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AIDS Walks taking place in Michigan:

SATURDAY, 9/24
Detroit
Palmer Park
Central Michigan
Island Park
Genesee County/Flint
UM University Center
Jackson
Riverwalk Amphitheatre
Bay City/Midland/Saginaw
Wenona Park, Friendship Shell

SUNDAY, 9/25
Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti
Detroit Edison Parking Lot
Lansing/East Lansing
Valley Court Park, E. Lansing
Northern Michigan
Medalie Park, Traverse City

Sign up today at aidswalkmichigan.org

Go to PRIDESOURCE.COM or scan the QR Code with your mobile device
WEB WINS

Win copies of Kristin Chenoweth and Katy B’s new albums on Facebook!

Tickets to “The Christmas Story” on Nov 16 at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit via PrideSource.com

ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

National news: “Medical schools teaching little about gay health,” “Illinois foster-care dispute a matter of law and faith”

Curtain Calls: ‘Light’ shines in Downtown Dexter and a powerful, thought-provoking night at JET

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AIDS walks all over the state raise money for HIV/AIDS organizations

plus DAILY BREAKING NEWS

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Joblessness and LGBTs

In an address to a joint session of Congress last week, President Obama outlined the American Jobs Act, legislation designed to combat the nation’s persistently high unemployment rate. Since the beginning of the Great Recession in 2007, millions of jobs have been lost in this country. Just before the president’s important speech, the federal government announced that zero jobs were added in the U.S. during the month of August. The national unemployment rate has been stuck in the 9 percent range for months. In fact, the real rate of joblessness is higher, because the official number only counts those who have searched for work in the past four weeks. Also missing from the 9 percent figure are those people who desire full-time work but are stuck in part-time jobs.

In his speech, President Obama announced a number of creative and thoughtful ideas to pull the country out of this jobs slump, including targeted tax cuts and spending on needed infrastructure repairs and other vital projects. As the president observed, people in both parties have supported these ideas in the past. Without action by Congress, the jobs picture will get worse. Unfortunately, Congress is reluctant to spend any money to do anything about the unemployment situation. Some of the congressional opposition is ideological – most Republicans are opposed to spending any government money on anything, ostensibly because it will add to the deficit. However, they have no such qualms about the impact of massive tax cuts for the wealthy on the federal budget deficit and government debt. Most of the GOP opposition is political – Republican leaders want to deny President Obama any political victories, and would prefer for the unemployment rate to remain high as the president faces the voters in 2012.

Like everyone else, LGBT citizens want jobs. In addition to the tough job market, gay job seekers face other obstacles when it comes to seeking and keeping employment. In many places in the country, including Michigan, a person has no legal recourse to pursue if an employer fires her or him because of sexual orientation or gender identity. Some states offer limited legal protections to LGBT workers, as do a number of local communities around the nation. Many private and public employers include LGBT-inclusive non-discrimination language in employment contracts, and an increasing number of workplaces now offer domestic partner benefits to employees. Still, too many Americans can be fired from their jobs because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Too many Americans can be fired from their jobs because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

For many years, an Employment Non-Discrimination Act has been stuck in Congress. Even under Democratic control from 2007-2011, the legislation did not move, and its chances of passing the Republican-led House now are nil. Those of us who support employment nondiscrimination have other ways of endorsing workplace equality on a personal level. If a business or company is not inclusive in its hiring and benefit programs, we need to stop purchasing its products or services. At a time when jobs are hard to come by, we need to do everything we can to support those companies and businesses that value workplace equality. If you have a choice between competing brands or stores when making purchasing decisions, check their anti-discrimination and benefits policies before you give them your hard-earned money.

When it comes to economic development, states and local communities should focus on attracting companies that are inclusive in their employment policies. We need only look around the Metro Detroit area to see the municipalities that are thriving despite these tough economic times – they are places that have LGBT-inclusive human rights ordinances and where our community feels safe and valued.

America’s long economic decline did not begin under President Obama, but he is now responsible for getting our country out of this mess. Contrary to Republican claims, the 2009 stimulus law did prevent this nation from sliding into an economic depression. Unfortunately, GOP obstructionism limited the financial value of the overall package. In the coming months, the president should stand up for working people and against Republican intransigence on the economy. He began to do this last week in his speech to Congress. We should encourage President Obama to build upon this momentum and actively promote the American Jobs Act in “every corner of this country,” as he said he would do. Hopefully, he will continue speaking out on behalf of those who are struggling, and remind the nation that no one should be left behind. The only way our economy will finally recover is when all segments of society are fully employed, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other category. This is the American Dream in the 21st century, and achieving it is possible in the months and years ahead.
Why you should walk

A little time and money this month can make a big impact on the fight against HIV/AIDS

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

If you’ve never supported the AIDS walks, this is a great year to start. The upcoming AIDS walks – AIDS Walk Detroit, happening this weekend in Royal Oak, and AIDS Walk Michigan, happening next weekend in locations around the state – offer the opportunity to support state HIV/AIDS organizations at a time when they need it most.

“We’ve been swept up into the arguments that occur now about the federal budget and the debt ceiling and all that, which for many of us has caused funding decisions to be delayed, or put off, or caused us to have to live with short-term, even month-to-month budgets,” said Barb Murray, executive director at AIDS Partnership Michigan.

“It’s really hard right now with the federal funding to create a twelve-month operating budget when you just aren’t assured of your funding streams.”

Nearly 90 percent of APM’s funding comes from federal sources, said Murray, and the federal government sends out checks after the services have been given: “So if the federal government catches a cold, we get pneumonia.”

Earlier this year, the federal government announced state organizations will see a drastic reduction in their grant money for the next three fiscal years. For fiscal year 2012, Michigan’s agencies will lose up to $1.2 million for core HIV prevention activities. That loss increases to $2.1 million by fiscal year 2014.

Increasingly Murray spends time figuring out which bills to pay: “While that’s an administrative nightmare, it means that those of us who are in administration spend hours on administration, rather than on programming.”

Murray would much rather spend more time on programming, because more programming is needed to treat those with HIV and to prevent it from spreading. The rates are still too high: at any given time, Murray said HIV-positive rates may run as high as nine and ten percent.

Murray wants to brush off the idea that HIV is a “chronic disease” that is easily managed.

“I don’t find that phrase acceptable. It’s much easier not to be HIV-positive and to not live with HIV.

“There’s nothing simple about taking a lot of medications. Sooner or later it catches up with you. And certainly there are pros and cons to all those medications. The side effects are not desirable. So, stay HIV-negative. That’s where we want you.”

Nearly 20,000 people in Michigan live with the disease, and two-thirds of them live in Metro Detroit, said Teresa Rosco, executive director of Health Emergency Lifeline Programs. HELP is teaming up with Stepping Out for the walk in Royal Oak this weekend; it plans to fully take over AIDS Walk Detroit next year.

“Both AIDS Walk Detroit and AIDS Walk Michigan remind us of those we’ve lost to the disease, and also provide a real sense of support for the people who are living with HIV today,” Rosco said. “At the same time, we’re able to raise funds for really important work around HIV prevention and programs that do support people who are positive.”

Some of the money raised will go to specific programs, and some of it will help organizations cover operational costs. The latter is especially useful, Murray said, because most federal funding is designated for specific programs.

Rosco hopes AIDS Walk Detroit raises more than the $160,000 it raised last year. Murray also hopes to exceed the $40,000 to $50,000 that AIDS Walk Michigan raises on average.

Kim Mumby, a nurse at Henry Ford Hospital who works in HIV programming, has long attended AIDS Walk Detroit. She’s volunteered at APM for 25 years.

Mumby remembers when the epidemic first hit in the 1980s.

“I was just kind of appalled at the way the medical community was responding to the very first cases, as everybody was – the throwing food in the hospital rooms, going into rooms (suited up) like moon men.”

Mumby is looking forward to this year’s walks, and encourages everyone to attend. “It’s a delightful group of people to be around,” she said. “It’s fun. And it’s a simple way to be involved in your community in an impactful way. “It affects every community, every single day, so it’s a great way to have some impact with very little investment or commitment.”

“Both AIDS Walk Detroit and AIDS Walk Michigan remind us of those we’ve lost to the disease, and also provide a real sense of support for the people who are living with HIV today. At the same time, we’re able to raise funds for really important work around HIV prevention and programs that do support people who are positive.”

―Teresa Rosco, executive director of Health Emergency Lifeline Programs

Where you can walk:

AIDS Walk Detroit

- Royal Oak
- Saturday, Sept. 17
- Starts at 8:30 a.m. at the farmer’s market
- For more information and to register: www.aidswalkdetroit.org

AIDS Walk Michigan

- Locations all around the state
- Saturday, Sept. 24 and Sunday, Sept. 25
- Detroit, Palmer Park, starts Saturday at 8:30 a.m.
- Genesee County/Flint, University of Michigan-Flint University Center, starts Saturday at 2 p.m.
- Central Michigan, Island Park, starts Saturday at 9 a.m.
- Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Detroit Edison Parking lot (at the corner of William and Main Streets), starts Saturday at 1 p.m.
- Lansing, Valley Court Park, starts Sunday at 10 a.m.
- Traverse City, Medalie Park, starts Sunday at 11 a.m.
- For more information, locations and to register: www.aidswalkmichigan.org

When you walk, you support:

- ACCESS
- Affirmations
- Children’s Hospital of Michigan
- Deaf CAN
- HELP
- Higher Ground
- Michigan AIDS Coalition
- Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency
- Rainbow Alliance
- Simon House
- Stitches
- Visiting Nurse Association
- HIV/AIDS Resource Center
- Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center HIV Program
- AIDS Partnership Michigan
- Alternatives for Girls
- Community Health Awareness Group
- Detroit Department of Health HIV Program
- Children’s Hospital Horizons Project
- Oakwood Taylor Teen Health Center
- Ruth Ellis Center
- Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan
- Wayne State University Sinai Grace Specialty Care
- Wellness AIDS Services
- Lansing Area AIDS Network
- Munson Healthcare Thomas Judd Clinic
- Central Michigan District Health Department HIV Program

At last year’s AIDS Walk Detroit, Ferndale-based Lincoln High School led the AIDS Walk High School Challenge with close to $1,000 raised. BTL photo by Jessica Carreras.
Creativity for a good cause

Dining by Design features unique designs, local flavors, swanky soirees to raise money for the Michigan AIDS Coalition

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

This year’s largest fundraiser for the Michigan AIDS Coalition promises glitz, glamour and rooms full of art – literally.

For a second year, MAC is teaming up with Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS to present Dining by Design on Sept. 22-24 at Willy’s Overland Lofts in Detroit.

