years ago.” There are some people in the world who believe you could be suspended in animation, I think (laughs), but we all get older and we all develop. And, in fact, I think I’m a very different performer. I actually prefer what I do now.

Why is that?

I like the noise that I make now because I feel like I’ve earned it. I feel it’s a voice of experience. I feel I’m more connected to what I do. Vocally and emotionally I’m more connected to my life, full stop, and I’m kind of happy with who I am.

There’s always room for improvement, of course, but I don’t have the sort of insecurities that I had when I was a younger man. People say to me, “You were so confident!” I probably appeared confident but, perhaps underneath, I wasn’t. I think life is about growing into yourself, accepting who you are and maybe having a better relationship with who you are, sort of liking yourself, and I think I’m closer now than I’ve ever been.

How long did it take you to reach that point?

It takes a long time to get there, but you know, some people just don’t get there. And I don’t know how you get there, and I don’t know how you know you’re there, but you operate with a sense of peace. In life, it’s very easy to do what you’ve always done. It’s very easy to slip back into bad attitudes, bad habits and personality traits.

Speaking of bad habits, you’ve been very vocal in discussing your drug and alcohol use early on in your life. These days, what’s the wildest you get? What’s a typical night for you like now?

Obviously I don’t think of those past things as being wild days – I just think of them as being quite negative. I was talking about this last night at dinner. I think what you learn as you get older, if you’re smart, is that the joy is in the mundane things – the small things, like being with your family, taking a walk, having coffee with friends, having meals with friends, good company. It’s like that saying, “the devil is in the detail” – sometimes I have the most fun when I’m just walking around with no set plans. Because there’s so many special effects in my life in terms of the career thing and traveling and all of that kind of excitement, I counterbalance it with sheer ordinariness in a way, and that’s where I have the most fun sometimes.

How did your signature look come to involve hats?

Going to clubs as a kid, we were always trying to over-exaggerate our look – a hat is definitely a way of over-exaggerating an outfit! Back then I was sometimes doing a kind of Carmen Miranda thing (laughs) and wearing a turban. It was just basically plundering every kind of theatrical idea you could imagine, and hats – I just love hats. Hats have to wear you. You can’t buy

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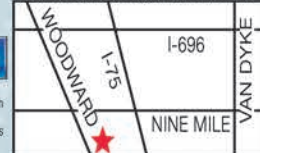
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See Boy George, page 20

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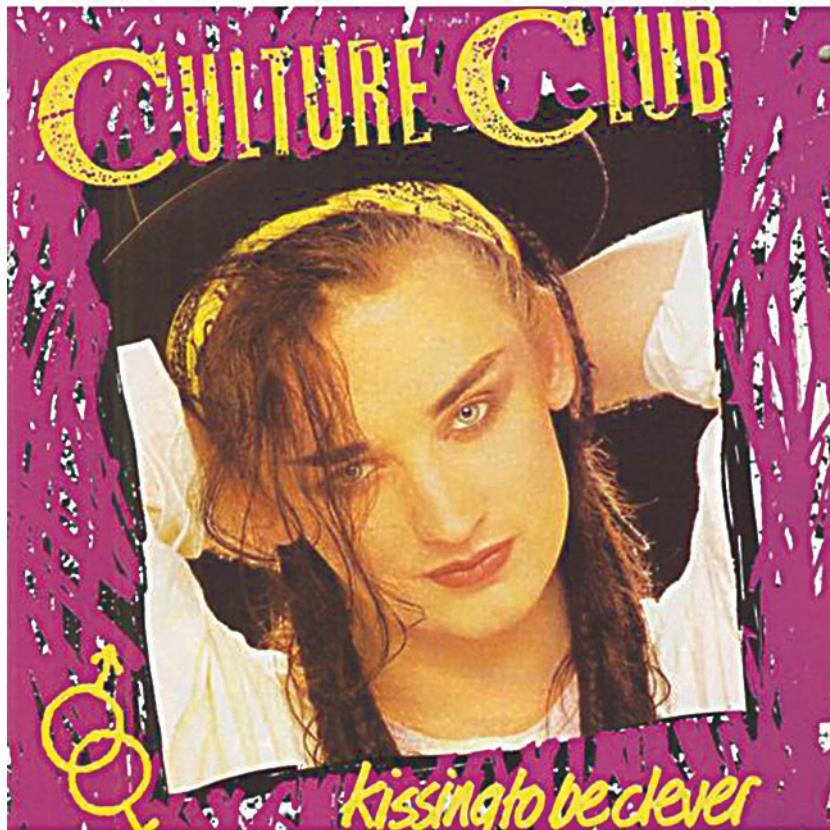
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► Boy George

Continued from page 19

somebody a hat because that's like buying somebody a haircut.

How many hats would you say you have?

I have quite a few that I can't wear anymore because they're damaged, but I refuse to let them go. (Laughs) I have about 40 wearable ones, and I'm always adding new hats to the collection.

You must have a hat room.

They're scattered around. Also: They're a really good thing to give to auctions. People are always asking me for things for charity, so I'm always giving them to people to sell.

How many different hats do you wear on stage?

