As an openly gay man, I definitely want to represent the community in a positive way.

— Eli Lieb, pg. 18
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COVER STORY
4 Royal Oak campaign kicks off
Photo: One Royal Oak Field Director Megan Cece, right, Jen Weaver and Aaron Aptel want many others to join them in volunteering on the campaign to reinstate Royal Oak’s inclusive human rights ordinance. Weaver works at the American Federation of Teachers and Aptel is a college student at Oberlin College in Ohio.

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We’re at a pivotal moment with a ton of momentum — now’s the time to act. Sign up at www.Pridesource.com/VEP.html to receive information about pro-LGBT candidates next election cycle and help the Unity Michigan Coalition fight for discrimination at the state and local level.

If you are having sex, get tested every three months ...
Stop pretending that people living with HIV have some special responsibility for your health.

– Todd Heywood, page 11

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PUBLISHERS
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Assumptions Don’t Help In Royal Oak Campaign, Volunteers Do Though

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

ROYAL OAK - People are not yet turning out in droves to support the One Royal Oak Campaign. And the lackluster support has campaign organizers scratching their heads and crossing their fingers.

A rally held at 515 in Royal Oak brought out a handful of interested volunteers, mainly Affirmations regulars, to hear a panel talk about the ballot initiative that will be voted on at the city’s Nov. 5 election. But many more are needed if the proposal is going to pass.

Proposal A is to uphold an inclusive human rights ordinance in Royal Oak. The ordinance was passed earlier this year by the city commission, but was suspended by petition, forcing the matter to go to a vote of the public.

Well-funded opposition is actively fighting against the ordinance. Just Royal Oak has launched a website and social media campaign touting myths about the “homosexual lifestyle” and misleading the public with that attitude we’re going to lose.”

People forget that although the downtown area is very gay friendly, the surrounding area is pretty conservative.”

Hoadley, in a later phone interview, said that even with the demographics, he is hopeful that One Royal Oak can win. “Polling shows that in all age groups, and even among conservatives, there is growing support for equality,” he said. “We just have to educate the public that there are people that honestly believe that just putting it on the ballot, let people read it, they’ll read it, we’ll win. We don’t need to spend any money. We don’t need to have any organized campaigns.

It’s Royal Oak. My God, it’s the capital of 515 and Pronto. And I think that if we have that attitude we’re going to lose.”

“Many people still do not know that in Michigan you can be fired for being gay or for your gender expression,” said Jon Hoadley of Unity Michigan. “We need to educate people about this and why local ordinances are important.” Hoadley has worked with several cities and townships around the state to put local protections in place. There are currently at least 24 municipalities that have ordinances like the one Royal Oak voters could reinstate on Nov. 5.

There are many obstacles ahead though. Kyle DuBac is one of the Royal Oak commissioners who introduced the ordinance. “This is going to be a low turnout election,” he said. “We know what kind of numbers we are looking at. One in three of the voters are going to be 65 and older, and 8,000 people will vote.” There are almost 50,000 eligible voters living in Royal Oak, according to the 2010 census.

One Royal Oak Field Director Megan Cece said the group is aiming for 5,500 “yes” votes. That’s going to require lots of knocking on doors and making phone calls to registered voters. “We need volunteer efforts,” she said. “We’re running on a skeleton crew. We are working our butts off 24/7, but we’re also putting this back on you. Get involved. Get others to come out and volunteer.”

Cece said that the ordinance is not just important to Royal Oak residents, but that other communities are looking at what happens in Royal Oak as a way to see if this can be done in other cities. “The more cities have this, the more Lansing will know there is public support for amending Elliott Larsen, the statewide nondiscrimination legislation.”

Dave Garcia, executive director of Affirmations, spoke on a panel at the recent rally. “It seems to me as Affirmations has been involved with this effort from the very beginning; I have not seen the kind of fire under our behinds that I saw in Kalamazoo. When I was the executive director there we passed 1856, the Kalamazoo ordinance very similar to the one here in Royal Oak. And I think that there are people that honestly believe that just putting it on the ballot, let people read it, they’ll read it, we’ll win. We don’t need to spend any money. We don’t need to have any organized campaigns.

I was the executive director there we passed 1856, the Kalamazoo ordinance very similar to the one here in Royal Oak. And I think that there are people that honestly believe that just putting it on the ballot, let people read it, they’ll read it, we’ll win. We don’t need to spend any money. We don’t need to have any organized campaigns. It’s Royal Oak. My God, it’s the capital of 515 and Pronto. And I think that if we have that attitude we’re going to lose.”

He added that, “people forget that although the downtown area is very gay friendly, the surrounding area is pretty conservative.”

To learn more about the One Royal Oak campaign and the ordinance that is on the ballot, visit the campaign website at http://oneroyaloak.wordpress.com/.
Kym Worthy To Speak At Fundraiser For Adoption And Marriage Case

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

FERNDALE - The landmark case of the Hazel Park couple that is suing the State of Michigan and Oakland County for the right to jointly adopt their children and to be married is making its way up through the court system, and the legal bills are piling up.

April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse live together with their three children, each adopted by only one of the women, as Michigan does not allow unmarried couples to jointly adopt. Because Michigan also has a constitutional ban on same-gender marriage, they cannot fulfill that requirement to become joint legal parents.

The case is being heard in the Federal Court Eastern District by Hon. Bernard A. Friedman Oct. 1, and even though his ruling is expected in October, both sides have already stated they intend to appeal whatever the ruling to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals is. After that appeal the case could go all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

And while that is promising for the family and other families throughout Michigan, it is also an expensive battle.

Natalie Mosher of Canton is one of many people who have stepped up to donate to the couple’s legal fund. And now Mosher is asking the community at large to get involved. She’s set up a special fundraiser on Sept. 26 at Affirmations in Ferndale. The evening will highlight Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy as keynote speaker (who has adopted children herself), the lesbian couple and their children.

“We are in a unique time in Michigan’s history,” said Mosher who is running for a seat in the Michigan State House in 2014. “Currently our state legislature is passing a lot of legislation that looks like it is directed at adults but ultimately is impacting our children. We must not sacrifice the health and education of our next generation. We need to fight for them, there are so many at-risk kids in our state, winning this case could mean a lot of those kids will find stable, safe and nurturing homes. This is about the kids and their future,” Mosher said.

A special host committee reception will start at 6 p.m., with the main event from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Donation levels range from $50 to $1,000. Those who wish to attend should contact Mosher for more information at natalie.mosher@gmail.com.

Cooley Law Professors File Amicus Brief In Michigan Marriage Equality Case

BY BTL STAFF

LANSING – Eight Thomas M. Cooley Law School professors recently filed a joint amicus brief in the marriage equality case DeBoer v. Snyder, which challenges the legality of both the 2004 constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage in Michigan and the Michigan Adoption Code. An amicus brief, or “friend of the court” brief, makes arguments and provides information that might be helpful to the court.

“This amendment not only bans same-sex marriage, it also harms the families of same-sex couples, depriving them of the protections of Michigan law,” said Dan Ray, professor of constitutional law at Cooley and one of the amicus brief authors. “Same sex couples don’t enjoy many of the things that other Michigan couples take for granted, like health care benefits or other spousal benefits. At its core, the amendment is discriminatory and does not reflect the kinds of values the people of Michigan put in our constitution.”

The plaintiffs, April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse, are in a long-term, committed relationship, and would marry if they were allowed to by Michigan law. Michigan adoption law allows married couples and individuals to adopt, but non-married couples cannot jointly adopt a child. Since same-sex couples cannot legally marry in Michigan, they cannot legally adopt together. Recognizing this, Judge Bernard Friedman allowed the plaintiffs to amend their suit to include a challenge to Michigan’s same-sex marriage ban.

“The United States Supreme Court has ruled several times, most recently this past June, that discrimination against gays and lesbians just because of their sexual orientation is unconstitutional,” said Ray. “The amendment does just that – it singles out gays and lesbians because of their sexual orientation – and refuses to recognize their committed relationships for any purpose. Michigan punishes an entire class of people who have done nothing wrong. The United States Constitution doesn’t allow Michigan to do that.”

Oral arguments in the case are scheduled in front of Judge Friedman on Oct. 1.
MICHIGAN
Pride
Arrives
Rally Sends
Message To Get
Engaged

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

LANSING – As people of all ages, genders and orientations gathered in Lansing last weekend to march to the capitol steps and celebrate Michigan Pride, Mark Janger of Ypsilanti wore his Pride March shirt from the 1987 Washington DC event.