With the support of DIFFA and both national and local sponsors, 30 designers, artists and architects have created unique rooms that provide a spectacular backdrop for a series of fundraising events for MAC – parties, auctions, a fashion show, a formal gala and a public viewing.

Some of the designers spend as long as six months creating their installments, said Helen Hicks, MAC’s executive director. The installments, which range from dreamy to classy to whimsical, only have one thing in common: they must be able to seat ten people.

“Everything else is up for grabs,” Hicks said.

At last year’s event, designer Yuen Hom made a room almost entirely out of cardboard. “Some of these artists and designers are so talented, they could pretty much make anything out of anything,” Hicks said.

Sponsors donate thousands of dollars for a single installment – some, such as FIAT, even donate enough for a double installment – and are able to sit and eat in the functional rooms of art during Saturday’s gala.

The Saturday night gala also features AIDS Foundation of Chicago Vice President David Munar, who will deliver a short address before dinner about the importance of prevention. “The HIV/AIDS incidence has actually risen,” Hicks said. “People are living longer because of much better drugs. But it’s all about prevention – if we could get the word out about prevention then people would not become infected.”

Last year’s Dining by Design raised $50,000 for MAC. “For a first-year event, we were pretty excited about that, and especially in this very challenging economic environment,” Hicks said. “Things haven’t improved a whole lot since last year, so we’re hoping to make a little bit more.” This time, MAC is aiming for $60,000 to $70,000.

Last year’s cocktail party alone attracted more than 1,000 attendees, and Hicks expects the same kind of turnout this year.

DIFFA, which was formed in 1984, has raised more than $40 million for AIDS organizations nationwide by pairing up national sponsors with state organizations. DIFFA also holds Dining by Design events in Chicago, Atlanta, San Francisco, New York City and Kansas City. To learn more about DIFFA, go online to www.diffa.org.

To purchase tickets for Dining by Design events, go online to http://michiganaidaSCOALITION.org.

Don’t miss Dining by Design events Sept. 22-24

COCKTAILS BY DESIGN

Thursday, Sept. 22
6 p.m. – midnight
Tickets: $100
Featuring unlimited wine, Effen Vodka, auction of more than 150 original pieces of art, auction of 100 items valued at $100 or more, contortionist artists, DJ

PUBLIC VIEWING

Friday, Sept. 23 and Saturday, Sept. 24
Noon – 5 p.m. (Friday)
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. (Saturday)
Tickets: $10 at the door, students with valid ID free

PARTY BY DESIGN

Friday, Sept. 23
6 p.m. – midnight
Tickets: $10 at the door
Featuring a party for young adults, DJ

GALA DINNER

Saturday, Sept. 24
6 p.m. – midnight
Tickets: $250
Featuring an elegant black-tie evening; sponsors dine at the tables in the installments, view a fashion show and AIDS Foundation of Chicago Vice President David Munar as the speaker, bid at an auction. Host of the Style Channel’s “Clean House” Joel Steingold, local celebrities and TV personalities will attend. Appetizers and dinner provided by the Matt Prentice Restaurant Group.

AFTER PARTY

Saturday Sept. 24
11 p.m. – 1 a.m.
Free admission to the after party at The Whitney’s outdoor garden. Complimentary shuttle service from the lofts to the party will be provided. The after party will have hors d’oeuvres, a cash bar and DJ Jim Stone.

Michigan Fairness Forum Sept. 16-17

MOUNT PLEASANT– The Michigan Fairness Forum invites activists and ordinary citizens interested in improving the state’s climate for LGBT citizens to an annual forum on Sept. 16 and 17.

The forum takes place at the Bovee University Center at Central Michigan University. There is no cost to attend and assistance is available for lodging and transportation.

The weekend features networking opportunities and workshops in amending local human rights ordinances, addressing youth safety and bullying, helping LGBT organizations sustain work and also improving the image of the LGBT community.

Visit www.michiganfairnessforum.org to register.

Detroit Design Festival features LGBT graphic design and illustration exhibit

DETROIT– The Detroit Design festival, which runs Wednesday, Sept. 21 to Sept. 28, also features an LGBT graphic design and illustration exhibit called “Beyond the Bar: An LGBT Graphic Design and Illustration Showcase.”

The Detroit Creative Corridor Center, which promotes the city’s creative economy, established this event as a way to help showcase the tremendous talent in Metro Detroit and to help break stereotypes about the LGBT community.

The exhibit takes place on Friday, Sept. 23 from 7-9 p.m. at Sturt Gallery, 206 E. Grand River.

Don’t miss Dining by Design events Sept. 22-24
In Tyler Clementi’s NJ dorm, tensions were high
Court documents show young man felt harassed before committing suicide

BY GEOF MULVHILL
TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — “What if I catch him with a dude?” Dharun Ravi wondered in jocular web chat about his new, gay freshman-year roommate at Rutgers University. He pondered a computer program to alert him if Tyler Clementi tried to rape him at night.

In his own musings in those first days of dorm life a year ago, Clementi wrote, “I got an azn,” or Asian, for a roommate. His family is “sooo Indian/first gen American,” he wrote.

Those snippets of court documents released in recent weeks paint a picture of a relationship that started out tense even before the two met, before Clementi committed suicide and before they became characters in a drama that would stir reaction from celebrities, lawmakers and even the White House.

Ravi, 19, went to court Friday, Sept. 9 for a hearing in which his lawyers asked a judge to throw out the 15-count indictment accusing him of a hate crime, invasion of privacy and tampering with evidence. Authorities say he used a dorm-room webcam to spy on Clementi’s intimate encounter with another man. Judge Glenn Berman decided Friday to bring the case to trial.

Clementi, 18 when he died, became a worldwide symbol of the consequences of bullying and intimidation after he jumped off the George Washington Bridge into the Hudson River amid the intrigue in Davidson Residence Hall C on the New Brunswick campus of New Jersey’s flagship university.

The court papers show modern intrigue spelled out in texts and tweets, many jokey, some confessional. Along with computer records are interview transcripts that could become the heart of the evidence: The tension between the roommates began before the campus move in date of Aug. 28, 2010.

In an Aug. 22 instant message to a friend, Ravi wrote “idc” – short for “I don’t care” – that Clementi was gay. But he chatted repeatedly with friends about it.

Then Tuesday when you requested the room again I wanted to make sure what happened... doesn’t seem sooo bad lol.”

Prosecutors suggest he composed the message only after seeing the suicide threat Clementi had posted on Facebook. Altman says he was writing the same time as Clementi.

It’s not clear whether Clementi ever saw the messages, but his legacy was quickly felt.

Talk show host Ellen DeGeneres was among the celebrities to champion the anti-bullying cause. Even President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton weighed in on the issue, filming videos encouraging bullied teens to hang in there.

New Jersey lawmakers quickly passed a law, a year in the making, to have the nation’s toughest anti-bullying laws in schools, although activists say the state has been too slow to finalize the regulations to go with them. And Rutgers has instituted a policy allowing opposite-sex roommates to provide a comfort zone for gay, lesbian and transgender students.

Wei, charged with two counts of invasion of privacy, is fighting the 15-count indictment, which includes a bias intimidation charge punishable by as many as 10 years in state prison.

Snippets of court documents released in recent weeks paint a picture of a relationship that started out tense even before the two met, before Clementi committed suicide and before they became characters in a drama that would stir reaction from celebrities, lawmakers and even the White House.

Clementi noticed that Ravi changed his pants in a closet.

“‘It’s like the most awkward thing you’ve ever seen,’” he wrote to a friend. He also noticed that Ravi’s webcam was pointed toward Clementi’s bed: “I feel like he’s watching me watching him.”

There were more common roommate tensions, too. Clementi, who said he liked to have a lot of time alone, told friends his roommate would party until 5 a.m.

They lived across the hall from Molly Wei, who had known Ravi since middle school. She told investigators in interviews that she had a falling-out with him because he lied so much. But when she saw that they would be living across the hall, she said, she decided to give him a clean start.

Around 9 p.m. Sept. 19, she said, Ravi came to her room. Clementi wanted to have someone over privately.

Wei said people in the dorm saw an unfamiliar older man who looked homeless – Clementi’s guest. Ravi was afraid his iPad would be stolen – and was also curious about what was happening in the room from which he was exiled, Wei said.

During a moment when Clementi and the man were out of the room, he went in, turned on his webcam and set it up so he could view whatever it showed from Wei’s computer, Wei said.

Later, they turned on the video stream. “We saw Tyler and the other guy, like, they were touching each other and, like, I think, kissing,” she told investigators. “And then after, like, two or three seconds when we realized what we were watching, we just turned it off.”

That night, Wei said, she briefly turned the video chat back on to show her roommate and some other women from the dorm. She said Clementi and the other man had their shirts off.

Wei chatted with her boyfriend at another college about what she had seen. In a detail previously noted in court papers, Ravi used his Twitter account to tell the world about it: “I saw him making out with a dude. Yay.”

According to an email Clementi later sent to a resident assistant, the tweet tipped him off that he had been watched.

“The next night, he chatted with a friend that he felt violated when he realized what had happened. ‘But then when I remembered what actually happened... doesn’t seem sooo bad lol.’

And the night after that, Sept. 21, it happened again. Clementi asked for the room and said he found Ravi’s webcam on and pointed at his bed.

And Ravi took to Twitter again: “Anyone with what, I dare you to video chat me between the hours of 9:30 and 12. Yes, it’s happening again.”

Ravi’s defense lawyer, Steven Altman, says that Ravi was joking and had disabled his webcam. But in a message to a friend, Clementi said it was he who turned off the webcam before the man, identified only in court papers as “M.B.”, came over.

A meeting of a campus gay-rights group and college told his family he was gay, attended a meeting of a campus gay-rights group and made arrangements to meet alone with a man.

Clementi noticed that Ravi was pointing the webcam toward Clementi’s bed.

“Hey who is that?” Clementi asked, according to an email he later sent to a resident assistant, the worst case scenario。“M.B.”, came over.

Later, they turned on the video stream. “We saw Tyler and the other guy, like, they were touching each other and, like, I think, kissing,” she told investigators. “And then after, like, two or three seconds when we realized what we were watching, we just turned it off.”

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Accordi...
AIDS isn’t over – do what you can to help

May your never donated much to any particular organization or cause. Maybe you don’t really follow politics or activists. Maybe you’re just a busy person trying to get by, and don’t have much time to keep up with the news or issues facing the LGBT community.

But this month, it’s incredibly easy to do something good, to do something that’s simple and that directly affects people in your own neighborhood.

Although HIV/AIDS is no longer the disease du jour to support – it’s not like breast cancer, whose pink ribbons pop up on packaging for nearly everything from yogurt to toilet paper – it affects people in our state every single day. There are 20,000 people in Michigan who live with the disease, and the vast majority of them live in the Metro Detroit area, especially in the city itself.