At the moment I've got a few that I'm gonna try out. The thing about stage costumes is, they seem like a great idea until you put them on. Trying to dance around in them in the heat – the hat makes that decision for you. But I've got some quite fierce looks for this tour, and I'm gonna up the ante. I think it's quite important, because at the moment everybody looks like everybody else. Everybody in a band seems like they're in the audience. You look at a band on stage and you say, "Oh, it's really nice that they're on stage and they've wore their gym clothes to the gig." (Laughs) There aren't really many artists – just a lot

of backroom boys pretending to be artists. A lot of producers who become pop stars. But there really aren't many artists around or anybody that stands out. It's a weird time for pop culture, and I suppose you can only measure current pop culture by what it was like when you were doing your thing. So, I'm always gonna measure it by what I've grown up with: David Bowie, Annie Lennox, Prince, Madonna... Of course I'm gonna measure it by that, and I don't see any of that around at the moment. I mean, Gaga, Nicki Minaj and Rihanna – they're working a bit of a hot look. More the girls.

What do you think it says about the current state of the music industry that Gaga ended up toning down her image?

Actually, what I think is interesting about Lady Gaga is she's an incredible theatrical vocalist. She has a whole Judy Garland / Liza Minnelli thing going on, and I'm actually more of a fan of what's she's doing now than – I mean, I loved what she did in the beginning. It was great. I remember seeing her on TV and thinking, "What's she got on now?!" (Laughs) But in terms of her musicality, what she's doing now is amazing.

I was in bed a few months ago – I had to get up really early the next day – and there was an advertisement for Gaga and Tony Bennett. There was a show on TV and I said, "Well, I'll watch a bit of it and then I'll go to sleep." I ended up watching the whole thing and being gobsmacked by how

great she was.

How fair are the comparisons to Madonna?

I'm not saying this to diss Madonna at all – I mean, Madonna doesn't have anything to prove to anyone; she's Madonna! – but I really felt all those comparisons were a bit stupid. Of course someone like Lady Gaga, who's younger than Madonna, is gonna be influenced by Madonna. It's a complete compliment. That's how you have to view it. Whenever I see anybody working a look that I might've had back in the day – I've done it. Why do I need to get upset about it?

As someone who's always stood for gender fluidity and gender expression, what are your feelings on Caitlyn Jenner?

I think it's amazing, but there are a lot of other people being overlooked, like Candis Cayne. Caitlyn Jenner is getting the limelight because of the Kardashians, but there are a lot of people who have made that transition – her transition – possible.

I feel in a way we're starting to, in part, live in a world I always wanted to live in. When I started my career, I was very naive. I wanted to change the world. I wanted to live in a world where it didn't really matter if someone was gay or straight, transsexual, lesbian, whatever – and we're certainly getting closer in some areas.

You gotta remember that myself and Caitlyn Jenner live in a celebrity bubble to a certain extent, and there are different rules in that celebrity bubble. But I think it's great. I think it's always wonderful when someone is allowed to be who they wanna be no matter how long it takes. I think that's a beautiful thing to watch. When I saw that interview with Diane Sawyer, I was quite tearful.

I have to say, though: There's a daisy chain of people who affected change long before I was around, like Oscar Wilde and Quentin Crisp. There are people no one knows about from the Victorian time. I'm always kind of coming across drag queens and Bohemians who were around 100 years ago who were a part of that daisy chain. So, I think it's amazing that we're edging toward the kind of liberalism that I always dreamed of.

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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Ford Arts, Beats & Eats Announces New Sponsors, Themes

ROYAL OAK – New business partnerships and exciting alliances to benefit the community and enhance the festival experience were announced as organizers, sponsors and festival co-founder, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, shared plans for the 18th Annual Ford Arts, Beats & Eats presented by Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort. An extended partnership with Ford, expanded relationship with Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort and new sponsorships with OUR Credit Union and Vibe Credit Union will boost Ford Arts, Beats & Eats, taking place in downtown Royal Oak Labor Day weekend, Sept. 4-7.

In its 17-year history, Ford Arts, Beats & Eats has not only entertained millions of people, but has also greatly impacted the entire area by raising \$4.5 million from gate admission, beverage proceeds and other festival sponsored community initiatives benefiting nonprofits and civic organizations throughout southeastern Michigan.

The area's largest Labor Day weekend celebration will continue to be known as Ford Arts, Beats & Eats as the Southeast Michigan Ford Dealers, in partnership with Ford Motor Company's Detroit Region, extends its Title Sponsorship agreement, which it has held since 2010, to 2018. The festival's impact and reach could not be achieved without this key corporate support.

"We are proud to continue to invest in the communities we serve by extending our Title Sponsorship of Ford Arts, Beats & Eats," said Amy Marentic, Detroit regional sales manager for Ford Motor Company. "In the five years of our title involvement, we have found it has presented an ideal setting to showcase our Ford products through displays and interactive activities with entertaining and informative features."

Strong community backing continues

for Oakland County's premier Labor Day festival with the upgrade of the key partnership with Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort as it expands its role to Presenting Sponsor through 2017, making the new official title of the festival as: Ford Arts, Beats & Eats presented by Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.

"We are excited to expand our agreement with Ford Arts, Beats & Eats to become its presenting sponsor," said Raul Venegas, director of Marketing & Entertainment at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort. "In the years of our involvement with the



festival, we have found it offers the most successful event marketing opportunity of its kind. It not only creates valuable exposure in the metro Detroit area but it has driven thousands of festival-goers to our properties in Mt. Pleasant."

Ford Arts, Beats & Eats also announced new partnerships with two credit unions with a downtown Royal Oak presence. OUR Credit Union and Vibe Credit Union will share exclusive rights as financial institution sponsors at the festival.