For over two decades he has gone to marches and festivals to be one of the masses of people who show up to let the government and the public know the need for equal rights and respect for LGBT people.

“It’s amazing how things have changed, because back then all we were talking about was nondiscrimination language,” Janger said. “That’s pretty much widely accepted though. Marriage equality wasn’t even something we, the LGBT community, even dreamed about. So we were talking about domestic partnership, very limited kinds of relationship recognition. But the March in 1993 was the time of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, gays in the military, so it got a lot of press and it was really a turning point.”

Janger considered how much has changed as well as how far this state has to go.

“Michigan has a lot of work to do and it’s really important that we come together every year and remind ourselves and to re dedicate to working for equality. It’s also wonderful to see all the religious organizations here too. I feel that the whole community, not just the LGBT, the whole community, is just coming together and recognizing fairness.”

And while there was a mass same-gender wedding ceremony on the capitol steps, and plenty of LGBT showing, allies were an important part of this year’s march and festivities. Like many people, Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero is an ally partially because he is close to someone who is gay. He shared his story with the crowd.

“If I was blessed to grow up in a loving family, led primarily by my mother Virginia whose unlimited love and compassion spilled out into everything and everyone she touched,” Bernero said. “When my brother Victor confided to us that he was indeed gay, my mother’s response set the tone for the entire family. We simply loved him. Unfortunately classmates, co-workers and even some relatives were not so kind. My brother endured more rejection, ridicule, and outright hatred than a human being should. Maybe some of you…have felt some of those pains of rejection.

“Victor Bernero is no longer with us, but I remain outraged over the treatment he received decades ago at the hands of a supposedly civilized society, and I am committed to nothing less than justice, equality and acceptance for each of you.”

Having vocal elected officials is key to moving equality forward. Michigan Pride Co-Chair Emily Horvarth reminded the crowd of this.

“In this building behind me, this big beautiful gorgeous building behind me, we have senators and representatives who are actually introducing legislation to protect all families, recognize our children, and recognize our relationships as equal before the law. Find out who these representatives are and support them,” she told those gathered.

Another pressing issue for the LGBT community is HIV and AIDS. Activist and journalist Todd Heywood reminded attendees of this fact with his speech. He said that 10 percent of men who have sex with men who are in their 20s are infected with HIV, and that 60 percent of them don’t even know it. “We can change that by getting tested,” he said, stressing that there are new medications and new ways of preventing the disease’s transfer. (See Todd Heywood’s remarks on page 11.)

With the end of the rally, attendees moved to Old Town, where the music and fun of the festival began. Here Annette and Donna Perry-
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When Chelsea Manning (formerly known as Bradley) came out publicly... I felt a rush of pride and solidarity, and a voice inside me cried, ‘Yes!’... In that moment, her statement was a freedom-cry, a deep and cleansing exhalation and a defiant stride towards well-being.

Seeing both sides of Pvt. Chelsea Manning

Chelsea’s first autonomous act after years of having every movement and utterance dictated for her, is also one of the scariest and exciting things a person can do. It points to a courage and self-awareness far removed from the weak and troubled character imposed on her by the prosecution and mainstream public.

Freddie McConnell, The Independent

The AP will henceforth use Pvt. Chelsea E. Manning and female pronouns for the soldier, in accordance with her wishes to live as a woman. This is in conformity with the transgender guidance in the AP Stylebook.

The Associated Press

The Army does not provide hormone therapy or sex-reassignment surgery for gender identity disorder.

George Wright, Army spokesperson

It will be a MUCH larger crime if taxpayers have to pay for his changeover, when senior citizens and our wounded soldiers are doing without or cut benefits.

Anonymous internet comment

What is a shame is that this turd is going to be the ‘face’ of homosexual soldiers for a while. Instead of all of the hard working soldiers who do their jobs like the professionals they are, the face of DOMA [repeal] will be this traitor.

Anonymous internet comment

Regardless of how she came to our attention, Pvt. Chelsea Manning’s transition deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.

Jeff Krehely,
VP at the Human Rights Campaign

Parents, Protection, And Pee Politics

A parent, as a general rule, is going to put the safety and security of their own child above all else. They want their child to have a life without the sorrow, without the embarrassment, without the pain that they themselves experience. Given a choice, they will most likely do all they can to make sure their child has a charmed life.

On the 12th of August, California Governor Jerry Brown signed AB1266 into law. AB1266, also known as the school success and opportunity act, ensures that students are permitted to participate in sex-segregated school programs and activities, including athletic teams and competitions, and can use facilities consistent with their gender identity, regardless of what’s listed on the student’s school or other records.

This bill will allow transgender students to fully participate in their school’s curriculum. They’ll be able to participate in physical education, having an experience in line with others of their preferred gender. This will play a role in their ability to graduate – they need P.E. just like everyone else, after all – and will play a big part in their success in life in the future.

I happened to be in Sacramento, California when Governor Brown signed the bill into law. Heck, I was a short walk from his office, in another wing of the State Capitol getting ready to lobby state senators and assembly members on a trio of other state bills. State Senator Tom Ammiano entered the room where myself and a couple of dozen other transgender activists and allies were preparing for a long afternoon of talking to lawmakers and their legislative aides. We all cheered the news, and then went down to stand in front of Governor Brown’s office and cheer for the cameras.

Of course, not everyone is cheering this law. Many on the right, still licking their wounds over their loss at the Supreme Court over Proposition 8, have latched onto AB1266. The argument has been put forth that this law violates the privacy rights of all non-transgender students, as if there is not a lock on the bathroom stalls today. Still, they say that rather than help foster equality and help transgender students succeed, the bill will allow adolescent boys into girls’ restrooms and changing facilities, presumably to ogle the opposite sex.

Yes, the so-called “Bathroom Meme,” again. This is, of course, ridiculous. This implies that a non-transgender boy is going to go through the hassles, the personal discomfort, and the fears of ostracism from family and friends that goes hand in hand with being transgender, just to eye pubescent girls? Does this sound at all logical? I’m sure that any budding sex offenders will find easier ways to get their kicks, than going through the difficult process of coming out as transgender.

Other arguments put forth from conservatives include the Traditional Values Coalition arguing that this law will “encourage youth as young as 5 years old to question their sex and gender,” and the Pacific Justice institute stating that this could “victimize” a student “who is prevented from playing on a sports team because someone from the opposite gender took their place.” Still, most trot out bathrooms and locker rooms first and foremost, even trying to falsely claims that AB1266 makes school facilities somehow “co-ed.”

The more I hear arguments about why transgender people should not be allowed to use the facilities of their preferred genders, the more I feel that it’s not about protecting people, as it is about somehow punishing transgender people.

transgender people should not be allowed to use the facilities of their preferred genders, the more I feel that it’s not about protecting people, as it is about somehow punishing transgender people. That by forcing them to use facilities opposite their identity, and putting them into risky, dangerous situations, they’ll simply “fly straight” or otherwise “learn their lesson.”

A recent report from the Williams Institute, lead by Jody L. Herman, PhD, made things clear to me: 70 percent of transgender people surveyed reported facing harassment and other discrimination while trying to use a restroom in Washington, D.C. 68 percent faced verbal harassment. Nine percent faced physical assault. Eighteen percent were denied access.

Several conservative groups are now starting the process of overturning AB1266 at the ballot box. They now have a little less than 90 days to gather a bit more than 500,000 signatures in order to put it before the people of California. Meanwhile, the Pacific Justice Institute is already gearing up to back legal challenges.

As I said, parents want to make sure their kids are safe. What the opponents of AB1266 are doing is trying to tell all parents in California that AB1266 is directly threatening the well being of their children.

Those of us who are trans, and those who are our allies, need to speak to that. You don’t need to convince the conservatives from the Traditional Values Coalition or Pacific Justice Institute; that is a waste of time. We need to talk to all those other parents. We need to show them that AB1266 does nothing to harm their children and provides them good resources for them and their kids. We also need to show them that AB1266 provides for the safety and success of those students who are transgender – because it does.

This law is the first of its kind, but it is not the first time a school district has issued similar rules. For example, the Los Angeles Unified School District, which serves over 670,000 students, already has a similar policy in place. None of the fears espoused by the aforementioned conservative groups has come to pass in that district.

Parents just want what’s best for their children. We need to help all parents see that AB1266 doesn’t hurt their kids and it helps other kids. We need to foster success and safety for all.