Perhaps HIV/AIDS is no longer the hip disease to support because we think its threat is under control. Information about sexually transmitted diseases tends to make its way into even the most basic health and sex education lessons. We understand the disease now, what it is and how it works. We also have access to better medications. HIV/AIDS is no longer considered a death sentence, but a chronic disease.

But with new infection rates as high as ten percent in our state, clearly HIV/AIDS is not under control. Even though our young people are aware of the disease, they are still contracting it. And even though better medications are available, they still wreck nuclear havoc on the bodies and lives of those who have to take them. It is by no means easy to live with the disease.

All of this appears even scarier when considering that federal funding for state HIV/AIDS organizations – often their largest source of funding – is being slashed in the upcoming years. What isn’t being slashed is certainly threatened by political infighting and the potential overhaul to our healthcare system.

The shaky state of federal funding makes for even more difficult day-to-day operations for our state organizations that are dedicated to providing treatment and pushing prevention. Federal funding often comes in the form of reimbursement to the organizations for services that have already been given. Our organizations keep operating even though they’re unsure if the federal government will follow through on its promise of repayment.

This month, it is incredibly easy for you to help remedy these problems. This weekend and next, you can donate a few dollars and take a walk, showing your support of those affected. Next weekend, you can take in fantastic works of art and delicious local cuisine. These upcoming events (read about them in our news section) provide simple ways to give a little time and money to our organizations that work in prevention and treatment.

A director of one of the state HIV/AIDS organizations said that more than anything, this disease belongs to our community. The disease also belongs to the other minority communities that it disproportionately affects. When it affects one of us, it affects all of us. Help us rise up from the stigma and shame of a disease that is most associated with our lives and identities. Take the upcoming opportunities and give the time and money that you can.

I’m acutely aware of the irony that while we’re fighting publicly to have our chosen families legally recognized, LGBT young people are quietly in the fight of their lives, every day, in their own family homes. We can’t prevail if they can’t.

Of course I know the statistic that LGBT youth are four times more likely than straight kids to commit suicide, but it’s quite another thing to meet the survivors, week after week – out in the sticks or smack in the middle of presumably hip L.A. These suicidal thoughts are as predictable as the weather.

Whether folks were sent to reparative therapy, shunned, shamed, or simply forced into an identity that was a big fat lie, the gist is that growing up in intolerant homes does nothing less than destroy lives. There is a body count.

So, a few weeks ago at yet another meeting, the familiar cross-section of folks introduced themselves, as is PFLAG tradition: the pierced bi girl who’s starting a gay-straight alliance, the activist mom running a speaker’s bureau at the library, the scared parents whose 14-year-old son has declared his desire to come out to everyone, and at least two young men who compared suicide attempts with bittersweet campy humor.

Then the newbie parents asked the group, “How we can keep our son safe? You hear all this horrible stuff about gay-bashing and things on the news. It’s frightening to think of him out there alone.”

I’ve heard a version of this question a hundred times, but I’d never put two and two together until I looked around the room that night. I said, “The biggest threat our kids face isn’t ‘out there’ somewhere; it’s right at home.”

Yes, the world is dangerous, and there are hate crimes and bullying every day. And that’s just here – you really don’t want to visit Uganda or Iraq in a rainbow T-shirt anytime soon. But none of that matters much if you can’t survive your own family.

As I spoke, I wondered if, among these people earnestly trying to be good parents, I was in effect saying, “It’s you! You are going to screw up your kid!” I felt like the guest who just sneezed all over the buffet. Still, it was suddenly so obvious that if all you do is stand by your LGBT child, their odds for survival go up by at least 400 percent.

There were nods of agreement, so I didn’t need to duck out in shame. But I’m left acutely aware of the irony that while we’re fighting publicly to have our chosen families legally recognized, LGBT young people are quietly in the fight of their lives, every day, in their own family homes. We can’t prevail if they can’t.

Abby is a civil rights attorney-turned-author who has been in the LGBT rights trenches for more than 25 years. She can be reached through her website: queerquestionsstraightalk.com.
When you smoke, your whole family gets burned.

Quit smoking with a free Quit Coach. Quitting smoking is hard, get the support you need to quit for good. Call the Michigan Tobacco Quit Line today for your free, personal Quit Coach.

1-800-QUIT-NOW
S/he Said

Election 2012, remembering 9/11

“On 9/11, the one thing we can take from Mychal Judge is, in the midst of this hell and war and evil and violence, here is this man who directs us to another possible path as human beings: We can choose the path of compassion and nonviolence and reconciliation. Mychal Judge had a heart as big as New York. There was room for everybody. And I think that’s the lesson.”

–Brendan Fay, Irish-American gay activist, remembering his friend Father Mychal Judge, the first recorded death from the attacks on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, fatally hit by falling bodies or debris while giving last rights to a stricken fireman during the collapse of the first tower, in a column titled “9/11 Victim 0001: Father Mychal’s Message,” truthdig.com, Sept. 6. A Franciscan friar attached to the Fire Department of New York, Father Mychal was much-revered by NYC’s underprivileged and homeless, and was one of the few Catholic priests willing to minister to people with HIV/AIDS during the AIDS crisis, and an acknowledged gay man to his friends and diary.

“President Barack Obama

“It’s time for me to start wrapping my head around the idea that Barack Obama may not make it. I’m not saying he will definitely lose his bid for reelection, merely that things are looking a little bleak. As a gay man, I am positively terrified. At the moment, the future of our nation appears to hinge on how crazy the Republican nominee will be, and how much of this insanity the voters will be tolerant of (or enthusiastic about) on election day. I ask you to envision this future as you watch the Republican presidential candidates debate over the next few months. Try to hold back the vomit, and listen to their responses when the inevitable questions regarding gay rights come up. Unless Obama can pull it together, this is our future. Discouraging? You bet. Not a fan? Then do everything in your power to see that Obama gets reelected. He isn’t perfect, but he’s far better than these yahoos. ”


Comments may be edited for grammar and length.

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WINDOW REPLACEMENT
Suffer the little kids, etc.

I was five when I had my tonsils clipped at the long-vanished Burt Shirley Hospital at Grand Circus Park in downtown Detroit, followed by wonderful weeks of tapioca pudding, ice cream, no school, playmate hero worship.

I remember my ether-induced spin as I counted backwards... ten, nine, eight... a boy skates, eight, round, round in circles. Looking back on these moments of anesthesia-induced delirium... seven, six, five... I’m sure it accounts for my interest in male skaters, how their extensions, open strokes, compulsory figures all measure up.

Dick Butts! Jeffrey Buttle! Brian Boitano! Scott Cramer! Their names say it all.

Quite possibly the anesthetic affected my prefrontal lobes in some long-lasting way, leaving me not only occasionally bereft of two useless anatomical glands but gay, in compensation for the skate set.

I’m grateful. If I had to do it all over, I’m sure I would, if for no other reason than making me so unobtrusively oral. I only wish that my dream out time had been more detailed, that I might have been visited by famous rainbow personages, say Oscar Wilde to Marjoe Gortner. He performed his first marriage ceremony at age four. Under the sun.” In my day, the Boy Evangelist du jour was Marjoe Gortner. He performed his first marriage ceremony at age four. Nothing succeeds like excess, and little Kanon has been on NBC’s The Today Show. Daddy Pastor Damon Tipton, when asked if God’s on him in a special way.”

As the Book of Ecclesiastes says, “There’s nothing new under the sun.” In my day, the Boy Evangelist du jour was Marjoe Gortner. He performed his first marriage ceremony at age four. Under the sun.” In my day, the Boy Evangelist du jour was Marjoe Gortner. He performed his first marriage ceremony at age four. Nothing succeeds like excess, and little Kanon has been on NBC’s The Today Show. Daddy Pastor Damon Tipton, when asked if God’s on him in a special way.”

It’s Farfetched? Well, if a three-year-old boy having his appendix removed can have a million-dollar encounter with no less a personage than Jesus — and several song-singing angels thrown in to boot — just maybe there are as yet undreamed possibilities for gay kids facing surgery as well. Robotic or otherwise.

By the way, the aforementioned three-year-old is Calton Burpo, from a Nebraskan minister’s family. Calton’s story is told in a book that, as of last week, has been on the New York Times Best Seller list for 30 weeks. Title: “Heaven Is For Real,” by papa Todd Burpo with Lynn Vincent (Thomas Nelson, publisher).

In Heaven Calton meets his grandfather, dead 30 years, sees a miscarried sister he knew nothing about, describes a horse that “only Jesus could ride,” how “reaaally big” God and his chair are, and how the Holy Spirit “shoots down power to help us.” (But remember — of intellectually poo-pooing this anesthetic-induced delirium.)

Farfetched? Well, if a three-year-old boy having his appendix removed can have a million-dollar encounter with no less a personage than Jesus — and several song-singing angels thrown in to boot — just maybe there are as yet undreamed possibilities for gay kids facing surgery as well. Robotic or otherwise.

For more details on what’s allowed and disallowed for active duty service members in uniform, see www.sldn.org.

Scores protest assaults on 3 Utah gay men

Three anti-gay assaults in two weeks alarm Utah citizens

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The sister of a man who was injured in the latest attack against gay men says it is “intolerable to treat someone as less than precious and valuable.”

“I’m LDS. My family is LDS,” said Marnie Nelson Bales, of Tooele, Utah. “And you know, it doesn’t matter. He’s my brother. We love him.”

His brother, Cameron Nelson, wants to see an end to the violence, she told the estimated 100 to 200 people who attended the event to protest the assaults. Bales spoke the night of Sept. 9 at a fireside vigil in the capital city’s Liberty Park, the Deseret News and Salt Lake Tribune reported.

Nelson was beaten early Sept. 8 by two or three people yelling anti-gay slurs outside the American Fork hair salon where he works. He suffered a broken nose and other injuries.

The attack was the third such on gay Utah men in the last two weeks. Dane Hall, a victim of a beating at Club South in Salt Lake City two weeks ago, had his jaw broken in three places and six teeth knocked out. He thanked the crowd for their support, speaking through his wired-shut jaw.

“Thank you for coming out and supporting us,” Hall said. “I don’t know how to express myself, but just know that I am very thankful.” He has said he expects his medical bills to surpass $40,000, but he has no insurance.

A second gay man was also attacked near Club South the same night, but police do not believe the two incidents are related.