"The success of Ford Arts, Beats & Eats is due to collaboration among businesses, our communities, and civic organizations," said L. Brooks Patterson, Oakland County Executive. "Their support enables this regional quality of life event to continue without utilizing taxpayers' dollars."

To satisfy growing interest, Ford Arts, Beats & Eats will once again present its popular health and fitness activities as part of the weekend's offerings while also making a few fun tweaks.

The Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA), the area's cultural beacon for more than a century, is once again involved in Ford Arts, Beats & Eats with two new enriching features, DIA Away: Think Like an Artist and Artist Demonstrations.

DIA Away is a free, mobile interactive classroom for students and a creative exploration space for people of all ages and will add an educational hands-on art experience to the festival. The fully furnished, vibrantly designed 53 foot double-expandable trailer gives participants the opportunity to discover some of the ways artists think and then try out creative thinking skills at digital and hands-on stations.

DIA Away is one of the many ways the DIA shares its world-renowned collection and educational resources outside its museum walls and was created in consultation with area educators, community members, DIA visitors and in collaboration with MRA experiential tours & equipment. DIA Away will be located in the Kids Zone sponsored by DMC Children's Hospital of Michigan.

In addition, the DIA will be the presenting sponsor of Artist Demonstrations at the festival each day as an extension of their Think Like An Artist exhibit. The DIA will present three onstage art demonstrations each day of the festival. In each demonstration, a festival visual artist will have a piece they are working on, explain how it is made and talk about their techniques. Each demonstration will take between 15 and 30 minutes and will be located on an exclusive stage in the OUR Credit Union parking lot.



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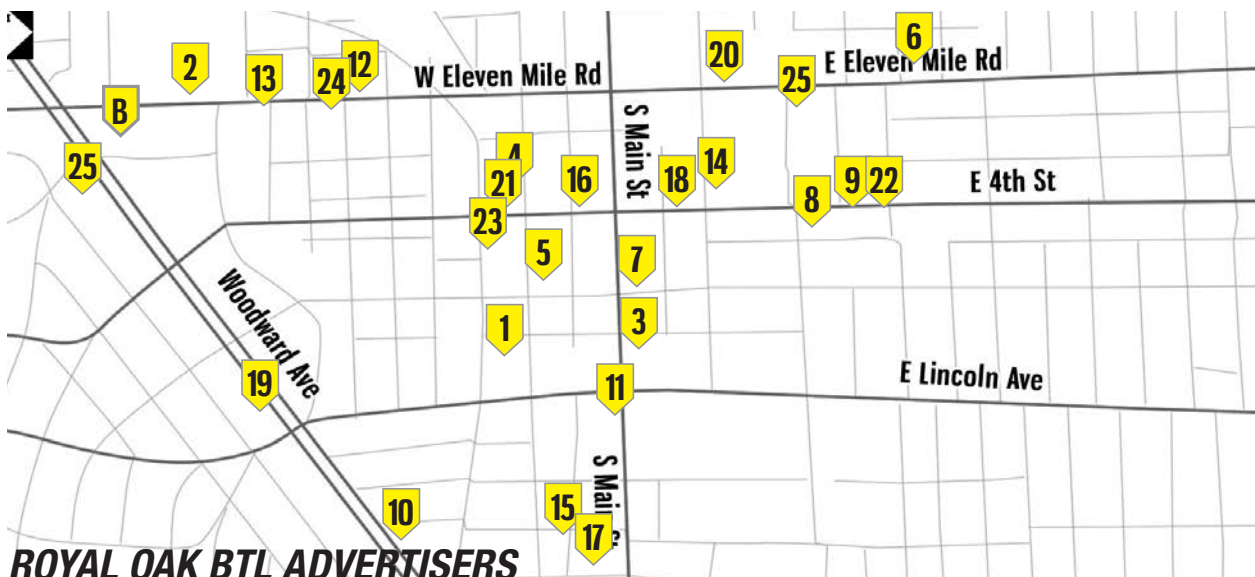
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Editor's Pick



Each year, the Jim Toy Community Center brings together families and friends to celebrate the LGBT and allied community. With food, fun, games, children's activities, music and even a family-friendly drag show, JTCC invites everyone to join them for the 2015 Washtenaw County Pride Picnic.

This year's picnic will include veggie and meat brats grilled by The Wurst Bar and delicious sides and desserts from the

Aut Bar, Ayse's Cafe, Frita Batidos and The Lunch Room. This year's event includes sponsorships by Between the Lines, OutPost, Zingerman's, Arbor Brewing Company, Washtenaw Community College and many more.

The picnic begins at noon this Saturday, Aug. 1 and runs until 3 p.m. The picnic will be at Ann Arbor's Allmendinger Park. Admission is \$5 for adults, free for those 18 and younger. For more information, visit www.jimtoycenter.org.

entertainment. Mingle with local brew masters. MGM Grand Detroit - Tap, 1777 Third St., **Detroit**.

Creative Monologue: A Solo Exhibition by Timothy Oriki 6:30 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.Goaffirmations.org

Friday, July 31

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

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

Saturday, Aug. 1

Take It From The Top Musical theater workshop. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, **East Lansing**. 800-WHARTON. www.Whartoncenter.com

Washtenaw Pride Picnic 12 p.m. Jim Toy Community Center, Pauline and Fifth, **Ann Arbor**. www.Jimtoycenter.org

Sunday, Aug. 2

Seventh Annual Buy Michigan Now Festival Buy Michigan Now and Michigan Positivity Project, **Northville**. www.Buymichigannowfest.com

Purple Rose Theatre Backyard BBQ Fundraiser 3:30 p.m. Tickets: \$125. Purple Rose Theatre Company, 8540 Island Lake Road, **Dexter**.