Gwen Smith was raised in the Los Angeles Unified School District. You can find her now at www.gwensmith.com
TAPPY BIRTHDAY

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September marks the 1-year Anniversary of TAP.
Celebrate all month long with prizes, drawings and food & drink specials.
Visit mgmgranddetroit.com/tap for details.
Families Welcome through hotel lobby. (No minors after 10pm.)
Belanger strolled through the crowd, donning wedding garb, holding hands and swaying to the melodies sung by Michigan artists like Untamed Beauty. Annette's been to many prides over the years. But this was Donna's first, and when asked her name, the blushing would-be bride whispered to her love "should we say them together?" To which Annette said, "Yes, that's how it's supposed to be."

The festival spilled from the main party area of Old Town, flowing with tents and tables along a path through the woods of Adado Riverfront Park. There four generations of women walked along with their faces painted, and the youngest in a stroller. Tammy Stevenson, Tara Wicks, Samantha Garza and Al-Sammi Bam of Lansing enjoyed the diversity and community of the event.

"Every year it's awesome. I thought it was a lot bigger this year. We always see everyone we know. Sometimes we only see people once a year so it's great to see. Stevenson said. "We just love the feeling of love and acceptance too."

It wasn't just local faces in the crowd either. Groups came from all over the state to march and to host booths, including MI-Love based in Ann Arbor, Mr. Friendly campaign based in Kalamazoo and Holland-Lakeshore PFLAG. The guest of honor though was a famous Hollywood personality, Ross Matthews, who soaked up a bunch of Michigan love and encouraged Michiganders to keep up the fight towards equality.

Annette and Donna Perry-Belanger of Westland at the festival in Old Town. Hollywood personality Ross Matthews right, was the guest of honor BTL photo: Crystal Proxmire.
VIEWPOINT: GOOD AFTERNOON MICHIGAN!

Are You With Me?

By Todd Heywood

It is so amazing to see so many family members here at the reunion! Thanks for coming! We are gay, straight, questioning, transgender, asexual, pansexual, bisexual – we are a massive and diverse family and you are beautiful!

So let me ask you all a question. How many of you beautiful men and transgender women are 20 right now or will be in the next 6 months? Raise those hands!

That’s amazing. But I have some news for you. The CDC says 10 percent of you are infected with HIV right now, today.

Look around at yourselves. One in ten of you is carrying HIV. What’s worse, 60 percent of you who are infected don’t know it yet.

In 30 years, half of you will be infected. HIV is our burden, and we must grapple with it or it will take another generation of bright, beautiful queer people – and that is unacceptable.

Here in Michigan, 53 percent of the identified cases in 2012 were in the men who have sex with men risk category. That’s government speak for gay and bisexual men, transgender women, and straight men who have sex with other men.

Three quarters of new infections in 13-19 year olds and 20-29 year olds are in men who have sex with men.

Three quarters of new infections in 13-19 year olds and 20-29 year olds are in men who have sex with men.

Here in Ingham county, the county with the highest HIV prevalence outside Detroit, nearly 20 percent of the identified HIV cases are age 13-24. Five percent of the cases are in 13-19 year olds, and 14 percent in 20-24 year olds. And we know that because HIV testing is generally low, knowledge of status is also low. One in five gay and bisexual men is infected with HIV, and of those infected 44 percent were unaware of the infection. For young people 13-24, 60 percent who are infected do not know they have the virus. Sixty-eight percent of new infections in the U.S. in men who have sex with men are happening in the context of relationships. Sixty-eight percent – stop pretending that because you are participating in serial monogamy you are safe from HIV.

HIV is our burden and we have to do something. The good news is we CAN do something.

It’s really simple. If you are having sex, get tested every three months.

Those who are diagnosed with HIV can have significantly better outcomes than ever before in the history of the epidemic; if they get access to medications and suppress their viral load. And that suppressed viral load makes it virtually impossible to transmit the virus.

Those who do not have HIV, have access to a variety of proven interventions aside from condoms. They can take PrEP – a once a day pill to prevent infection – or in those instances of unplanned, condomless sex they can take PEP within 72 hours and it is likely to prevent infection. Sero-positioning – being top for HIV positive partners or partners of unknown status, is also proven to be effective – more so than condoms alone.

We have the ability, today, right here, to start the end of the HIV epidemic in Michigan among us all. But it starts and ends with you. Get tested. Get the facts about risk reduction and choose a plan. And talk about HIV as a part of your life. Stop pretending that people living with HIV have some special responsibility for your health. It’s your health and you need to take responsibility for it. You can do that today.

The Lansing Area AIDS Network is offering free confidential and anonymous HIV testing today. Take the test. Know your status. Get the facts. Take responsibility. And we can say goodbye to HIV in Michigan.

Are you with me?

Todd Heywood is an activist and journalist who made these remarks on the Lansing capitol steps during the Michigan Pride Rally on Aug. 24.
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Husband And Wife Duo Presents Joint Exhibit At Affirmations Gallery

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

FERNDALE – For Mariuca Rofica, photography comes naturally.

“My father, uncle and great uncle were avid photographers when I was growing up,” she said. “I always watched them and was interested.”

But it’s her husband, Carl Wilson, she credits with getting her started in her own right.

“When Carl and I got together I was fascinated with his artwork,” said Rofica. “He encouraged me to try my hand at painting, pastels, drawing, etc. I didn’t do very well at any of those things. I told him about my interest in photography and he encouraged it and bought me my first digital camera. He later encouraged me to enter my photos in shows. The first ones I submitted were accepted and I’ve been exhibiting ever since.”

Rofica cites a couple of the greats as her inspiration.

“I love the work of Ansel Adams and Gordon Parks,” Rofica said. “I like black and whites and architectural details and basically shoot images I want to take home with me.”

As for her husband, Rofica speaks about his work with obvious admiration.

“Carl’s style is very raw and emotional,” she said. “It leans toward primitive but with an almost eerie intuitiveness that comes from deep wells of life experience and folksy wisdom passed forward from generations ago.”

Together, they’re quite a combination, and they’re home is often bustling with artistic activity.

“It’s fun and makes for lively discussions,” Rofica admitted. “I think we have a deep respect for each other’s creative process and we try not to interfere with it. I love to come home from my day job to a new piece by Carl. We are not too afraid to critique each other’s work... gingerly, of course.”

The couple is currently presenting their second joint exhibit in the Pittmann-Puckett Gallery of Affirmations. They call it the Twin Souls Exhibition.

“I took a photo a couple of years ago of a pair of peonies that looked (to me) so happy to be together that they seemed to be soul mates,” Rofica explained. “I decided that they represented me and Carl. We have a symbiotic relationship; we’re very different, but have enough in common to have a great relationship. So we called this exhibit ‘Twin Souls’ to say this is the work of soul mates, creatively and in all other ways.”

The Twin Souls Exhibit runs through Sept. 15 at Affirmations Pittman-Puckett Gallery in Ferndale.
Manning’s Gender Transition Sets Up Legal Showdown

BY DAVID DISHNEAU

Bradley Manning is the first transgender military inmate to ask for hormone treatments, officials say, a request that could lead to a legal showdown over how – and if – the soldier convicted in the WikiLeaks case will be allowed to live as a female behind bars.

Current Pentagon policy dictates that transgender soldiers are not allowed to serve, and Manning won’t be discharged until being released from prison and all appeals are exhausted. Furthermore, the military does not allow soldiers to undergo hormone treatments while in the all-male prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas – though this is the first time officials have heard of a request for such treatment, said Maria Tolleson, a spokeswoman with the Army Medical Command in Arlington, Virginia.

“We’re just now dealing with the issue,” she said, adding it would be premature to say there has been any movement toward offering the care to all transgender inmates as a result of Manning’s case.

Manning also won’t be allowed to dress as a woman, as wigs and bras are not allowed. The soldier’s gender dysphoria – the sense of being a woman in a man’s body – coupled with the military convictions could leave Manning to face an isolated future, shunned by fellow inmates and transgender veterans on the outside who believe the leaks put Manning’s comrades in danger.

It is not known whether Manning could be transferred to a female prison, though defense attorney David Coombs has said that was not the motive behind the Army private’s statement Aug. 22 asking to be referred to by feminine pronouns, signed “Chelsea E. Manning.”

On NBC’s “Today” show, Coombs vowed to “do everything in my power to make sure that they are forced” to ensure Manning is provided with the hormone treatment, suggesting a lawsuit could be in the offing if the military doesn’t comply. The American Civil Liberties Union, the Human Rights Campaign, along with other advocates, also say Manning should get the treatment.

Coombs didn’t respond to telephone and email messages Friday from The Associated Press.