Salt Lake City Police Chief Chris Burbank shared a personal story about his cousin, a gay man who was a victim of domestic violence on multiple occasions.
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n.c. legislature approves gay marriage ballot question for 2012

Citizens will vote on constitutional amendment

BY GARY D. ROBERTSON

RALEIGH — North Carolina state lawmakers voted to give social conservatives their decade-old wish to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot designed to make clear that marriage is between one man and one woman in the state. North Carolina citizens can vote on it in May 2012 — on the exact same date as a Republican primary.

Ten House Democrats voted Monday with nearly all Republicans in favoring putting on May’s primary ballot a question that would make marriage the only domestic legal union recognized in this state. The bill passed 75-42 — above the 72 needed for any constitutional change. The bill passed the Republican-controlled Senate 30-16 on Tuesday.

Although 30 states have gay marriage bans in their constitutions, North Carolina is the only state in the Southeast without such a marriage limit there. State law already defines marriage between a man and a woman, but amendment supporters argue traditional marriage would be better protected against potential legal challenges by same-sex couples married in six other states and the District of Columbia.

“It’s not even close.”

Opponents, meanwhile, brought to the Legislature nearly 50,000 postcards urging lawmakers to stop the amendment and scheduled vigils Monday night and their own rally Tuesday.

“I was disappointed that so many legislators regardless of party chose to discriminate (against people) who pose no threat other than wanting to live their lives with honesty, openness and with dignity,” Alex Miller with the gay rights group Equality North Carolina said after the vote.

A House committee approved the measure earlier Monday without taking any public comments, angering lawmakers and activists.

“This is not the way to conduct constitutional business for the state of North Carolina,” said House Minority Leader Joe Hackney, D-Orange. “It ought not to be done this way. There ought to be a full hearing.”

Some law professors say the proposal could invalidate domestic violence laws, cause uncertainty with child custody decisions and wills and cancel out domestic partner benefits already established by a handful of local governments in the state.

“We are going to be enacting language into the constitution that no one knows what it means and could hurt citizens of this state and that will take years of needless litigation to resolve the meaning,” said Maxine Eichner, a law professor at the University of North Carolina School of Law in Chapel Hill.

The referendum would be held on May 8, 2012. A majority of citizens would have to agree for it to be put in the constitution.

“Once again we seek to marginalize a group of individuals who only want equality and the same basic human rights afforded to every citizen of this state. The proposal would run counter to changing attitudes about same-sex relationships. Once again we seek to marginalize a group of individuals who only want equality and the same basic human rights afforded to every citizen of this state.”

—REP. SUSAN FISHER, D-BUNCOMBE

“The question is, are we going to let the people decide, or judicial decisions based on the Supreme Court decisions of a half-dozen other states?” House Majority Leader Paul Stam, R-Rwake, said during a floor debate that lasted more than three hours.

Republican legislative leaders said they move up the proposed referendum by six months as a way to try to bring on board more undecided legislators. It’s also designed to immunize the GOP from criticisms that having it on the ballot in November 2012 as initially sought was designed to boost turnout among conservative Christians and others opposed to gay marriage.

North Carolina is expected to be a battleground state next year. President Barack Obama won the state’s electoral votes in 2008 by only 13,000 votes and North Carolina is hosting the Democratic National Convention. Democratic Gov. Beverly Perdue also faces a tough re-election fight next year.

“I think what we’re trying to do is respect some who thought this (amendment) was solely a political consideration,” House Speaker Thom Tillis, R-Mecklenburg, said at a news conference, adding that the bill is “about putting a question to the people.”

Opponents in the House who spoke — nearly all of them Democrats — said the referendum didn’t matter. They said it was an awful idea that would discourage businesses from coming to North Carolina because executives would view the state as unwelcoming to gay and lesbian employees. Others likened the question to Arizona’s previous constitutional restrictions in North Carolina that once barred interracial marriage. Rep. Deborah Ross, D-Wake, said approving this proposal would run counter to changing attitudes about same-sex relationships.

“Once again we seek to marginalize a group of individuals who only want equality and the same basic human rights afforded to every citizen of this state,” said Rep. Susan Fisher, D-Buncombe. “Why do we insist on repeating history?”

Still, Republican leaders managed to bring along nearly 20 percent of the House Democrats to support the measure. Rep. Charles Graham, D-Robeson, said he was satisfied with his yes vote after speaking to local residents, many of whom are conservative Christians.

“I had to listen to my constituents,” said Graham, in his first term. “I’m satisfied with my vote.”

Several hundred amendment supporters rallied Monday on the mall behind the Legislative Building, with religious leaders both black and white urging lawmakers to let the people vote on the gay marriage question after several years in which Democrats in charge of the Legislature blocked votes. Things had changed said that legislation that took control of the House and Senate simultaneously for the first time in 140 years.

“This piece of legislation has been held up and we haven’t had the chance to vote on it,” the Rev. Patrick Wooden of the Upper Room Church of God in Christ in Raleigh told the crowd. “This state has to protect God’s holy institution as it is currently defined in state law.”

Rep. Marcus Brandon, D-Guilford, the Legislature’s only openly gay member, told colleagues that Christians should be compassionate toward everyone, not judgmental.

“It’s not the spirit of Jesus,” he said.

News National

creep of the week

sally kern

BY DANNE WITKOWSKI

With the tenth anniversary of Sept. 11 behind us it’s important to reflect on the state of national security. For weeks now, pundits have been waxing philosophically about whether or not America is truly safer today than it was a decade ago. Most of them are full of shit, of course. Making people take their shoes off and confiscating bottles of water and cans of Aqua Net at the airport is Security Theater, pure and simple. After all, the failures that allowed the terrorists onto those planes ten years ago were at the CIA and FBI level, not because some baggage screener missed a box cutter.

Still, there’s one threat that not enough people are talking about. A threat so dire that it makes terrorists look like Teleutubbies (still scary, mind you, but comparatively harmless). That threat is, of course, homosexuality. But people are afraid to speak out. Afraid that the homosexuals will enact revenge on their families if they expose the terrifying truth.

One woman, however, is brave enough to speak in public about this terrible danger our nation is facing. That woman is Oklahoma state legislator Sally Kern.

You may remember that Kern has spoken on this issue in the past. A few years ago she called homosexuality “the death knell of this country.”

“I honestly think it’s the biggest threat our nation has, even more so than terrorism or Islam, which I think is a big threat,” she said.

She then compared homosexuality to cancer: “If you got cancer or something in your little toe, do you say, well, you know, I’m just going to forget about it because the rest of me is fine? It spreads. OK? And this stuff is not just spreading, it’s spreading, and it will destroy our young people, it will destroy this nation.”

Mind you, Kern thought these comments were limited to the audience she was addressing. But somehow in this day and age where everyone has a cell phone and every cell phone has a camera and/or video recorder, her address was recorded and the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund had a field day making the video go viral.

Kern and her right-wing apologists make a big deal about how the video was “selectively edited,” and yet Kern stands by what she said and continues to say the same thing.

In an Aug. 31 interview with Peter LaBarbera, president of Americans for Truth About Homosexuality, Kern restated and “clarified” her “gays are worse than terrorists” line of thinking, proving that her original comments were not taken out of context or misunderstood.

“You know if you just look at it in practical terms, which has destroyed and ended the life of more people? Terrorism attack here in America or HIV/AIDS? OK?" she said. “In the last fifteen to twenty years, we’ve had maybe three terrorist attacks on our soil with a little over 5,000 people regretably losing their lives. In the same time frame, there have been hundreds of thousands who have died because of, uh, having AIDS. So which one’s the biggest threat?”

This is, of course, a completely faulty comparison. Not to mention the fact that it rests on the assumption that all gay people have AIDS and are using it as a biological weapon of sorts. Also, since Kern is so concerned about AIDS, I’m sure we can expect her to sponsor bills to increase HIV/AIDS research and prevention funding in Oklahoma.

Of course, to Kern, gays are a sort of biological weapon, sights set on all of the young people in America. Because gays are all about making everybody gay.

“And you know, every day our young people, adults too, but especially our young people, are bombarded at school, in movies, in music, on TV, in the mall, in magazines, they’re bombarded with ‘homosexuality is normal and natural.’ It’s something they have to deal with every day,” Kern said. “Fortunately we don’t have to deal with a terrorist attack every day, and that’s what I mean.”

See? That’s what she means. That gays are a constant, devious threat to the people of this nation and terrorists are only a sometimes threat; therefore being gay is worse than murdering someone. No duh and obviously.

And to think that Kern is baffled that people call her homophobic and a bigot.

by d’anne witkowski

national

sally kern

continued from p. 14

but wouldn’t report the violence for fear of others finding out about his sexual orientation.

He told the crowd that it’s important to involve police when violence takes place. Police handed out cards that detail how the public can submit confidential tips to detectives.

“We have people in our community who still cannot come forward because of the stigma that may be attached to them,” Burbank said. “Any crime represents a failure of our society, especially a crime like this.”

The nondenominational church City of Hope Salt Lake organized the event, which ended with participants marching with glow sticks through the streets of Salt Lake City and showing pictures of Hall’s injuries.
Frankmusik meets the press, Los Angeles, 2011

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Frankmusik goes where no straight man’s gone before. Just look at what he did in 2008, when he disrobed – and bared his bum – for a spread in one of the U.K.’s gay magazines. Then, recently, he got naked again – on a massage table, for a promo that has a bunch of bears giving him a rubdown.

Clearly the guy’s an original, which isn’t just evident in his friendliness with the gays – but his music, too. With that, he’s proved that pop isn’t just a woman’s world, mixing music for Lady Gaga and Pet Shop Boys and releasing his first album, “Complete Me,” two years ago.

The 25-year-old follows up his electro-pop debut with “Do It in the AM,” but it’s not the only project with his name attached to it – he also produced Erasure’s new album, “Tomorrow’s World.”

On the road with the synth-pop legends during their first U.S. tour in five years, Frankmusik chatted about how working with Erasure was his “calling,” being an anomaly in the music business and why he wishes more straight men would let go of their inhibitions.

Hey, Frank, how are you?

Hot. Not hot in a physical sense. Like, it’s actually hot.

I already know you’re hot physically, anyway.

Thank you, sir. Compliments will get you everywhere. (Laughs)

Where does mine get me?

This is a recorded conversation. I’ll tell you off the record some other time.

How did the title track, “Do It in the AM,” come about?

It’s about losing it in my mind. I’ve never really spoken about this in an interview properly because I don’t really think anyone’s really been highbrow enough to engage with it but, being creative, I like having the creative freedom at night, because it’s like my little secret. I’m making the party in my studio, and I’m making the songs that people want to party to.

So do you keep an alcohol stash in the studio?

No, no. I don’t drink. Well, hardly. It just doesn’t agree with me. I used to drink like a fish, but I just get heartburn. I’m getting old, man. And the hangovers – I actually cannot stand the concept of a hangover.