Monday, Aug. 3

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, accepting cash or check. Open to both men and women. Lansing Capital Roller Derby, 7868 Old M-78, **East Lansing**. lcrdbootcamp@mittenmavens.net www.Mittenmavens.net/join/bootcamp

Tuesday, Aug. 4

Karaoke and Half Off Wine \aut\BAR, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-994-3677. www.Autbar.com

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

Leon & Lulu's Girls Night Out 6 p.m. Various events with wine, goodies and more for women. Leon & Lulu, 96 W. Fourteen Mile Road, **Clawson**. 248-288-3600. www.Leonandlulu.com/girlsnightout

Wednesday, Aug. 5

Free Pool and \$1 Off Beer \aut\BAR, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-994-3677. www.Autbar.com

MAC Health 6 p.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.MichiganAIDScoalition.org

Transgender Michigan Legal Clinic

7 p.m. Are you unsure how the law affects you as a transgender person? If you have a question to ask a lawyer, then come to the Transgender Michigan Legal Clinic. Transgender Michigan, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 855-345-TGMI. info@transgendermichigan.org www.Transgendermichigan.org/events/pride.html

Thursday, Aug. 6

Trivia with Terry and Thirsty Thursday Half off beer and well

drinks with student ID. \aut\BAR, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-994-3677. www.Autbar.com

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

Alyssa G. Smith, Ninth Annual Percussion Recital Benefitting the Komen 3-Day 6 p.m. A lovely evening of percussion music, including works for marimba, ragtime xylophone, multiple percussion and more! Special guests include Rob Kratz, Sara Potter, Thomas Cushing and Dave Piontkowski, percussion Miriam Lynch, voice and Kelli Creamer, bass. FREE. Flint Institute of Music, 1025 E. Kearsley St., **Flint**. asmith3day@gmail.com www.Smithmarimba.com/the_3-day

MAC Health 11 p.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), 928 McNichols Road W, **Detroit**. 313-863-3934. www.MichiganAIDScoalition.org

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

Friday, Aug. 7

Bistro Fridays Special menu. \aut\BAR, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-994-3677. www.Autbar.com

Forum Foundation's Riverboat Cruise 8 p.m. Support the GLBT scholarship mission. Tickets: \$45+ The Forum Foundation, **Detroit**. 586-573-9932. www.Theforumfoundation.org/djc2014.pdf

Culture Club 9 p.m. Tickets: \$55+ Canadian. Caesars Windsor, 377 E. Riverside Dr., **Windsor**. 800-991-

See Happenings, page 28

Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, July 30

A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor and special guest Sarah Jarosz Tickets: \$38+. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, **East Lansing**. 800-WHARTON. www.Whartoncenter.com

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Hear Me Out

Miguel, Kacey Musgraves

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI



Miguel, 'Wildheart'

Carnal sex is the gateway to bittersweet romanticism on Miguel's modern-lust-and-love odyssey, "Wildheart." And the pompadoured R&B seducer's third studio album is not beating around the bush. Or is it? In the most literal sense, it is; real-life sex is a raw, uninhibited Xtube clip—at least in Miguel's dirty mind. "I'm your master, babe," the 29-year-old dreamboat declares on "The Valley," getting his rocks off D'Angelo style as a pulsating drone and his fan-inducing falsetto works in conjunction with the song's X-rated setting: the San Fernando Valley, the world's notorious porn mecca. Its sex-positive takeaway is commendable on its own. Miguel, though, is much too artistically discerning for such simplicity (you've obsessively listened to his debut, "Kaleidoscope Dream," right?), and when he contextualizes his sexual desires, he takes you to the third dimension. Sex isn't just sex anymore. It's "coffee in the morning," and, of course, cuddles and conversation—all of which are the basis for "Coffee," the post-fuck phase. And then, maybe it's love ("Waves"). Or maybe it's not... anymore ("Leaves," a devastating dose of summertime sadness). Despite a hypersexualized exterior, there's an unexpected plethora of psychological feelings to sift through on "Wildheart," and an even wider range

of musical influences. One of those muses is, without question, Prince. The veteran's presence is undeniable throughout this rock- and electro-infused R&B scorcher, a sumptuous, intoxicating and top-shelf set. *Grade: A-*



Kacey Musgraves, 'Pageant Material'

Kacey Musgraves was part of the change that country music needed. Guys can love guys and girls can

love girls and so what, she proclaimed on "Follow Your Arrow." Though her Grammy-winning breakthrough anthem matter-of-factly advocated for queer acceptance, the 26-year-old Texan was knocking down doors left and right on her defiant gem-of-a-debut "Same Trailer Different Park." That hasn't changed much with "Pageant Material," which works both for and against her. On the follow-up to "Same Trailer," Musgraves assures us she's not done taking the piss out of people who sniff around in other people's business ("Biscuits"), and despite modest fame, she maintains an outsider disposition on the title track. She's also still smoking pot. That easy-going, every-girl authenticity gives Musgraves a leg up on "Pageant