It’s not clear whether Manning directly requested the therapy, which typically involves high doses of estrogen to promote breast development and other female characteristics, at Fort Leavenworth after arriving Thursday. Fort Leavenworth spokeswoman Kimberly Tolleson, a spokeswoman with the Army Medical Command in Arlington, Virginia. said in a telephone interview from Washington.

Manning also has found little sympathy among transgender veterans. Kristin Beck, a former Navy SEAL who began transitioning during the “don’t ask, don’t tell” era, said in a statement it condemns the action of Manning’s “tarnish on my dream” of equality for all.

The American Veterans for Equal Rights – an organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender services members and veterans – said in a statement it condemns the action of any soldier who would publicize information that could endanger service members’ lives.

But former Army Lt. Dan Choi, a Manning supporter discharged for coming out as gay during the “don’t ask, don’t tell” era, said military LGBT advocacy groups would embrace Manning’s quest if they could look objectively at the diplomatic duplicity and callousness toward civilian casualties the leaks exposed.

“I’m going to keep pushing, not just to the gay community but to all communities, because this is what the gay community should be about – must be about – is a declassification of your own closetedness, that is our main goal,” Choi said in a telephone interview from Washington.
How’s Your Quincunx, Mary?

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

A pleasure of English is the language’s imaginative and poetic use of collective nouns. Their fanciful pedigree as names for persons, places, things goes back to the 15th century. A pride of lions. A murder of crows. A dray of squirrels. A wedge of swans. A pass of asses. (Leave mine alone!)

Such word groupings were originally used as terms of the hunt. No knight, Robin Hood, King Arthur, squire or scholar was deemed learned unless he knew the collective nouns for fish, fowl, and four-legged beast.

While there are hundreds of these verbal flights of fancy cataloged – with new generics being coined daily – most of us know just a handful. These oddball categories pop up in megabuck quizzes or MENSA conversations.

Here’s a sampling that you may or may not know depending upon the gay MENSA cocktail parties you do or don’t get invited to. A barrel of monkeys. A deceit of lapwings. A truculence of moving men. A flap of nuns. A fidget of altar boys. A discretion of priests. Did I say cocktail parties? Sounds more like parish picnics.


Quincunx isn’t genitalia. “Any group office objects placed in a square, with four of the objects at the square’s corners, and one at its center.”

In other words, an orgy.


Rictus! The Encarta Dictionary fingers it, “a fixed openmouthed grin or grimace, especially an expression of horror.” As in: “Wipe that rictus off your puss, Big Guy! Be thankful my quincunx seats five.”

Source for these delightful samplings is “An Exaltation of Larks: More Than 1000 Terms,” by James Lipton. The $14.95 Penguin paperback is illustrated with – improvising on the spot here – a giggle of graphics, a funning of old time lithos.


(Oh, yes! A miasma of homophobes, A fleabag of fundies. A sphincter of televangelists.)

Charles@pridesource.com
Creep of the Week

David Usher

T

hink back to all of the times you've heard straight women say things like, “Ugh, I wish I could be a lesbian, it would be so much easier.” And have you ever wondered why Judy Brady’s “I Want A Wife” essay from the early 70s is required reading in any and all Women’s Studies classes?

Because ladies ain’t want no husbands. Oh, but ladies do want babies. If only there existed a way for women to marry each other, yet still be able to get some impregnating dick on the side...

Thankfully, David Usher, president of the Center for Marriage Policy, has it all figured out and he mansplained the whole thing in an Aug. 21 post on Renew America’s website.

Basically, Usher argues that once women can legally marry other women, feminists will take over, using men solely to empty their testes of sperm and their wallets of money.

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Usher claims there’s no such thing as marriage equality, and that such a thing would actually create three classes of marriage, with lesbians benefiting over heterosexuals and gay men because women would marry each other as part of a diabolical scheme to enslave men.

“Most women will bear children by men outside the [same-sex] marriage – often by pretending they are using birth control when they are not. Entrapped men become economically-conscripted third parties to these marriages, but get nothing in return,” Usher writes.

I’d like to point out Usher’s use of the words “most” and “often.” He’s not saying, “Hey, here’s a crazy thing that could happen maybe.” He’s saying, “This is definitely going to happen and it’s going to happen the majority of the time.” Which is totally insane.

Usher continues, “This is a significant advantage compelling women who would otherwise become (or are) single mothers to choose to marry a woman instead of a man. They can combine incomes, double-up on tax-free child support and welfare benefits, decrease costs, and double the human resources available to raise children and run their household.”

He even adds that lesbians in name only (LINOs) would “often” keep boyfriends on the side and take their money, too.

The bottom line? Clever bitches be hustlin’.

And it’s not just straight men in danger here. Usher argues, “In most cases, [gay] men will become un-consenting ‘fathers’ by reproductive entrapment.” How a woman tricks a gay man into knocking her up is not made clear, however, he does use the word “most,” which means he believes that the majority of gay men will become duped daddies.

If same-sex marriage is legalized Usher says, “economic advantage will still drive women’s marital decisions,” because, duh, women were gold diggers before marriage equality and they’ll be gold diggers after it, too. And so women will become a bunch of welfare dykes getting knocked up with bastard children for the fat government bennies.

Usher claims that men will be “redlined” out of marriage and the “welfare state” will spiral out of control, putting the burden of supporting all of these penis-free families on the dwindling heterosexual tax base.

There’s nothing more terrifying to a right-wing nut than a lesbian couple raising children on welfare, which Usher makes very clear when he writes, “This is far more dangerous than ObamaCare, abortion, capital punishment, or excessive gun regulations.”

Something worse than ObamaCare? Than abortion? Than gun control? Considering Usher’s essay is titled, “Our last chance to save traditional marriage,” I would say he is doomed. But he certainly does have one hell of an imagination.

Second NM County Issuing Same-Sex Marriage Licenses

BY BARRY MASSEY

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) – The county clerk in the New Mexico state capital and the heart of this state’s gay rights movement began issuing marriage licenses to gay and lesbian couples Aug. 23, a court-ordered move that came just two days after a county clerk on the other end of the state decided on his own to recognize same-sex marriage.

News of the court order sent a steady stream of couples to the Santa Fe County administrative building in downtown Santa Fe. County Clerk Geraldine Salazar kept her office open until 7:30 p.m. to give more people the opportunity to get married before the weekend.

Salazar also sent a staffer to the chemotherapy suite at Christus St. Vincent Regional Medical Center, so Jen Roper of Pojoaque, who is dying of brain cancer, could marry Angelique Neuman.

The first couple to get a license in the state’s third-largest county was Santa Fe County Commissioner Liz Stefanics and Linda Siegle, a lobbyist for Equality New Mexico, a gay rights group. Stefanics is a former Democratic state senator.

The couple walked into County Clerk Geraldine Salazar’s office shortly after 1:30 p.m. and asked if officials there were still denying licenses to same-sex couples.

“Not today,” Salazar said.

Second in line were the two men who filed the lawsuit that resulted in the court order directing the clerk to issue the licenses - Alexander Hanna and Yon Hudson.

“It’s exhilarating and also humbling,” Hudson said.

By the end of the day, 49 licenses had been issued, including one to Carolyn Dechaine and Kristina McKeown of Santa Fe, who heard the news on Facebook. Group weddings also were being offered.

“You could feel the momentum building that this was coming,” Dechaine said. “But we didn’t know it would be today. When we woke up this morning, we were not thinking it was going to be such an eventful day.”

The order late Thursday from District Judge Sarah Singleton represents the first time a New Mexico judge has ruled that gay and lesbian couples can be married, said state Rep. Brian Egolf, a lawyer representing Hanna and Hudson in the lawsuit.

Siegel called the Aug. 23 events a “culmination of something worse than ObamaCare?” she said. “… I have been frustrated recently wanting to issue licenses but being confronted with longstanding statutes that do not permit it.”

Egolf said the ruling could help speed a resolution of the gay marriage issue in the state. The Santa Fe Democrat unsuccessfully pushed in the Legislature for a constitutional amendment to legalize gay marriage.

He and other activists are trying to get a lawsuit before the New Mexico Supreme Court to decide whether same-sex couples legally can be married in the state.

New Mexico law doesn’t explicitly prohibit or authorize same-sex couples to be married. The attorney general’s office has interpreted the law to prohibit gay marriage, but Attorney General Gary King also contends the law violates constitutional guarantees of equal protection under the law.

More than a dozen other states do allow same-sex marriage.