What’s your a.m. routine?

Shower, shit, shave. No, wait – shit, shower, shave. You don’t want to shit after you’ve already had a shower. The three S’s. Sometimes you can do four S’s if you’re lucky, which is sex, shit, shower, shave. That is much more likely to happen these days since my missus has moved in.

How did your move from London to L.A. influence the album?

Just not being in London, being in a new city. I haven’t got any really massive circle of friends or anything. I came here to experience emptiness. European culture is very clustered, very pedestrianized and everyone is very closely knit. I love L.A. for its vastness. It’s devoid of any real sort of social integration because it’s so spread out, and I love that. I love the fact that I can be really anti-social and obnoxious in my studio and just concentrate on work.

You’ve gotten naked for the gays on a couple occasions. Do your gay friends call you a tease, because I think you might be?

I could be a tease; it depends on if you fancy me or not. The main thing is, I’m having fun. That’s such a shit thing to say, but it is actually that. Straight male artists are restricting themselves through their sexuality, and I think you should just be open to anything, especially in press. If someone has an idea and it’s tasteful, yeah, I’ll do it. Fuck it. When I did the nude photo shoot, that was for male eating disorders. I wanted to support that cause, and if it meant a few famous guys getting their clothes off and talking about their own experiences with eating and their health, then fuck – any day dude, any day.

Why is it such an issue for straight guys to open up like that?

You have to ask them, because I’m definitely...
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not one of them. I think it was because I was brought up by my mom; I didn’t have a dad, so I didn’t have, like, this tenacious male figure in my life that was trying to make me fit a certain mold or anything. My mom sent me to ballet school and poetry recital classes. I mean, I was dancing around in a fucking leotard! I didn’t know any different. If you don’t know anything different, it doesn’t mean anything. It’s imposed on you, this kind of straightness.

I feel so bad for guys, because you have this culture where people’s gender has to fit into a demographic, which is just stupid. Men are just as expressive as women. I was just lucky enough that somebody as intelligent as my mother brought me up that way. It’s a combination of common sense and not sort of digesting the bullshit that’s fed to you in culture. I wish more men were expressive because, I’ll tell you, there’d be a lot less trouble in the world.

Do people ever think you’re gay?
I hope so, because that means I’m surrounded by stupid people that I can manipulate. That’d be nice.

Who are your boy crushes?
George Clooney. He’s an absolute gentleman and a brilliant, brilliant human being and very good at what he does. And he’s just really classy about it. I love classy guys. Not being a gentleman drives me crazy. I think being respectful and well-mannered is one of the most attractive things that any human can be.

You’re an anomaly in pop music, because the genre is so dominated by young females – and you’re a straight white guy. Why do you think there are so few like you in pop music?
Once again, it goes back to what it’s like to be a man these days. Why is it that we feel that the only type of males that should succeed in this market are ones that come from a boy band? Or they’ve got to be a rapper, or they’ve got to be some bearded guy holding an acoustic guitar. Apparently dancing around and singing pop songs is only reserved for people like Usher and black culture, which I think is bullshit.

I’m not a heavily political person, but I think there are some real plain facts staring us in the face that need to be dealt with – why can’t a guy dance and sing without being seen as queer? Does that say anything bad about me, or does that say something really bad about the culture?

Tell me about your relationship with Erasure’s Andy Bell. Has he ever tried to get into your pants?
No, no – not at all. The closest we got was when we were doing the new single and he enjoyed what I was making so much he said something like, “I could fall in love with you,” but I think he was referring more to the music that we were creating. (Laughs) He’s a wonderful human being and incredible to work with. I see Andy more as a family member than a sexual stranger.

When did your relationship with Erasure start? Beginning of this year, I think. I met Vince (Clarke) at his house in Maine and I met Andy in London. I met them both separately – and I’ve yet to actually meet all three of them at the same time, so that will happen when I’m on tour with them.

How would you compare the sound of their album and yours?
I mean, it’s Andy Bell. The vocals are incomparable. His male tenor is like a freight train running through a china shop. I mean, the power! You believe every word he says, because he lives what he says. He is in the song. It’s not some cookie-cutter bullshit, and that’s what I love about him.

They stand for actually creating so many things that have been imitated blandly since they first made it. They’re incredible, incredible pioneers. And I’m glad I could celebrate their originality once again.

Was it intimidating working with them?
No, no. It felt like my calling, it really did. I felt like I needed to make that album – for me and for them.
Funky Art Fair focuses on local culture

Funky Ferndale Art Fair returns to Nine Mile and Woodward Avenue Sept. 15-17 this year. The Funky Ferndale Art Fair is an annual juried show of over 100 artists from across the country with contemporary and “funky” styles.

Selected artwork includes paintings, jewelry, photography, sculptures and more. Work is selected with a focus on the culture of Ferndale. “We are twice as ‘funky’ as the average fine art show,” said event coordinator Mark Loeb in a press release. “We focus on quality art, with a focus on work that is a bit more contemporary and edgy.”

The festival will also include an “Art Scholars” for student artists, acoustic music to compliment the viewing, ransom poetry and a childrens art area. Local Ferndale restaurants will also be present, offering a variety of tastes to festivalgoers.

The Funky Ferndale Art Fair has grown each year, reaching tens of thousands of viewers and putting hundreds of artists in connection with enthusiasts and buyers. The festival runs from 4-9 p.m. Sept 15, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Sept. 16 and noon-5 p.m. Sept. 17. For more information, go to downtownferndale.com

Affirmations goes off the wall

Affirmations begins a new annual event with its “Off the Wall Art Competition,” presenting the edgy and funky artists of Ferndale and supplementing the Funky Ferndale Art Fair.

Affirmations will display a number of local submissions in its newest addition, the Grab & Go SushiCo located in the front of the community center. The competition organizers seek to highlight Ferndale’s eclectic vibe and expand the non-artist’s perception of what art is.

Integrity Shows, presenters of the competition, will determine the top four entries on Thursday, Sept. 15. The general public will then determine first, second, third place and honorable mention throughout the weekend. Winners of the contest will receive cash and/or gift certificates to Grab & Go SushiCo.

Artists entered in the competition are able to sell their displayed art during the competition with a 20-percent consignment fee, entirely donated to Affirmations. Off the Wall Art contestants’ art will be displayed during the Funky Ferndale Art Fair from 4-8 p.m. Sept. 16, and 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Sept. 17.

Affirmations Off the Wall Art Competition is sponsored by Affirmations, Integrity Shows, Between The Lines and Grab & Go SushiCo. For more information, visit goaffirmations.org or contact Mark McMillan, events manager and development assistant, at 248-398-7105.

DIY Street Fair returns to Ferndale

The fourth annual DIY Street Fair returns to Ferndale this September to celebrate creativity and “do-it-yourself” pursuits with a free showcasing of local business and original crafters and their unique products in the southeast quadrant of Nine Mile Road and Woodward Avenue.

Attendees can expect to see handmade, home-cooked, locally brewed and ecologically friendly crafts, food and drinks. Many vendors are also offering performances, recordings and hands-on activities.

Launched in 2008, the DIY Street Fair has grown larger every year. “The response and support from the community has been phenomenal,” said Ferndale business owner Chris Johnston, who originated the concept of the DIY Fair, in the press release. “We’ve been just barely able to accommodate the demand for booths.”

To accommodate the fair’s increasing popularity, the market’s stretch of Nine Mile will both accommodate additional vendors and open Friday night for the first time.

Exhibitors and vendors will line the outdoor marketplace while the fair’s main stage will showcase live music of independent regional artists throughout the weekend. Musician’s performances will continue into the evening, relocating to a number of venues surrounding the fair site.

The DIY Street Fair has sought to keep the fair as reflective of its venue’s surroundings as possible. “What makes this fair unique is its participant roster, which we curate based on local presence, originality, grass-roots nature, and contribution to local creative culture,” said Carey Gustafson, Handmade Detroit co-founder and DIY Street Fair board member during its first three seasons. “Every inch of the fair is somehow associated with Detroit and the surrounding area, if not completely of it.”

The DIY Street Fair runs Sept. 16-18 in the Southeast quadrant of Nine Mile Road and Woodward Avenue in Ferndale. Admission is free. For more information, go to diystreetfair.com or call 248-709-7673.
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Indie film depicts lesbian life in Iran

BY GARY M. KRAMER

“Circumstance” is a remarkable film that sensitively depicts the struggles of two teenage lesbians, Atafeh (Nikohl Boosheri) and Shireen (Sarah Kazemy), in contemporary Iran. The story is based in part on bisexual writer/director Maryam Keshavarz’s own experiences as a teenager, and reveals how these teenagers find ways to express themselves sexually and otherwise, while living under state control.

The filmmaker, who lives in America, visited Iran regularly every summer until her controversial “Circumstance” (shot in Lebanon) prompted her to be banned from the country.

“Before I made this movie, I had the unique privilege to be able to go back and forth,” Keshavarz says. “Not anymore.”

In addition, Keshavarz reveals that she has been “threatened from anonymous sources, and been railed against by the government.” But it hasn’t been all bad. “I’ve had emails from hundreds of folks in Iran who are dying to see the film,” she notes. “I’m pretty happy. I had the freedom to make the film.”

The film, about forbidden love, is already more sexual, more erotic. It’s a space where they can really let loose.”

The filmmaker has seven brothers, one of whom is her fraternal twin. It comes to reason that her upbringing may be how she constructed the dual narratives of Atafeh’s downward spiral and Mehran’s efforts toward redemption.

“I never thought of this!” Keshavarz exclaims. “Maybe I did subconsciously. Perhaps because I’m a twin, and had someone born with me — and because we are different genders — we are very different and express ourselves differently.”

One of the dramatic turning points in “Circumstance” involves Atafeh and Shireen being arrested by the secret police. Keshavarz specifically had the teenagers caught for a crime that did not involve their sexuality. What happens — and it involves Mehran — changes the course of the girls’ relationship, and is quite haunting.

“Circumstance” ultimately may box its characters into corners, but the film offers hope that they may find an escape. The powerful ending should also prompt viewers to reflect on the question that opens the film: “If you could be anywhere, where would you be?”

Keshavarz answers that same question herself. “Wow! In the world? In my imagination? Or in reality?” She laughs. “Right now, I’m pretty happy with where I am. ‘Circumstance’ was really hard to make, and because the film has gotten a great response, I’m able to press forth with my next project a lot easier. I’m in a very unique place. I’m very happy right now. Although I’d probably be happier if I was on a beach in Maui!”
Show us your sexy walk.