Material," when some of the album's weightless songwriting can't live up to its predecessor's sly, no-sweat scribes. "High Time" is a grass-swaying good time that epitomizes Musgraves' sonic simplicity; that feet-up, chill-out sound is her trademark, but on "Pageant Material," it's paired with vague, vanilla riffs that only scratch the surface of family, love and dogma from her seemingly endless supply of "be yourself" stock. Buttons are still being pushed, just not with the same innovativeness as before (remember "It Is What It Is," about casual hook-ups?). "Biscuits" is a fine song, though. And even if it's another shoulder shrug to all the haters, you can't deny the cuteness of every metaphor on "Cup of Tea." "Pageant Material," then, is the dreaded sequel. Same trailer; different, less-interesting park. *Grade: C+*

Also Out

Adam Lambert, 'The Original High'

Ladies and gentleman, please welcome Adam Lambert to the Serious Phase of his career. The third installment in the rocker's post-"Idol" career isn't merely here for your entertainment. And the makeup? It's gone. Lambert still keeps it in the clubs on "The Original High"; refreshingly, though, he tries on some new chic sounds, venturing outside his glam-rock romps to spotlight some of his most personal lyrics to date.

Joy Williams, 'Venus'

Still biting back tears caused by the cataclysmic split of folk duo The Civil Wars last year? Sorry to say, but Joy Williams' solo comeback album won't do much to dry your eyes. With her soothing, supple voice, Williams distances herself from her rootsy work with ex-bandmate John White only to take on a decent-but-overwrought genre jumble: synthy trip-hop, late '90s Lilith pop and smatterings of too much of just about everything else.

Florence and the Machine, 'How Big, How Blue, How Beautiful'

The dog days are gone... and so are the days when English super-vocalist Florence Welch unleashed her colossal voice like a fireworks show finale. Her belt still bursts from within the deepest depths of her soul, but on her junior release, "How Big, How Blue, How Beautiful," it's used sparingly. Welch's career so far has been, in large part, defined by her lung power. Not anymore. This one's a big, beautiful slow-burn.

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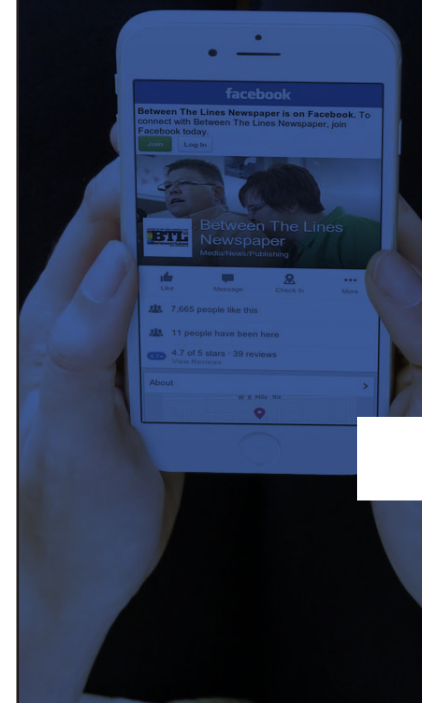
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Happenings

Continued from page 24

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Saturday, Aug. 8

turnI aut \aut\BAR, 315 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-994-3677. www.Autbar.com

Transgender Pride in the Park 12 p.m. All Trans-people and Allies Welcome. Free food, free fun, great friends. Transgender Michigan, Pincrest Ave & Earl Blvd., Ferndale. 855-345-TGMI. info@transgendermichigan.org www.Transgendermichigan.org/events/pride.html

Sunday, Aug. 9

Creative Monologue: A Solo Exhibition by Timothy Orikri Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.Goaffirmations.org

Northalsted Market Days Special guests Salt-N-Pepa, Aaron Carter, En Vogue, Jack & Jack, All 4 One and Who Is Fancy. Bud Light and Northalsted Business Alliance, Detroit. www.Northalsted.com

Salsa Night Salsa lessons. \$1 tacos. \aut\BAR, 315 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-994-3677. www.Autbar.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

MUSIC & MORE

Concerts

Chene Park Ampitheater "Jazzy Nights". Chene Park Ampitheater, 2600 Atwater, Detroit. May 6 - Aug. 12. 313-393-7128. www.Cheneparkdetroit.com

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 "Lyle Lovett and His Large Band". Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 4. 734-668-8397. www.Royalokmusictheatre.com

The Ark "50th Anniversary Reunion". The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 5 - Aug. 9. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

The Ark "Raisin Pickers" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 2. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

The Ark "David Cook" Tickets: \$30-60. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. July 30. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

The Ark "Yale Strom & Hot Pstrom" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 1. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

The Ark "Lazer Lloyd" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 3. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

The Ark "Livingston Taylor" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. July 31. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

The Ark "We Banjo 3" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 4. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

Dance

ARTLAB J "Choreographers Showcase" ARTLAB J is very excited to announce this years Choreographers Showcase being held July 30 and July 31. We are astounded by the number of interested participants which was more than 70 submissions from Michigan, Kentucky, New Jersey, Florida, many other states in the USA and Ontario. We are proud to feature 30 selected choreographers to perform in the showcase for the Detroit Dance City Festival. Boll Family YMCA, 1401 Broadway St., Detroit, Detroit. 7 p.m. July 30. 313-638-2192. www.Detroitdancecityfestival.com

Festivals

ARTLAB J "Detroit Dance City Festival". YMCA Family Boll, 1401 Broadway, Detroit. July 30 - July 31. 313-638-2192. www.Detroitdancecityfestival.com/buypass/