Singleton, in her order, said that “reading a sex or sexual orientation requirement into the laws of New Mexico violates the state constitution, which mandates that ‘equality of rights under law shall not be denied on account of the sex of any person.’”

In southern New Mexico, more than 90 same-sex couples have received marriage licenses since Aug. 21, when the Dona Ana County clerk in Las Cruces decided to start granting them.

A group of Republican legislators is planning to file a lawsuit to stop the clerk in that county, the second largest in the state.

Dona Ana Chief Deputy Clerk Mario Jimenez said some Texas couples are crossing the state border to get married.

He said Jerrett Morris and Jeffrey Tingley were in town from Dallas visiting family when they decided to get their marriage license Aug. 23 at the Las Cruces courthouse.

“They are traveling to change their lives,” Jimenez said. “And more are coming.”

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Alabama GOP Won’t Silence Gay Marriage Proponent

BY PHILLIP RAWLS

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) – Alabama’s Republican Party decided Saturday against a rule meant to silence a young party leader who supports gay marriage, even though the party doesn’t share her view.

Stephanie Petelos, chairman of the College Republican Federation of Alabama, created a furor in the party when she supported the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision overturning the Defense of Marriage Act and said more young people would take the position if they didn’t fear a backlash from party leaders.

After passionate comments from both sides Saturday, the State Republican Executive Committee cast a lopsided voice vote to reject a proposed rule change aimed at Petelos’ remarks. It said that no member of the party’s steering committee may publicly oppose any resolution passed by the party’s executive committee. Petelos serves on the 21-member steering committee because of her College Republican position.

She said she hopes the vote inspires more young people to get involved in the party and make their voices heard. “I really hope this doesn’t scare or shy people away from the party,” the University of Alabama senior said.

Petelos is from a family that was Republican long before the party dominated Alabama politics. Her father, Tony Petelos, was a Republican legislator, director of the state Department of Human Resource and mayor of Hoover before becoming administrator of Jefferson County. Her mother, Teresa Petelos, served as a Republican circuit judge in Jefferson County until getting beat by a Democrat last year.

The 450 members of the executive committee meet twice a year to set party policy. The 21-member steering committee is the party’s top committee and meets more often to handle administrative matters.

Executive committee member Bonnie Sachs of Double Springs, who proposed the rule change, said steering committee members such as Petelos should be held to a higher standard of not publicly criticizing the party’s positions, including traditional marriage.

“If we are going to serve on the Republican steering committee, we need to do so in such a way that we don’t go to the media with an agenda that we may have,” she said.

Party Chairman Bill Armistead said, “We cannot have party leaders standing up and denying what our platform says.”

Several speakers said they don’t share Petelos’ view, but the party must defend her First Amendment right to express it.

“We’re not the Taliban. We’re not the Third Reich,” executive committee member Clay Barclay of Mobile said.

“It’s about free speech,” added Phillip Brown of Birmingham, chairman of the Alabama Minority GOP.

Brown said the focus on Petelos stemmed from her opposing the party chairman on some matters in the steering committee and was an effort to get back at her. “I am appalled to the extent our chairman will go to make sure no one opposes him on the steering committee,” Brown said.

“That’s ridiculous,” Armistead said later.

After voting down the rule change, the executive committee passed a resolution reaffirming its support for traditional marriage and its opposition to abortion.

One of Alabama’s best known Republicans, Chief Justice Roy Moore, ended the meeting by telling the GOP, “If the Republican Party of this state should ever adopt same-sex marriage, I will no longer be a part of the Republican Party.”
YouTube’s been good to Eli Lieb. The Iowa-born, boyishly handsome musician, who’s amassed a faithful following with his own distinctive twist on radio songs, recently dropped his new intoxicating pop single “Young Love.” It’s sweet and liberating, and it features two lovers who just happen to be men (who happen to be cute, and who also happen to kiss). The video premiered just days after “All-American Boy,” in which out “country” hunk Steve Grand falls for a straight boy, became a viral hit. The two, however, couldn’t be more different.

And in this chat with Lieb, he opens up about why. The web sensation also talks about learning guitar from Ani DiFranco, not seeing himself as a heartthrob and how happiness was the key to his success.

How did you learn to sing?
Singing was always something that came naturally to me. I started when I was 12, and that’s when I was in my first musical theater show and when I first discovered singing.

At 16 you picked up a guitar for the first time. What was the first song you learned to play?
I don’t remember the first song, but...
I know it was an Ani DiFranco song. At that age I was totally into her and I learned guitar by listening to her songs. I don’t know how to read music. I never could learn. I don’t know any chord names, but if I can hear something, I can learn how to play it.

And this was before YouTube.

This was back in the olden days!

Why did you decide to move back home to Iowa after living in New York for so many years?

My decision to move back didn’t have anything to do with my career. I reached this point where I’d been in New York for 11 years and I just wasn’t super happy there; every time I went home to Iowa, I was just beyond happy. I told myself that if I went (to Iowa) I wouldn’t be able to have a career. I let go of the fear and went back and became so happy. Ironically, though I don’t think it’s ironic, that’s the time my career took off – because I was operating from this happier place. And with the Internet, I was lucky to do what I was doing from anywhere. All I needed was a music studio and video camera.

Where would you be without YouTube?

I have no idea. I’ve been making music since I was 16 and YouTube didn’t really become a huge platform until the last few years. I would’ve found another way of doing it, but thank god for YouTube and the Internet because it’s so much more accessible. Now YouTube is a massive machine and everybody is trying to make it their stage.

Would you consider reality TV shows like “American Idol”?

I’m never closed off to anything. If it’s something that feels right, I’ll go for it. If it’s something that doesn’t feel right, no matter what it is, I won’t do it.

I don’t get how you haven’t been signed to a major record label yet. How has that not happened?

(Laughs) I can’t answer that.

What’s going on with the sophomore album?

A lot of stuff in my life right now is changing for the positive career-wise. I recently moved to L.A. and I’m doing a lot. There’s a lot of change happening. I’m never gonna stop making music, that’s for sure. But I can’t be like, “My next album is coming out in a couple of months,” you know? But I’m making music every day, let’s just say that.

It sounds like things are in the works that you can’t talk about right now.

(Laughs) Yeah.

Why more of an acoustic approach to the upcoming album?

I’m writing a lot on guitar. It doesn’t mean the songs will end up on guitar, but my first album was experimenting with sound and learning to use all the programs. Now I’m more into the swing of things and my writing has changed a lot in terms of the music that I release. Now it’s pop music, which I love. I love a straight-up pop song. And that’s definitely my sensibility. It’s just the evolution of me as an artist.

After hearing “Young Love,” have I sense you’re inspired by ‘80s music and Taylor Swift.

Yeah, it’s funny the way that I write music: Whatever comes out is purely just what comes out. And it’s not overly saturated with influence, because I’m just making music all day long. I just don’t sit down and listen to stuff that’s going on, so a lot of times I think there’s a lot of energy in the air and ideas keep passing through. If it sounds like something, it’s a coincidence, I guess. Everything is in the eye of the beholder.

Was it a coincidence, too, that “Young Love” was released just days after Steve Grand’s “All-American Boy,” or was that released in reaction to his video?

I released this a week after his got released, and there’s no way I could’ve made that in a week. But people are accusing me of trying to ride his coattail. I’ve been planning this video for a long time, and it just so happened that his was released a week before mine was about to come out. So it’s the most bizarre coincidence.

The even more bizarre coincidence is that some of the shots in the videos are similar. That’s what blew my mind more. The reality is, it seems like a shocking thing when people release a video that has same-sex partners in it, but if you were to take away the firewall scene or the car scene, it’s just the same as Rihanna and Adele putting out videos and both having love stories. But because it’s two guys, it seems like it’s trying to be the same thing.

And not just two men — two gay men.

Does that change things?

What I’ve noticed with the comparisons to Steve and I: When I set out to make this video, I specifically did not want it to have a “gay theme”; I just wanted to be authentic to who I am, and who I am is this very comfortable human being in my own skin. My sexuality is just one part of who I am; it’s not something I focus on and I definitely don’t want to make it a big deal. So, when I was going to shoot this video, I knew it had to have a love interest, because it’s a love song and it just was not an option to me to not have a guy. I also wanted to shoot it in a way that was no different than any other video, where you just feel the love rather than being hit over the head with an agenda or a point of view. Not saying that was Steve at all, but I find a lot of gay stuff does have sort of a gay theme to it, which isn’t bad; I just didn’t want to do that. And Steve’s story is a different story than mine.