AIDS Walk Michigan 2011
Saturday, September 24th, Palmer Park, 8:30 am

Stop by the table and say “hey” to the Sexy Team. We’ll be giving away sexy stuff and letting you know how to keep it hot. Or even better - sign up to walk, march or strut to help bring an end to AIDS. Doing your part in the community is always sexy.

Don’t forget to hit up our website to find out what it takes to be Status Sexy and to find a place near you to get a free HIV test. Or call 800-872-2437.

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Photo is of a model and does not indicate sexual orientation or HIV status. Funded by WCH.
Katy B’s breakout record is worthy of hype. Plus: Pistol Annies’ delightful debut

Katy B, ‘On a Mission’

They’re everywhere – British songbirds trying to take over the world with their voices. But Katy B, who’s already made major headway in her native country for her unique, mainstream-friendly blend of dubstep, house and soul, is a name that’s destined to catch on. The 22-year-old’s debut is one of the best in recent years, a near-perfect spin that feels loose, gritty, mature and free from the strategic control of a record label (even though she’s got major-label backing under Sony) – the antithesis of Jessie J’s first effort, released just a few months ago. “Power On Me,” an old-school throwback to the ’80s, sets the stage for a familiar sound that the London-born artist makes all her own, moving into the thumping chainsaw-ripping single “Katy On a Mission,” breezing through the jazzy “Movement” and nagging on the pitiful pool of men during “Easy Please Me,” a devilish rant that’s incredibly addictive. “These days I can’t find a man to please me,” sasses the singer, who adopts the Lily Allen brand of mouth-offs. She does it again on the dubstep groove “Go Away,” but this time drops into some R&B coolness on the chorus. “Broken Record” lurches into a sweetly sung rave, and “Hard to Get” wraps the set – strangely pairing cricket chirps and lounge-y keyboards for a killer chiller. Even the what-could-be-canned thank yous at the end of the track sound like nothing you’ve heard before.

Grade: A-

Pistol Annies, ‘Hell on Heels’

Miranda Lambert isn’t someone that likes to be messed with, which the country superstar has made clear on three consistently solid solo CDs. Now she and her two accomplices, Ashley Monroe and Angaleena Presley, are “Hell on Heels,” the kitschy and cautionary title of the girl group’s first album that’s reminiscent of what Dolly Parton did with Emmylou Harris and Linda Ronstadt for the legendary “Trio” album. But that was 1987. So on their laid-back, traditional-sounding venture, Pistol Annies plays with a modern sensibility that allows them to riff on girls-behaving-badly with “Takin’ Pills” and, at their campiest, greedy relatives fighting over their dead mother’s belongings on “Family Feud.” It’s this openness to busting genre limits that makes their debut such a delight, with Lambert getting feisty mad at her ex on “Trailer for Rent” and then all starry-eyed over “Boys from the South.” “Lemon Drop” offers an adorably witty slant to an it-gets-better song, while “Beige” is the group at their most affecting, as they sing about a shotgun wedding. There are only 10 ditties – all of them simple, not-too-produced pieces – that stretch over a skimpy 30 minutes. But that’s certainly enough time for them to give us some hell, and some heaven.

Grade: B+

Also Out

Kristin Chenoweth, ‘Some Lessons Learned’

Just because Kristin Chenoweth is baby-cute doesn’t mean she can get away with anything. And her crossover into country music, from Broadway and Christmas to nearly everything else, is the kind of near-miss that you wish wasn’t. She’s obviously a talented singer, and she nails a reading of Dolly Parton’s “Change” (also great is her ode to the icon, “What Would Dolly Do?”) and does a bang-up job on the clean-cut heartbreaker “Mine to Love” – but there’s too much, to use Chenoweth’s words, to bitch about. There’s the way-too-wordy lead single “I Want Somebody (Bitch About)” and an overload of schmaltzy songs (blame Diane Warren). Just consider this another lesson learned.

Jon McLaughlin, ‘Forever If Ever’

We loved him as the hot ballroom balladeer who stole hearts during “Enchanted.” But don’t stop swooning; his fourth album features “I’ll Follow You,” another solid slowie in the vein of “So Close.” Much of the rest, though, is grounded in the John Mayer genre: “Promising Promises,” opening with organ, is a falsetto showcase; “Summer Is Over” is his best chance at a hit (even if it’s not the best track), and “You Are What I’m Here For” is a lovely song of desperation. The ’80s influences of his last album no longer exist, instead cleaning inspiration from grunge-rock for “I Brought This on Myself” and neo-Hanson on “Without You Now.” Outside of that, it’s still McLaughlin – sweet and safe.
BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

ANN ARBOR – PBS may still insist that Bert and Ernie aren’t gay, but that won’t stop the thinly veiled characters of “Avenue Q” from singing, “If you were gay, that’d be OK,” as Niky tries talking Rod out of the closet.

This time they’ll be singing those songs in Ann Arbor in the region’s first community theater production of the hit musical whose rights just became available a few months ago. The Ann Arbor Civic Theatre is producing the show that joyously declares that the Internet is for porn and everyone is a little bit racist. Director Wendy Sielaff said it was a lucky chance that Ann Arbor Civic was able to do it so quickly after the rights became available.

Sielaff had spent nearly nine months preparing to do “La Cage Aux Folles” in this time slot. Then, right in the middle of tech week for “Miss Saigon” this past June, she got a call telling her the rights for “Folles” had been pulled. Two hours later, she received a message from a different source — an email list that let her know the rights for “Avenue Q” had just become available.

“I got on the phone with Ann Arbor Civic and told them to go get it now,” Sielaff said. “It fell into our laps by accident that we got it so early, but that was a blessing.”

It was also one that had actors from throughout the region excited about participating in. People came to auditions from far and wide, and cast members drive in nightly from as far away as Ohio and Clarkston.

“Avenue Q” opened on Broadway in 2003 and went on to win three Tony Awards. It is a “Sesame Street” for grownups, though the Jim Henson Company has not endorsed the show and has nothing to do with its creation. Puppets interact with humans dealing with the difficulty of making it in the real world.

“The puppets can get away with saying the most amazing things,” said Sielaff. “It’s OK if you’re gay, everyone is a little bit racist, the Internet is for porn. The appeal is the raw humor. We have puppet sex on stage, we have naked puppets … Kate Monster is definitely Prairie Dawn and she drops the F-bomb constantly. You just don’t expect it.”

Sielaff quickly brought Kyle Farr on board as the puppet director. He had performed in a version of “Avenue Q” in Kalamazoo a few years ago when it was being tested to determine how far rights could be released. He instituted a three-week puppet boot camp to teach all of the cast members how to manipulate the puppets and to manipulate their bodies when working with puppets. She said he has been amazing in teaching the cast, only one of whom had previous puppet experience. She also said her cast has taken to the work and put in all sorts of extra hours to learn what needed to be done.

“They’ve been so willing to do anything,” Sielaff said. “We got the cream of the crop. Some bought their own practice puppets. They’ve been an amazingly wonderful cast to work with.”

One of the mantras of the show has been to “keep it pure.” They may be a community theater, but they’re not modifying anything from the Broadway production. They’ve rented the puppets from the original production company and made their own videos for several of the scenes. The set itself may seem simple from the front, but in back it is an intricate piece of stagecraft.

“In the back we have scaffolds and ladders and platforms. People get 14 feet into the air. We knew it would be complex, but we never realized how much.”
Between The Lines • September 15, 2011

No slips in 'Freud’s Last Session'

BY MARTIN F. KOHN

In “Freud’s Last Session,” Sigmund Freud and C.S. Lewis, a couple of intellectual 400 hitters, have a highly entertaining, wide-ranging philosophical discussion, an elevated version of what might take place in a dorm room around midnight abetted by a bottle or two of cheap wine.

Whether the two thinkers ever actually met – it’s possible – is immaterial. Playwright Mark St. Germain embraces the idea, and the result is a lively 75 minutes on stage with much to contemplate and a surprisingly large amount of drama and humor.

The time is Sept. 3, 1939, the very beginning of World War II, the place is Freud’s study in London. Lewis hadn’t come to be psychoanalyzed (he conspicuously avoids Freud’s famous couch). The elderly, terminally ill preacher man, and the play is quite personal. It follows four gay Dallas kids’ growth from childhood into manhood, aware that they’re misfits in the culture – especially their fundamentalist church. Each follows a different path seeking his true self.

Our storyteller, Mike (Mathew Turner Shelton), cannot deal with the hypocrisy of a church founded on love that preaches such hate, and leaves the church in anger. In the clash of religion and sexuality, the thoroughly indoctrinated T.J. (Michael Lopotrone), steps into the closet and slams the door. The flamboyant Benny (Vince Kelly), embraces his sexuality and becomes a “female illusionist.” The rather shy Andrew (Joe Plambeck) is still in emotional turmoil well into adulthood.

Structurally the script is problematic, as it drifts into flashbacks, as well as switching scenes between a Dallas church and a gay bar. The bar, though, allows for the introduction of two lost souls: “Peanut,” aging gay guy in a scene of the forever-young; and Odette Annette Barnett(462,297),(568,391) – hetero, but gay barfly. Together they have most of the comedy in this dramatic conversation. Jamie Richards and Melissa Beckwith reprise their roles from the first production and are fine comic relief. Yet as the characters swap jokes and stories, they reveal the emptiness of people who live lifestyles instead of lives.

But let’s return to that script. I don’t find it as compelling as other examples of the genre, due to Shores’ rather superficial handling of his characters’ inner states. If any of this is autobiographical, why isn’t he more in touch with the complexities? Nor am I sure the convention of one actress playing all of the boys’ mothers (here admirably performed by returning Connie Beckwith reprise their roles from the first production and are fine comic relief. Yet as the characters swap jokes and stories, they reveal the emptiness of people who live lifestyles instead of lives. They cannot deal with the hypocrisy of a church founded on love that preaches such hate, and leaves the church in anger. In the clash of religion and sexuality, the thoroughly indoctrinated T.J. (Michael Lopotrone), steps into the closet and slams the door. The flamboyant Benny (Vince Kelly), embraces his sexuality and becomes a “female illusionist.” The rather shy Andrew (Joe Plambeck) is still in emotional turmoil well into adulthood.

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They – Mitch Greenberg as Freud, Cory Krebsbach as Lewis – turn in complete and credible performances. Their accents – Greenberg’s Germanic, Krebsbach’s British – are consistent, and each man contributes something extra. During an air raid warning Krebsbach’s Lewis manages to look irked with his face covered by a gas mask. Greenberg’s Freud gestures in such a manner that his hands can be described in no way other than kindly.