Henry Ford Estate "Fair Lane Folk Festival" Tickets: \$25-75. Henry Ford Estate, Dearborn. 4 p.m. Aug. 1. www.Fairlanefolkfest.org

Sidewalk Detroit "Third Annual Sidewalk Festival of Performing Arts". Detroit Artist Village, Grand River and Lahser, Detroit. 3 p.m. Aug. 1. www.Sidewalkdetroit.com

Other

Olympia Entertainment "HockeyTown BrewHaHa" 21+. Tickets: \$47.50+. Joe Louis Arena, 19 Steve Yzerman Dr., Detroit. 6 p.m. July 31. 313-396-7000. www.Olympiaentertainment.com

THEATER

Jeff Daniels' Onstage & Unplugged

A prolific songwriter as well as playwright, Daniels will perform an arsenal of songs that are alternately humorous and poignant. Tickets: \$75-125. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, Purple Rose Theatre, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Aug. 1. 734-433-7673. www.Purplerosetheatre.org

UNclub open mic Suggest Donation: \$5. Emergent Arts, The Yellow Barn, 416 W. Huron St., Ann Arbor. July 26 - Aug. 23. 734-635-8450. www.Emergentarts.com

Urinetown the Musical Set in an admittedly absurd dystopian future where one must pay to pee, the show lampoons corporate bureaucracy, pie-in-the-sky optimism, revolution without a plan and the musical theater genre itself. Tickets: \$10+. Penny Seats Theatre, West Park Band Shell, Seventh Street between Miller and Huron Rds., Ann Arbor. July 30 - Aug. 15. 734-926-5346. www.pennyseats.org

Professional

All's Well That Ends Well Love, war, seduction, betrayal and bed-hopping all come together in this comedic love story. Tickets: \$20. Water Works Theatre Company, Star Jaycee Park, 1301 West 13 Mile Rd., Royal Oak. July 30 - Aug. 9. www.shakespeareroyaloak.com

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 An abbreviated and family-friendly version of

Shakespeare's most luscious love comedy. Tickets: \$10. Water Works Theatre Company, Star Jaycee Park, 1301 West 13 Mile Rd., Royal Oak. Aug. 1 - Aug. 9. www.shakespeareroyaloak.com

Banana for Turtle A set of vignettes that involves five animal friends: Monkey, Python, Parrot, Elephant and Turtle. Created in the style of classical marionette, the performance speaks humorously to issues of early childhood. Tickets: \$5-10. PuppetART, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. Through Aug. 15. 313-961-7777. www.puppetart.org

Beaches Be Trippin' See See Bloomers and Whitney Hillary meet cute at a young age on the Jersey Shore and become fast friends. A lifetime of penpal-ism prepares them for a future of laughs, jealousy, big hair, Otto Tittling, and, ultimately (spoiler alert!), death. Tickets: \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through Aug. 3. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

Buyer & Cellar Twenty-something Alex More is a struggling L.A. actor until he takes an intriguing "odd job." Tickets: \$36-43. Mason Street Warehouse, Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. Through Aug. 9. 269-857-2399. www.sc4a.org

Ernie On Detroit Tigers' announcer Ernie Harwell's last night at Comerica Park in September 2009, he encounters an unusual boy who is eager to know all about him, coaxing Harwell into giving one final broadcast the "broadcast of his life." Tickets: \$20-25. City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Through Aug. 2. 313-471-6611. www.olympiaentertainment.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. Cornwell's Dinner Theatre, 18935 15 1/2 Mile Rd., Marshall. Through Aug. 22. 269-781-4293. www.turkeyville.com

Hay Fever A retired diva of the stage, her novelist husband and their two adult children have all invited house guests for the weekend. As they indulge their artistic eccentricities, the guests begin to wonder if they've landed in a madhouse and if they can survive the weekend with their own sanity intact. Tickets: \$15-24. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through Aug. 6. 616-395-7890. www.hope.edu/hsrt

Invasive Species Earl Hobbs doesn't like people. Alone with his secrets, he continues this tradition in a little private fishing hole by his house - until one summer night he reels in something that leaves him speechless. Tickets: \$27-32. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through Aug. 23. 248-347-0003. www.tippingpointtheatre.com

Jihad Jones and the Kalashnikov Babes, by Yussef El Giundi - Michigan Premiere! Ashraf is an actor who has just received rave reviews for his performance of Hamlet at a struggling theater in Los Angeles. But he's having trouble paying the bills - and he needs his big break. And that's just what his smarmy agent is offering! Tickets: Pay-what-you-can; suggested donation \$20. Theatre Nova, The Yellow Barn, 416 W. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through Aug. 16. 734-635-8450. https://www.artful.ly/theatre-nova/store/events/6413