I guess I can say that we have different points of view and we’re at different places in our lives, and different people respond to different things. Some people, who are very free in their love and who they are, might relate to mine more because they see it as a celebration — about not having to hide who you are. But then there’s other people who might be struggling more and aren’t at that place in their life and they still feel that struggle and seeing (Grand’s version), they can relate to that more. They’re just telling two different stories.

Obviously there’s something in the air if he and I both release a video this close to each other with … I almost don’t want to say similar content; it’s just our people speaking out for who they are and showing who they are in the world, regardless of where they are in their life. I’m very happy to be able to show my story and the lack of fear and acceptence with who I am. I didn’t have an agenda with the video, and I feel very fulfilled that I can help people feel better about themselves and shed fear and be who they are. And as an openly gay man, I definitely want to represent the community in a positive way. There’s a sense of pride with it. I just want everybody in the world to just be who they are without fear, and that transcends way beyond sexuality.

Are you at all bothered by comparisons between not just you and Steve Grand but with other gay artists?

That’s something you get used to and understand. I actually have been really happy about the response to the video. Most people are saying it’s not grouped into this “gay” category. It’s just a video about people in love.

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Has being out affected your career in either direction?

It’s affected it for the better. I think being independent and calling my own shots has helped as well. When you’re being your authentic self and you are free with who you are, you will gravitate an audience.

There’s a big part of the gay community who admires your music as much as your looks. Have you thought about yourself as a heartthrob in the community? And how do you deal with that flattery and attention?

Oh man, I don’t even know how to answer that. (Laughs) We all are human beings and we all have our insecurities, and people see you in a different way than you see yourself. But I don’t think of myself as a heartthrob. I don’t really know how to answer that question. It’s a really difficult one.

Because you have to talk about how good you look?

And it’s arrogant. There’s a very common misconception about me. People think I’m standoffish, but I’m not; I’m just shy. I am a super grounded, down-to-earth person, and I think the more that I put stuff out that is my authentic self, that comes across more. Nobody sees themselves as other people see them. I don’t know anybody who does. And if they do, a lot of times they’re a person you don’t want to be around. (Laughs)
Wait... you forgot our anniversary?!
Summer may signal the end of high season at New England’s beach resorts, but September and October are the perfect months for visiting the region’s largest metropolis, Boston, along with its smaller neighbors, Cambridge and Somerville. At this time, the city comes alive as students return to the area’s many colleges, the leaves turn bold shades of orange and crimson in gardens and parks around town, and restaurants and bars with terraces and sidewalk seating entertain fans of alfresco dining for a few more weeks of warm weather.

Here’s a look at one of the nation’s gay-friendliest destinations, with a particular eye toward what to see during the fall months. But you’ll find tips here on things to do, cool inns and hotels, and hip dining and nightlife that should come in handy no matter what time of year you visit.

The South End

This handsome neighborhood of narrow, tree-shaded streets lined with Victorian bow-front, redbrick townhouses has steadily evolved over the years into one of the city’s favorite destinations for an afternoon stroll, whether to admire the architecture, duck into tony boutiques, or seek out trendy neighborhood bistrots and cafes. This upscale district is very much the heart of Boston’s gay scene, and it’s home to several long-running LGBT nightspots – the enduringly dive-y Boston Eagle, the classic dance club and video bar Club Café (www.clubcafe.com), the friendly sports bar Fritz (fritzBoston.com).

A favorite pastime around here is dining out, with most of the top restaurants along the main thoroughfares of Tremont Street, Washington Street, and Columbus Avenue. Longtime favorites of the gay community, like Franklin Café (franklincafe.com) and Tremont 647 (tremont647.com), are as popular as ever both for dining and drinking. But in recent years, quite a few other culinary stars have helped shine a light on the neighborhood, including Coppa (coppaboston.com), where you’ll find superb charcuterie and cheese plates, wood-fired pizza, and wines by the glass, and newcomer Estelle’s (estellesboston.com), which earns raves for its updated take on Southern cuisine, from crispy catfish burgers to buttermilk fried chicken.

Jamaica Plain

Slightly out of the way, Jamaica Plain, or JP as it’s affectionately known, is a few miles southwest of downtown Boston, in a relatively residential part of Boston that tourists sometimes miss. Especially if you’re visiting during the fall foliage season, this funky, progressive neighborhood with a solid gay and particularly lesbian following merits a visit.

Boston’s famed Emerald Necklace – a string of a dozen green spaces laid out by eminent 19th-century landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted – has several significant sections in Jamaica Plain, including Franklin Park (with its historic zoo), Arnold Arboretum (with 280 acres of plants and trees connected by well-marked paths), Jamaicaway (a tree-lined parkway) and Jamaica Pond.

You can continue along the Emerald Necklace visiting the other linked parks, including Olinsted Park in Brookline, the Riverway, the Back Bay Fens (where you can access the outstanding Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and the Museum of Fine Arts), Commonwealth Avenue Mall, and finally the Public Garden and Boston Common. The entire string of parks is about 10 miles (and popular as a biking route), but it’s easy just to choose a few portions of it and explore those on foot. All of the Jamaica Plain parks, for example, are great for strolling and jogging.

Cambridge and Somerville

These two neighboring cities just across the Charles River from Boston are sometimes considered mere extensions of their larger neighbor, but each has a great deal going for it and sizable LGBT populations. Cambridge (cambridgeusa.org), with about 106,000 residents, is most famous has the home of Harvard University and MIT, and indeed these world-renowned educational institutions are worth visiting, especially the many esteemed attractions related to the arts and sciences – the Harvard Art Museums, Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology, Museum of Science, MIT Museum.

On a sunny September day, it’s a pleasure simply to walk through verdant Harvard Square, or on a path fringing the Charles River.

You’ll also find quite a few performance spaces, from comedy improv to alternative music to modern dance. Check out the American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.), where on Saturday nights Club Oberon (cluboberon.com) stages the queer-fabulous Donkey Show, a wildly entertaining disco extravaganza complete with hot go-go dancers. Actual gay bars have come and gone in Cambridge over the years, but one has persevered: The cruise-y Paradise (paradisecambridge.com) is a two-level club with porn showing on the TV screens in the main bar and hot dancers in G-strings sinking about on the lower floor.

Cambridge has some particularly dynamic neighborhoods for exploring, among them diverse Central Square, with its live music venues and affordable ethnic eateries, and student-driven Porter Square, where – particularly along Massachusetts Avenue –

See Out of Town, page 25
IS THERE A RAINBOW IN YOUR LIFE?

www.CatchingRainbows.info
(It's not about fish!)

The 1970’s: that decade of time between the Stonewall riots of 1969 (that marked the dawn of the Gay Rights Movement) and the early days of the AIDS epidemic in 1980. Against this backdrop, gay men and lesbian women emerged from hiding as a way of discovery and growing acceptance swept through the country. Catching Rainbows – A Love Story chronicles the journey of Jeff Palmer, a young gay man who comes out while a student at the University of Michigan. As he dips his toes into and out of the burgeoning gay rights civil movement, Jeff explores this new world in search of a soul mate. Along the way he experiences love, sex, heartbreak, and betrayal as three attempts fail to fulfill his dream. His resulting bitterness toward gay relationships, which he labels “oxymorons,” leads him to play the field and to eschew romantic attachments. But when Jeff meets a handsome visitor from San Francisco, both of their lives change forever...

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Writing can lead to some pretty interesting discoveries for a playwright, especially when the writing is about real people and real relationships. Bailey Boudreau doesn’t fashion himself a playwright, but rather sees writing as an outlet that he uses to express himself when he isn’t acting. But those expressions led him to discover much about his friendships with the women in his life.

The results of those discoveries will premiere Aug. 30-31 at a benefit for Affirmations Community Center in Ferndale and the Kyle Holton Memorial Scholarship Fund at Wayne State University. The play is “Basheret,” a new script that features seven actors – one man and six women – in an exploration of those close, personal friendships people form and how very different each one is.

“All my friends are pretty cool,” Boudreau said. “I wrote scenes of the ones most important to me and then pieced them all together… I learned so much about myself, and the girls playing these roles have learned about themselves knowing they were originating these characters.”

The play features playwright and director Boudreau in the main role of Benny; his friends are played by Aubrey Fink, Meredith Deighton, Rebecca Concepcion, Zee Bricker, Tara Tomcsik and Rachel Biber.

One of the things Boudreau discovered along the way was how very different all of his friendships were.