“Southern Baptist Sissies” returns to The Ringwald through Sept. 26. Photo: Coleen Scribner

No slips in 'Freud’s Last Session'

BY JOHN QUINN

“Sissie” rings harshly in the ear of any gay man. It’s a slur meant to mock and hurt. Yet in the title of the play “Southern Baptist Sissies,” it’s an attention-getter as effective as a punch in the face – which often follows use of said epithet. Who Wants Cake? revives its 2007 hit this month at the Ringwald Theatre in Ferndale. The production, directed by Joe Bailey, unites members of the first cast with a few newer faces. The story they tell explores one of the classic themes of literature – the coming of age – from a distinctly LGBT perspective.

Playwright Del Shores is the son of a preacher man, and the play is quite personal. It follows four gay Dallas kids’ growth from childhood into manhood, aware that they’re misfits in the culture – especially their fundamentalist church. Each follows a different path seeking his true self.

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Joan Rivers simply exudes brash New Yorker, so it’s no wonder she’s earned a rabid gay following. After beginning her comedy career over 50 years ago at The Second City in Chicago, Rivers has gone on to host countless television events and appear on a variety of her own TV shows, including “The Late Show Starring Joan Rivers,” “The Joan Rivers Position” and “Can We Shop?” A revealing documentary on her life, “Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work,” was released last year.

Joan Rivers will perform her unannounced standup routine in front of a sold-out audience at 8 p.m. Sept. 17 at the Andiamo Celebrity Room in Warren, 7099 E. 14 Mile Road. For more information, visit joanrivers.com or call 386-268-3200.

Saturday, Sept. 19
Know Us Project. 1 p.m. KIP. Conversations about being personal stories about what it has been like to experience discrimination, bias, prejudice or even hate crimes. No cost for attendees. PFLAG, 3333 Chippewa Hwy. Troy. 248-381-4227. pflagdetroit.org

Partnerships in Parenting. 1-5 p.m. Promoting the importance of relationship and family development for LGBT parents, Detroit Youth Development Coalition. Seeking to build a stronger connection between parents and children through social networking and community outreach. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 734-574-5853.NSArraym.org

Dining by Design — Gala Dinner. 6 p.m. Raising funds for HIV/AIDS services and education organizations in the nation. $250 admission. Limited seating, silent auction, dinner and appetizers provided by the Matt Prentice Restaurant Group. Live entertainment and complementary valet parking. Michigan AIDS Coalition and DFA, 441 West Canfield, Detroit. 248-445-4253. michiganaidscoalition.org

World Music Dance Party. 6:30 p.m. Celebrating diversity and support for the Jim Toy Center that serves the Ann Arbor area” LGBT Community. Tickets sold online, by phone at (734) 678-2478 or at the door. Admission: $10 each or two tickets for $15. Jim Toy Center and Awareness of LGBT, 24-26 S. Main, Saline Road, Ann Arbor. 734-424-2797. spiralann Arbor.bar

Sunday, Sept. 25
Lezread. 4 p.m. Ann Arbor book group for Lesbians. Meets the last Sunday of every month. Lezread, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-678-2478. lezread@yahoo.com

MUSIC & MORE

BENEFITS/SOCIAL EVENTS

COMEDY

Meadowbrook Music Festival Stephen Wright Tickets: $27.50 reserved, $17.50 general. Meadow Brook Music Festival, 2200 N. Saginaw Road, Rochester, 734-372-7462.
The Ark Willy Porter Tickets: $17.50. H1 Auditorium, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 734-714-6665. thenark.com

CONCERTS
OTE Energy Music Theatre tobyMac With special guest Peter Furler, Mandisa and Jamie Grace. Tickets: $27.50 advance, $30 day of. The Ark Oasis, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-381-0100.

Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Sept. 2 - 10. 269-393-1313. thekaz.com


Southern Baptist Sisettes Contains nudity and sexual themes. ($20-$30, or pay what you can) at The Ringstab, 22724 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through Sept. 26. 248-545-5045. whowantscashattheatre.com


Wednesday at Go Comedy! Go Comedy! Improv Theatre, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomedy.net

Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Sept. 2 - 10. 269-393-1313. thekaz.com


University Musical Society A tribute to the 9/11 World Trade Center disaster. $10. The Emerson String Quartet took its name from the great American poet and philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson. Tickets: $52-24. Burton Memorial Tower, 881 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 4 p.m. Sept. 18. 734-764-2538. UMS.org

562-3394. kordazone.com


Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Sept. 2 - 10. 269-393-1313. thekaz.com

The Cage." Helmut Stern Auditorium, 525 Festival concludes with a series of short shorts " Third annual Romanian Film Festival. Sept. 16 - 25. 734-764-2538. UMS.org


Kalamazoo. Sept. 23 - Oct. 2. 517-529-4932. thepurplerose.org

and avant-garde culture, while touching investigation into the relationships which continues the artist's career-long Gallery hosts Mike Kelley's "Day is Done," "Mike Kelley: Day is Done" New Media Exhibition" 89th annual juried exhibition of Detroit" Metro Times photographer Caniff, Hamtramck. Sept. 15 - Oct. 8. 313-234-1695. caniffart.org


Flint Institute of Arts 's "Guiting Traditions: The Art of the Amish" Arrows women's traditional quilts assembled by collectors Marinda and Debrah Farnum Allen. Arrows are from the Amish communities in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana from the 19th to mid-20th century. Flint Institute of Arts, 1125 E. Kalamazoo, Final Sept. 9. 810-138-2044. The gallery project.com


Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Sept. 2 - 10. 269-393-1313. thekaz.com

"6 Degrees" Exhibit of paintings by Detroit's best young artists. The Gallery Project hosts "Day is Done," "Mike Kelley: Day is Done" New Media Exhibition" 89th annual juried exhibition of Detroit" Metro Times photographer Caniff, Hamtramck. Sept. 15 - Oct. 8. 313-234-1695. caniffart.org


Pittsburgh-Butte Creek Theater "The Face of Detroit" Metro Times photographer Bruce Giffen photographs of Detroit. A third of all subjects are homeless, though Giffen argues it is unimportant to know which they are. Ann Arbor, 324 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. Sept. 1 - Oct. 30. 248-398-7157. dtmtrucks.com

"The Gallery Project "Subjective World" Umwelt or subjective world is a foundational concept in the study of animal behavior. It challenges people to think about animals as they might experience through their own senses and respond to it with their own bodies, according to their own priorities. The Gallery Project, 215 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Sept. 21 - Oct. 8. 734-997-7012. thegalleryproject.com

UMICH local. Visit www.pridesource.com For expanded listings & to add a listing, visit www.pridesource.com
### Rear View

#### ODDS & ENDS

**Rear View**

1. **Across**
   1. Julius Caesar’s first name
   6. NG: Roth offerings
   10. Moist mounds
   14. Become a parent nonheterosexually
   15. 2008 biopic about Harvey
   16. NG: Hint to the future
   17. She played Rose on “The Golden Girls”
   19. NG: ___-tat
   20. NG: Actor Morales
   21. Butch’s towel word
   22. Booty grabber
   24. Worker on Broadway
   26. Fruitful
   27. Bea of “The Golden Girls”
   30. NG: Cookies unit
   31. Historic Stonewall disturbances
   32. NG: Sills’ solo
   33. Nick Adams’ Johnny
   37. NG: Be in a cast
   38. Getty of “The Golden Girls”
   41. “Heather ___ Two Mommies”
   42. Sucker or suckee?
   44. NG: Takes advantage of
   45. NG: Leave home
   47. NG: Bounded along
   49. Character played by 38-Across
   50. Many a place near Aspen
   52. Sit for Mapplethorpe
   54. NG: Hollywood Bros.
   55. NG: Provide assistance
   56. NG: “Darn!”
   60. NG: Crude cartel
   61. Rue of “The Golden Girls”
   64. NG: Seek a sorority
   65. NG: Words of woe
   66. NG: Funny Cheri
   67. NG: Novel conclusion
   68. Have an opening for
   69. Offer an apple to Adam and Steve?

   **Down**
   1. NG: Kotter portrayer Kaplan
   2. Fruity drinks
   3. Sappho’s “I”
   4. NG: On pins and needles
   5. Place for parking?
   6. NG: “Like, no problem, man”
   7. Park of Queens
   8. NG: Model Carol
   9. Like a pirate insignia
   10. Character played by 27-Across
   11. Place for a G-string
   12. “South Pacific” nuts
   13. NG: Kind of drum
   18. Spin like a top
   23. “Lord of the Rings” extra
   25. Trojan Horse, e.g.
   26. Blows it
   27. NG: Spirited horse
   28. NG: Anticrime acronym
   29. Canine from Kansas
   30. Go straight?
   32. Cruising, maybe
   34. NG: “Look out…”
   35. Spot for gay honeymoons
   36. NG: Early movie dog
   39. Dean Cain role
   40. Some actors have big ones
   43. Character played by 61-Across
   46. Emulate Dr. Kildare
   48. NG: Vein filler
   49. Scotch partner
   50. NG: Used inelegant language
   51. NG: On the fritz
   52. NG: Legal conclusion beginning
   53. Accumulated, like Gomer?
   55. Top
   57. NG: “Excuse me!”
   58. NG: Waterproof cover
   59. Prissy hissy
   62. “Evita” narrator
   63. NG: “Just kidding!”

   **Solution on 32**

### Pet of the Week

**Say hello to Annabelle!**

A calm and friendly girl, Annabelle is an 8-year-old terrier mix looking for her forever home. Annabelle would do best in a low-traffic, quiet home where she can curl up on your lap to get some much-needed shuteye. Come meet her today! The adoption fee includes sterilization, age-appropriate vaccinations and much more. For more information, visit or call the Michigan Humane Society’s Rochester Hills Center for Animal Care at (248) 852-7420 and provide the pet ID number, 13412078. Photo by Heidi Waeschle-Gabel.
Don’t be nervous, Aries!

BY JACK FERTIG

Venus coming home to Libra normally helps us to be more gracious, social and polite. Opposing Uranus on the way, in whips up some crazy ideas of what that might mean. Compassion and imagining yourself in the other’s position is usually the best way to start out.

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): You’re suddenly looking marriageable no matter what local laws allow. Don’t be nervous about letting that someone special see your inner wounds. Allowing yourself to be that vulnerable demonstrates truer, deeper confidence in both of you.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): A friend in need is a pain in the ass. You have your own problems. Even so, helping out your pal can not only get you out of your own problems for a bit, but help point you to a solution.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): Your idea of social outreach can be a little outré. One on one is fine for scaring off people you don’t want to deal with, but if you’re working with a group keep your focus on your goals and behave accordingly.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): New recipes or techniques will not go the way you expect but could be better than you’d hoped for. Even if things bollix up, you get points for trying. At work keep your boss up on any experiments, just in case!