See Happenings, page 31

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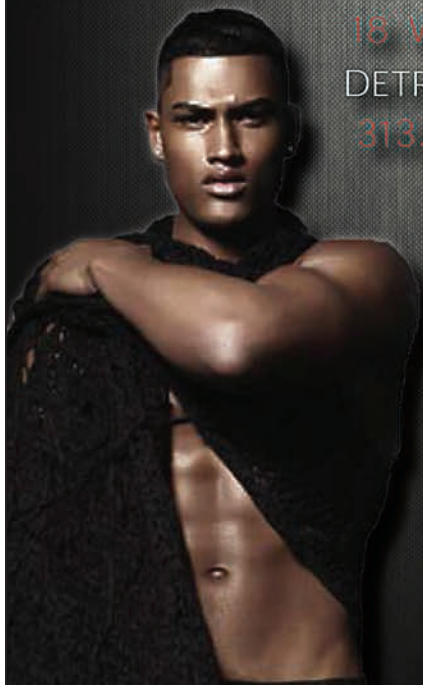
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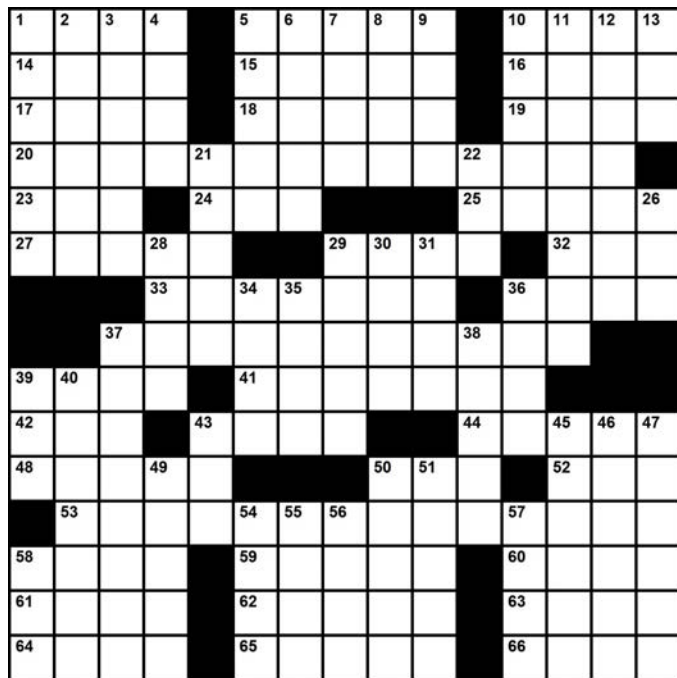
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 - 36 Curve and others
 - 37 A space probe
 - 39 Sound of getting banged?
 - 41 Tammy Baldwin ad word
 - 42 The other woman
 - 43 Make messy
 - 44 Artist Eva
 - 48 Some nerve
 - 50 Preposition that goes either way
 - 52 Alf and others
 - 53 End of a top review
 - 58 Ambience
 - 59 Oscar, for one
 - 60 Court figure Mandlikova
 - 61 Jacques of song
 - 62 One who comes out after some rubbing
 - 63 Firm member (abbr.)
 - 64 Warhol of soup fame
 - 65 Look dirty?
 - 66 Porgy's lady
- 7 Admire a hottie
 - 8 Shakespeare's Hathaway
 - 9 Bottomless
 - 10 Provide
 - 11 Wife and wife, e.g.
 - 12 Cockamamie
 - 13 Head cover
 - 21 Sib of the bride, to the other bride
 - 22 OCS grads
 - 26 Inflated doll leak sound
 - 28 Served perfectly, to Mauresmo
 - 29 Social customs
 - 30 Make water bubble
 - 31 Woodcarver's tool
 - 34 Kind of traffic
 - 35 Batman and Robin to Catwoman
 - 36 Initial stake
 - 37 Like gay teens with supportive moms and dads
 - 38 Earth tone
 - 39 Even if, for short
 - 40 "Breakfast at Tiffany's" actress
 - 43 AT&T rival
 - 45 "Julius Caesar" setting
 - 46 Jobs of doubles
 - 47 Some Bacon pieces
 - 49 Pisa place
 - 50 Kind of queer
 - 51 Less polite
 - 54 Gets behind
 - 55 Wilson of "Zoolander"
 - 56 Weathercock
 - 57 Moby Dick chaser
 - 58 Old cagers' org.

Top Review Of A Probe

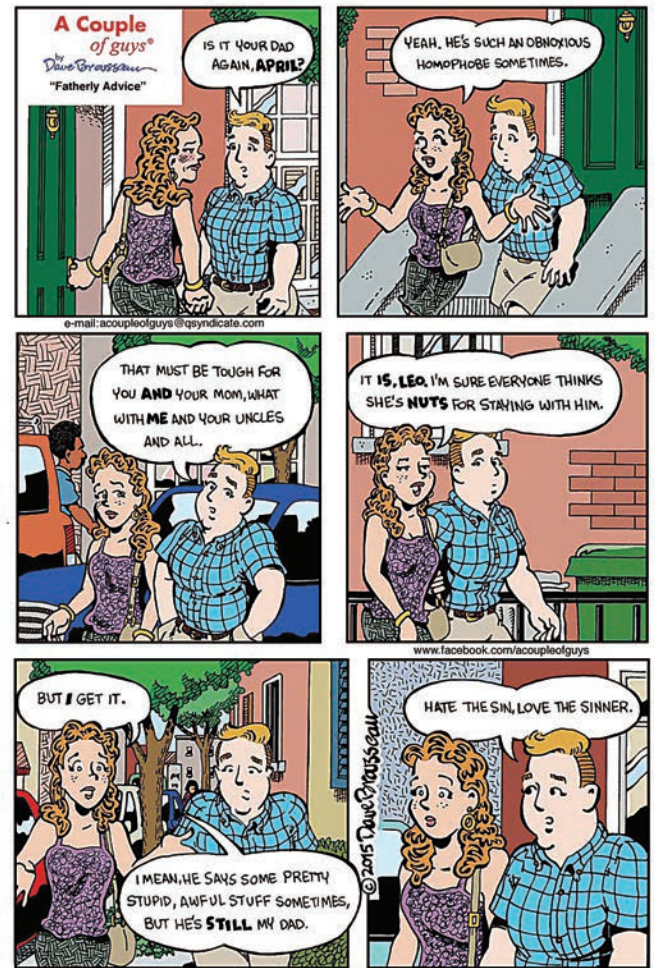
Across

- 1 HIV exam, e.g.
- 5 You may pick one up at a bar
- 10 "Spartacus" or "Ben-Hur"
- 14 "___ The Woods"
- 15 Computer knockoff
- 16 It means nothing to Frida
- 17 Source of red balls
- 18 Single-handed
- 19 Wet spot cause
- 20 Start of a top review