“They’re all unique, completely separate from one another,” Boudreau said. “It was really startling to see that, how different we all are with different people. We’re all such multi-faceted people. With certain friends we show different colors. It isn’t a duplicicious kind of thing; it is just what different people bring out in us. There’s the one you always go to with your problems, the one you go to get cupcakes with you. I didn’t realize each relationship was so different from one another. I thought I was exactly the same in all my friendships.”

And while the play started out as representations of actual friendships, it has evolved beyond that throughout the development process. Two of his friends were not pleased about their scenes, so he rewrote those scenes to make them more of characters and less about the people they were originally based on. He also said the actors have changed the characters a lot, originating them as actual characters rather than just copies of the people they were based on.

“I have these incredible actors who are creating characters based on these real people that I know but they don’t. Their delivery and characterizations are so vastly different than the people they are based on because we are so different. One person looks at the scenario and you have two different ideas on what the character is thinking and feeling.”

The play was originally called “A Day with my Gurlz,” as it features an actor who is stressing out about his opening night performance and spends the day with his friends trying to calm down. There are eight scenes that are presented out of sequence. The actor has woken up from a dream that he can’t remember and it is bothering him. He has breakfast with one friend, Skypes with another, goes CVS shopping with another, visits backstage and then has a mysterious encounter with another.

“It is fun for the audience to be able to solve this puzzle,” Boudreau said. “The storyline is one I don’t think is necessarily a plot-driven show. It is definitely a character-driven show. It has a nice balance of comedy and tragedy in the way I arranged the scenes. Some are so heavy you just need to breathe and laugh afterward, and some are so funny you need to take a break and probably pеe.”

The title changed partway through as he worked on the script. He asked each of the women on whom the scenes were
a short walk from Cambridge, is one of the hottest tables in Somerville, thanks to the super globally inspired modern American fare, the nightly $39 three-course dinner special, and top-notch cocktails (plus great beer and wine lists).

Where to stay in Boston and Cambridge

One of the most fascinating hotel adaptations in the country, the LGBT-popular Liberty Hotel (libertyhotel.com) is built around what had been the Charles Street Jail, an imposing granite building that dates to 1851. Since its masterful architectural conversion in 2007, this luxe 298-room property by the Charles River has become a desirable overnight destination - its rooms with huge windows overlooking the river, and its bars and restaurants drawing a see-and-be-seen crowd, especially Clink, where you can dine amid the grillwork of the former jail cells.

The South End's gay-owned Encore B&B (encorebandb.com) is a romantic but reasonably priced option; the redbrick townhouse on a tree-lined street has four stylishly appointed rooms with private baths, flat-screen TVs, and plush bedding. With rates starting at under $100 for a room with shared bath (rooms with private baths don't cost too much more), the neighboring Adams B&B (adamsboston.com) and Oasis Guest House (oasisgh.com) are couple of the top bargains in the city. These gay-owned properties enjoy a great location by Fenway and the Back Bay, and have compact, simply furnished rooms, plus outdoor and indoor common areas; if you just need a clean and safe place base for exploring, these are a good bet.

Gay-favored (and pet-welcoming) boutique-hotel brand Kimpton has a couple of dapper properties in downtown Boston: Nine Zero (ninezero.com) is situated by the Boston Common and has 190 super-sweanky rooms, including several urbane suites with distinct themes (note the carved deer heads in the Lodge Nouveau Suite). Kimpton's Onyx (onxyhotel.com) is close to Faneuil Hall and the North End and has 112 boldly decorated rooms, each with iHome entertainment systems.

In Cambridge, consider Kimpton's dapper Hotel Marlowe, whose 236 handsomely furnished rooms have animal-print carpets and opulent velvet fabrics – the spacious suites are especially memorable, with their floor-to-ceiling windows and telescopes, perfect for ogling the Boston skyline just across the river. Guests can take out complimentary kayaks for a paddle on the Charles, and the restaurant, Bambara, serves delicious Italian-accented modern New England fare.

A convenient Harvard Square location accounts in part for the tremendous popularity the Charles Hotel (charleshotel.com), a light-filled 295-room hotel that's home to the acclaimed restaurants Henrietta's Table (for regional American) and Rialto (modern Italian), two popular bars, and a terrific urban spa, Corbu. The hotel lends guests complimentary bicycles to pedal along the nearby Charles riverfront. The nearby Hotel Veritas (thehotelveritas.com) has just plush but intimate rooms, with commissioned artwork by local talents, Turkish bath linens, iPod docks, and plenty of other perks – this is a lovely place to stay if you're seeking a more laid-back, boutique hotel with exceptional one-on-one service.

Andrew Collins is the editor-in-chief of the LGBT travel magazines OutAloha and OutCity, and he covers gay travel for the website GayTravel.About.com. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutofTown@qsyndicate.com.
Hear Me Out

KT Tunstall, Over The Rhine

KT TUNSTALL
INVISIBLE EMPIRE // CRESCENT MOON

The fuzzy feelings of KT Tunstall’s optimistic radio-baiter “Suddenly I See,” a song hooked to your noggin because of your “Devil Wears Prada” DVD, is nowhere to be found on “Invisible Empire // Crescent Moon.” The Scottish songstress throws out the cute pop-girl façade and throws on a cowboy hat (literally; check out her being all Paula Cole on the cover), getting deeper into the folk zone she’s dabbled with in the past. She abandons the mainstream angling of previous work – the closest she comes here is on the rustically arranged single “Feel It All” – but sounds right at home with a guitar and her always mulled-over thoughts on heartache, heartache and more heartache. “Made of Glass” is a breakup lament that uses the title as a metaphor for the universal pain of a terminal relationship, and “Invisible Empire” is an eloquently composed rumination on rebirth. “Yellow Flower” is similarly graceful with its fairy-tale-like wistfulness; it’s the most moving song among the 13. Like the bulk of Tunstall’s surprising step back from the spotlight, these pieces are a part of the bigger picture: The album is a catharsis for dealing with the end of a marriage and the death of her father. And even if it doesn’t take to you instantly, and it’s sometimes languid, “Invisible Empire // Crescent Moon” is still an audacious, emotionally reaching work. Certainly, it’s her most admirable. Grade: B

Over the Rhine, ‘Meet Me at the Edge of the World’
The first time folkies Linford Detweiler and Karin Bergquist released a double album, in 2003 with their stunning masterstroke “Ohio,” the always wonderful husband/wife duo displayed as much talent as they did ambition. They’re at it again with “Meet Me at the Edge of the World,” a sprawling set of incredibly moving, gorgeously shaped reflections on life, loss, love and land. They imagine an idyllic universe on the title track, a fitting start that sets the tone for an earthy concept album bent on cherishing the time we have now and looking ahead to the hereafter. In the meantime, “Don’t Let the Bastards Get You Down” is their advice, and over just a subtle bass rumble and guitar strums Bergquist sings with quiet intensity (and Aimee Mann on backup), “Are they gonna steal my love? Are you gonna free my love?” like she’s encouraging us to keep fighting for marriage equality. Detweiler takes the lead on the second disc’s elegant piano-painted “All Over Ohio,” a charming love letter to their home state. With overarching tropes of uncertainty and mortality, these lazy Sunday-sounding songs end with a celebration of life: “Favorite Time of Light” cherishes fleeting moments of simplicity. There’s nothing simple about these songs, though; there is, however, something beautiful and poignant and near perfect about each one. Grade: A-

Also Out

Julianna Barwick, ‘Nepenthe’
If heaven were a sound, it would be this: musical experimentalist Julianna Barwick’s latest. “Nepenthe,” the Louisiana-born artist’s fourth release, floats about the ethers with only wordless murmurs and ethereal choral compositions that are akin to Sigur Rós at their most angelic (makes sense: the band’s producer, Alex Somers, had a hand in this, too). They mourn and cry and grieve, but always with a healing sensibility, which is especially evoked in the meditative state of “Labyrinthine.” This right here is divine intervention.

Rudimental, ‘Home’
British electro-pop quartet Rudimental assembles a groovy set of galvanizing songs for their mostly hit, hardly miss debut. Tracks featuring London music-maker MNEK – “Spoons” and its sexy slow burn, and the intoxicating house track “Baby” – rival the rest, standing out among some of the more standard EDM. “Feel the Love,” with a John Newman vocal, is a Graffiti-like rush of bass, organ and horns. And it’s never a bad thing when Emeli Sandé shows up; the soul powerhouse is a welcome addition on both “More than Anything” and the chill closer “Free.”
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ROYAL OAK – A selection of artists will display and sell their work at the 16th annual Ford Arts, Beats & Eats presented by FirstMerit Bank on Labor Day weekend, Aug. 30-Sept. 2 in Royal Oak.