LEO (July 23 – August 22): “Helpful” advice and corrections are not necessarily appreciated, as you could find out the hard way. An earnest, soul-searching talk about sex can be more satisfying than actually doing it. Not that one rules out the other!

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): You can find amazing deals at estate sales, perhaps even your true love. If you already have one of those, bring him or her along and you could find some treasure that will become an emblematic keepsake.

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): You’re looking especially gorgeous. The attention you get will surprise you. Romance is there for you, but what would your partner say? Of course you’re not just a pretty face; a new contact could prove very helpful as a colleague.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): Hiding out from the social whirl may give you some peace, but doesn’t really do much to allay your anxieties. Hum the first tune that comes to mind. That song will offer insights to face your worries and put them in perspective.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): Opportunities abound to “party hardy.” Be careful not to go overboard. Seek out new, interesting, unusual people at these events. Their perspectives can trigger new insights into your own roots.

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): Career opportunities are looking good for you, but are you really prepared? Know your strengths and the difference between reaching and overreaching. Work may be causing you to neglect issues at home. You need to talk with someone there!

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): You might want to think a little harder before opening your mouth. Does it really need to be said? Your words carry more weight than you realize. Treat them like currency and don’t waste them.

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): Sexual healing or sexual reeling? Opportunities abound as Venus is flashing her goodies in your house of illicit pleasures. She also offers a deeper challenge to reexamine your priorities and values. Question No. 1: where is the healing?

Jack Fertig, a professional astrologer since 1977, is available for personal and business consultations in person in San Francisco, or online everywhere. He can be reached at 415-864-8302, through his website at www.starjack.com, and by email at QScopes@qsyndicate.com.
Dear Jody

The mess we’ve made

Q: I’ve been involved with “Ryan” for over a year. I met him while I was working in a city about 100 miles from where I live and work. I get assigned to different projects and am often away from the main office. I get to where Ryan lives several times a month.

I need to backtrack a little before I get into my problem. I’ve been living with “Stan” for over 10 years. We’ve not had a commitment ceremony, but I guess we have a commitment of sorts, though it has never been spelled out, exactly. That I know of, Stan has never been deeply involved with anyone, though he certainly – I’m sure – has had his little trysts in the past 10 years of our being together. I haven’t told him about Ryan. I don’t think he would take kindly to that knowledge.

Back to Ryan: I met Ryan in a bar, and we fell madly in love the first night. He didn’t take me back to his place, but instead we went to my hotel. And this has been the case ever since we met: We go to my hotel when I’m in town, not to his place. This didn’t start to bother me until about a month or so ago. Although I teased him in the past about not being worthy of staying at his place, it seemed OK because Ryan said that he got “turned on” by going to a hotel. In fact, it worked out well that Ryan liked hotels, because when he came to my city – on a few occasions – I got a hotel for us. (I couldn’t exactly bring him home to Stan.) I told Ryan about Stan, so it’s not like I’ve been lying to him. Ryan seemed OK with my being with Stan. He told me, very firmly, that he was not involved with another man.

I should have asked Ryan if he was involved with a woman, because he was! Not only was the other person a woman, but she was his wife! They were, as he put it, separated but still living together – supposedly sleeping in different bedrooms. (That’s why I was never invited to his place, and why he told me that he got “turned on” by hotels.) Apparently, about four months after we met and fell in love, he began couple counseling with his wife. They have now reconciled, leaving me wondering where I stand, or if I should hang around.

Ryan told me that he wants to “stay in touch.” I don’t know if I want to do that, or exactly what that will mean for me. I feel like he has deceived me, so I don’t know if I can trust him. Also, Ryan said his wife doesn’t know that he’s bisexual, and he doesn’t want her knowing. (They have two kids.)

I’m still in love with Ryan, but I’m not sure how this is all going to play out for me. Do you think I should hang in there and settle for half a loaf?

Half A Loaf

A: To hang in there with your metaphor, do you think that you are offering anything more than a whole loaf?

I’m not sure why you are upset with Ryan for not being honest with you. Why would you expect, or demand, honesty from someone else when you don’t bring full honesty to the table yourself? Do you think you deserve something you’re not willing to give? You did tell Ryan about Stan, but you didn’t tell Stan about Ryan. You apparently pick and choose your moments of honesty.

My advice to you would be to back away from Ryan and his wife, let them work things out. Hopefully, one day, he will inject some honesty into his life. However, he’s not writing to me, and you can do nothing about his behavior, only your own. Though you didn’t ask me, I suggest that you and Stan work on what your relationship means to you both, and how you want it to work. If an open relationship is what you both want, then be honest about it. In other words, try and get something honest going in your relationship with Stan. Then, you can ask and deserve honesty from others.

When we start lying in our relationships, we create a sticky web of deception; then eventually, get caught in it. It’s just a matter of time.

Want to learn more about lying in relationships? Look up Dear Jody Valley on Facebook.

Jody Valley spent 12 years as a clinical social worker. She worked with the LGBT community both as a counselor and a workshop leader in the areas of coming out, self-esteem and relationship issues. Reach Jody at DearJodyValley@hotmail.com. The “Dear Jody” column appears weekly.
LGBT AA MEETINGS

Ann Arbor-Friday
7:30 pm, St. Andrews Episcopal Church
Gay AA, 206 N Division St. Closed/Discussion.

Bloomfield Hills-Thursday
7:00 pm, Sobriety in The Hills Gay AA,

Detroit-Tuesday / Friday
8:00 pm, Downtown Gay AA, Fort Street Presbyterian Church,
631 West Fort St. Closed/Discussion [Open 1st Friday of every month].

Farmington Hills-Monday
8:00 pm, Suburban West Gay AA,
Universalist Unitarian Church, 25301 Halstead (Between 10 & 11 Mile Roads). Closed / Discussion.

Ferndale-Monday /
Wednesday / Friday
11:30 a.m., Brown Baggers Gay AA,
Affirmations, 290 West 9 Mile Rd. Closed/Discussion.

Ferndale-Wednesday
8 p.m., Diversity Wednesday Gay AA,
St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 540 W. Lewiston @ Livernois. Closed/Discussion.

Ferndale-Saturday
1 p.m., Brown Baggers Gay AA,
Affirmations, 290 West 9 Mile Rd. Closed/Discussion.

Ferndale-Sunday
11:30 a.m., Brown Baggers Gay AA,
Area. Call Lars 248-361-2129
lmkb@raparty.com

Historic Home in Fenton
This lovely historic home in Fenton is on 4 wooded lots with perennial beds in the historic Dibbleville neighborhood and has been featured in years past on the home tour. This home has many special features including five bedrooms, two full baths including one with a claw footed tub, a tin ceiling in the kitchen, a front and back stairway, a screened porch, and two fireplaces. There have been a number of recent updates including a new roof. Open house on Sunday 9/25 from 12-00-3:00 pm. This home is located at 813 State Road in Fenton. The home is priced exceptionally reasonably at $149,900. For a virtual tour please go to www.randyheany.com click on featured listings.

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BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Are you ready for ‘The Young Carrie Bradshaw Chronicles’?

From this summer’s “X-Men: First Class” to the upcoming “The Amazing Spider-Man,” youthful reboots are all the rage – but prequels aren’t just for superheroes anymore. And while first there were just rumblings, there are now more definite plans for HBO’s developing series (that would probably air elsewhere, most likely the CW) focusing on younger versions of the “Sex and the City” quartet. Imagine something along the lines of “Smallville,” only with Carrie, Miranda, Charlotte and Samantha instead of Clark Kent. With two recent “Teen Carrie” books by Candace Bushnell, “The Carrie Diaries” and “Summer in the City,” freshly ready for adaptation, this could all get moving quickly. Early casting news buzzing about Blake Lively has now grown to include talk of Emma Roberts. Who knows, maybe Selena Gomez is looking to change her image; if so, then there’s your Charlotte. And if the show wanted to incorporate a genuine element of the surreal into the proceedings, they could just let Kim Cattrall keep playing Samantha. OK, maybe Samantha’s slutty grandmother.

Zachary Quinto’s gay for ‘Horror’

While Zachary Quinto (“Heroes,” “Star Trek”) has maintained what we might call a “respectful silence” about his private life, he’s certainly never shied away from taking on gay roles, most recently in the acclaimed Broadway revival of “Angels in America.” (Or from making an “It Gets Better” video, for that matter.) Now Quinto’s about to take on another gay role, this time on Ryan Murphy’s much-anticipated scary show for FX, “American Horror Story,” where he’ll portray the man who sells the haunted Victorian manor to the show’s lead characters, played by Dylan McDermott and Connie Britten. Quinto and Britten are slated to become pals on the show over the four episodes in which Quinto is slated to appear – he’ll first turn up on a two-part episode airing Halloween week. So if you like getting spooked by Spock (and really, who doesn’t?), tune in.

Billie Piper’s ‘Love Life’ is all student/teacher-y

Once known as a ’90s British pop princess, Billie Piper has successfully leapt the wall into acting with her acclaimed turns as a companion on “Doctor Who” and as an entirely different kind of companion on “Secret Diary of a Call Girl.” But now Piper will be getting an apple (at the very least) on a new BBC drama called “Love Life.” Her character is described as a schoolteacher who, after a disappointing fling with a married man, discovers herself being attracted to one of her female students. TV schoolboys have gotten hot for teacher on everything from “Dawson’s Creek” to “Degrassi,” but getting a lesbian spin, from the instructor’s POV no less, helps level the pop culture playing field of inappropriate romance. We’ll see how it works out when “Love Life” – which also stars “Ab Fab”’s Jane Horrocks and Piper’s fellow “Doctor Who” alum David Tennant – premieres next year.

Sundance hit ‘Shut Up Little Man!’ heads for Theaters

Two Midwestern punk rock dudes moved to San Francisco in the late ’80s, only to be kept awake at night by the loud and boisterous arguments of their drunken neighbors, one gay, one straight and both very familiar with alcohol. The fascinated new tenants tape-recorded the fights, which later led to zines and duplicated cassettes and staged readings that became an underground cultural phenomenon. That’s the story of “Shut Up Little Man!,” the darkly hilarious (and also remarkably sad) documentary that premiered at Sundance this year, and now it’s heading to theaters in New York and Los Angeles on Sept. 16. (The film is currently available on-demand as well.) It’s a fascinating portrait, not just of the battling boozehounds next door but also of pre-Internet culture, when something going “viral” was a process that took months and years, the products of cassette tape or copy paper. Given how today’s YouTube sensation becomes tomorrow’s has-been, it’s a strangely retro reminder of the extremely recent past.

Romeo San Vicente is ready for sweater weather. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.
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