Down

- 1 Is active in B&D
- 2 Bear
- 3 Eyed impolitely
- 4 Gertrude Stein's "A Long Gay Book," for one
- 5 "Do-Re-Mi" subject
- 6 Kate's sitcom partner

Solution below



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Puzzle on this page



▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 28

Jingle ARRGH the Way! A mysterious message left in the crow's nest of their ship brings Captain Braid Beard and his pirate mates back to North Beach to seek out young Jeremy Jacob to help solve a riddle and find the Christmas treasure. Tickets: \$15-24. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through Aug. 7. 616-395-7890. www.hope.edu/hsrt

Junie B. Jones: The Musical It's Junie B.'s first day of first grade, and a lot of things have changed for her. Tickets: \$15. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, DeWitt Studio Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through Aug. 7. 616-395-7890. www.hope.edu/hsrt

Pippin A troupe of dancers tells the story in this stylized musical of a young prince's quest for true happiness. Tickets: \$12-33. Tibbits Summer Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. Through Aug. 1. 517-278-6029. www.tibbits.org

Schoolhouse Rock Live A teacher is preparing for his first day of teaching, and after waking up from a restless night, he is thrust into a universe whose inhabitants take him on a trip through parts of speech, arithmetic and social studies to help him for the big day. Tickets: \$8-15. Thunder Bay Theatre, 400 N. Second Ave., Alpena. Through Aug. 2. 989-354-2267. www.thunderbaytheatre.com

Smokey Joe's Cafe Come out for a journey through rock 'n' roll history: Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller graced the charts with their unforgettable music and lyrics, and now you can



Editor's Pick

The Grandmont Community Association will be celebrating its 42nd Annual Arts & Crafts Fair. This year's exhibition will be enhanced by adding jazz to the event. Come enjoy an "open air" shopping experience with over 50 of metro Detroit's finest local artisans and pop-up businesses.

The fair will highlight the works of local artists from different genres and generations which include young and emerging Sculptor Austen Brantley and three-time National Award-winning Artist Ronald Scarbough. The festival's main

stage will feature an array of performing arts throughout the day. The events grand finale will feature talented up-and-upcoming jazz vocalist Marchan DeShaun and Roger Tucker & 3/4 Step which includes two band members from Motown's legendary recording band, The Funk Brothers. This event will also include free health screenings, fun fitness activities, great food, massage tent and much more.

The event will run from 12 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 1. The fair will run in Ramsay Park, located on Longacre Street between Grand River & Lyndon, two blocks east of Southfield Fwy., Detroit. The event is completely free and open to the public.

hear nearly 40 of their hits all together in a musical revue that illuminates the golden age of American culture. Tickets: \$15-30. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through Aug. 7. 616-395-7890. www.hope.edu/hsrt

The Art of Murder In a remote estate in the countryside of Connecticut, Jack Brooks, one of the most accomplished and eccentric painters of his generation, and his devoted wife Annie await the imminent arrival of Jack's art dealer. But the visit is not a standard one. Tickets:

\$15-35. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. Through Aug. 23. 517-655-SHOW. www.williamstontheatre.org

The Great American Trailer Park Musical In this Michigan premiere, Betty, Lin and Pickles are back with a new cast of residents at North Florida's most exclusive manufactured housing community, Armadillo Acres. Tickets: \$34-36. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Through Aug. 9. 269-343-2727. www.farmersalleytheatre.com

The Taming of the Shrew This

classic battle of the sexes takes on new life when given to a group of Slipstream regulars and vibrant students. As we continue to define and redefine gender identity in today's society, we might be surprised by how the next generation acknowledges the subject. Tickets: \$10 by reservation only. Slipstream Theatre Initiative, 20937 John R., Hazel Park. Through Aug. 4. www.slipstreamti.com

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.

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

Grandmont Community Association "42nd Annual Arts & Crafts Fair" Free. Ramsay Park, Longacre St., between Grand River & Lyndon, Detroit. 12 p.m. Aug. 1.

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.

Riverwalk Theatre "Mary Jobin, Oil Painted Landscapes". Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Aug. 1 - Sep. 30. 517-482-5700.

robert kidd gallery "Tom Parish: Venezia". robert kidd gallery, 107 Townsend St., Birmingham. July 17 - Aug. 15. 248-642-3909. www.Robertkiddgallery.com

The Scarab Club "Jerome Ferretti". The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. July 1 - Aug. 15. 313-831-1250. www.Scarabclub.org

The Scarab Club "Cool & Warm: Scott Dolan & Jeanne Ruzzin". The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. July 1 - Aug. 29. 313-831-1250. www.Scarabclub.org

UMMA "Julian Schnabel". University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. July 1 - Sep. 27. 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 "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

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

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