As one of the nation’s premier juried art shows, the Juried Fine Art Show again will be a highlight of this year’s festival, with top artists from across the continent vying for cash awards totaling $7,500. It will showcase art in a variety of media, including ceramics, digital art, drawing, fabric/fiber/leather, glass, graphics/printmaking, jewelry, metal, mixed media 2D, mixed media 3D, painting, photography, sculpture and wood. Artists will come from all over North America to display, share and sell their work. Festival patrons have the opportunity to peruse works at more than 140 artist booth spaces.

The jury competition was fierce this year, with more than 500 artists vying for 140 slots in 14 different mediums. Festival jurors remarked on the high-quality of the artwork they viewed from 26 states, Canada and Mexico, as well as the number of great Michigan artists who had applied. With 40 artists from Michigan selected and having agreed to participate, the 2013 art fair will have the highest percentage of local artists be on display in the festival’s 16-year history.

New this year, for the first time in partnership with Ford Arts, Beats & Eats, the DIA will showcase high quality reproductions of artistic masterpieces from several notable collections at this year’s festival. The exhibit will be located at Inside/Out on East 7th Street within the Ford Arts, Beats & Eats festival footprint and offer patrons a first-hand encounter with an incredible display of videos, paintings and other visual arts as well as all the richness the DIA has to offer in downtown Royal Oak. This exhibit joins the ranks of a small number of hand-selected cities and other venues that value the connection between the community and Detroit’s cherished art museum.

The DIA’s ongoing program, Detroit Film Theatre, will present the internationally acclaimed animated film “A Cat In Paris” for the kids and cinema buffs alike. The 65-minute program will be shown inside the Oakland County Parks Kids Zone from 8:30-10 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings.

For more information on Arts, Beats & Eats, including info on the music and food at this year’s event, visit artsbeatseats.com
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Aug. 29, 2013  |  BTL  31
Happenings

OUTINGS

Friday, Aug. 30
SCA Farmer’s Market 8 a.m. Those wishing to sell fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, and eggs, including baked goods, cheeses, honey products, flowers, and related food products made regionally or by the vendor should apply. A limited number of hand-crafted items can be included; goods that relate to the serving or enjoyment of food products will be given priority consideration in this category. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. 269-857-2399. sc4.org
Help & Heal 6 p.m. A monthly support group for HIV-positive gay or same-gender-loving (SGL) men of color. KICK, 1440 W. 7 Mile Road, Suite 2046, Ferndale. info@kicksmi.org
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Editor’s Pick

This Sunday, head to Birmingham for the beginnings of a ripe harvest at the Birmingham’s Farmer’s Market. With new, extended hours this year, the city is giving market-goers ample time to try, taste and explore. Special events, such as the coming Harvest Festival on Sept. 15, result in a new market experience with every visit.

More than 70 booths fill the market this season. Locally and regionally grown produce, garden plants and flowers, organics, fresh prepared foods, and handcrafted items are just some of the offerings. This year’s market is also offering a “Kid Zone” with arts and crafts activities.

The Birmingham Farmer’s Market is held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Sunday through Oct. 20 at Municipal Parking Lot Six, N. Old Woodward, Birmingham. Located just off of Harmon, the market is free to the public with various lots and structures available for parking. For more information, e-mail info@enjoybirmingham.com or visit www.birminghamfarmersmarket.org

NOTES

1. Children ages 13 to 17 are admitted free to the market with a paying adult.

2. Parking is available for $2 per hour.

3. The Birmingham Farmer’s Market is held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Sunday through Oct. 20 at Municipal Parking Lot Six, N. Old Woodward, Birmingham. Located just off of Harmon, the market is free to the public with various lots and structures available for parking.

4. For more information, e-mail info@enjoybirmingham.com or visit www.birminghamfarmersmarket.org

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del
artículo
Jazz Legends To Perform At 2013 Detroit Jazz Festival Labor Day Weekend

DETROIT – The Detroit Jazz Festival “Imported from Detroit” celebrates 34 years this Labor Day Weekend. The annual festival promises to deliver an eclectic lineup filled with jazz greats, performing on four stages.

“We strive to make the Detroit Jazz Festival’s Labor Day weekend concerts more exceptional every year, and continue to show people from around the world what our great city has to offer,” said Gretchen Valade, chair of the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation board of directors.

“Everything we do at the Detroit Jazz Festival is meant to enrich the lives of music lovers everywhere. We want to make it possible for them to see their favorite jazz artists all in one place, and most importantly, offering these performances for free. It’s not just about amazing music; it’s about making it available for anyone that wants to listen.”

Every year, to promote the great musicians living in our city, the Detroit Jazz Festival asks for regional submissions from artists who are interested in playing at the festival. The festival is committed to growing artists within our region, but also beyond. Last year, the festival started annual competitions in order to identify talented musicians and arrangers who are developing their careers. For 2013, arrangers and trumpeters, the instrument chosen for the year, are invited to send in compositions by July 1, 2013 for the opportunity to perform at this year’s festival.

“This year’s lineup was again carefully selected. We want to represent real jazz in all its forms. This year, we’re focusing on all dimensions and the different generations of jazz music. The creative artists we’re bringing together are pushing boundaries to create new, unique approaches that explore the true nature of jazz music,” said Chris Collins, artistic director of the Detroit Jazz Festival.

“Making an impact in the jazz world, but also creating meaningful experiences for the audience, is what the Detroit Jazz Festival is all about.”

The 34th annual festival weekend will take place once again over Labor Day weekend in Hart Plaza and Campus Martius in downtown Detroit. The Detroit Jazz Festival is the largest free jazz festival in the world, with attendees from all over the world, and more than 25 percent of attendees coming from outside of Michigan. In addition to providing incredible opportunities to see jazz legends, the festival makes a significant economic impact on the city of Detroit through festival weekend activities and year-round initiatives. Attendees can see the world-renowned artists on four stages – JP Morgan Chase Main Stage, Carhartt Amphitheatre Stage, Mack Avenue Records Waterfront Stage and Absopure Pyramid Stage – Aug. 30 through Sept. 2.

To see the full lineup, visit www.detroitjazzfest.com.
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**Happenings**

Continued from p. 32

Greater Lansing Gay Men’s Chorus Rehearsal 6:45 p.m. Lansing Association for Human Rights, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. info@glmr.org

**Coming Out Over Coffee** 7 p.m. Casual discussion group about “coming out.” Welcomes anyone at any point in their journey. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

**Tea & Talk** 8 p.m. Open discussion with free tea and treats. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-247-2112. triplegoddessbookstore.net

**Wednesday, Sep. 4**

Senior Koffee Klatch 1 p.m. A lively discussion, potluck and social group for LGBT adults over 45. Group covers topics pertaining to aging and outside of Lansing. Senior Koffee Klatch, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-389-7105. GoAffirmations.org

**Suits and the City** 5:30 p.m. Location changes each month. Lansing Association for Human Rights, Lansing. suitandsx deathly.org

Beloved Hearts Grief Support Group 6:30 p.m. We cannot change what has happened, but we can support and walk beside you as you grieve. We can give you hugs, help you cry and be the soft place for you to fall when you feel like you cannot take another step. For LGBT and allies grieving the death of a loved one (including pets). GOAL, 515 S. Washington Ave., Royal Oak. 248-515-2551. getoutandlive.me

Dykes on Bikes - Monthly Planning Meeting 6:30 p.m. Monthly meeting to plan rides and socialize. A great group of women who welcome new members with all levels of experience. Get Out And Live!, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. meetup.com/GOAL-get-out-and-live-LGBT

Newly Single Support Group 6:30 p.m. Group for all dealing with the end of a relationship and want to talk - or listen - to others who share similar experiences. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

Arcus Youth Group 7 p.m. This is for middle and high school age youth who enjoy socializing with people their own age, going through the same issues as them. Some of the topics covered are current events, families, communication, and decision making. No one over the age of 20 please. The Network, 343 Atlas Ave., SE, Grand Rapids. 616-625-3511. gravt.org

Open Arms 7 p.m. Weekly support group for all people infected and affected by HIV. Provides monthly informational meetings and monthly dinners. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), 429 Livernois, Ferndale. 248-545-1436.

Significant Other Support Group 7 p.m. Discussion and support group for friends and loved ones of LGBT. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

**Young@Heart** 7 p.m. Socializing and conversation for those 45 and older. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

**Volleyball** 7:30 p.m. Friendly pick-up volleyball at Elbel’s sand courts. May go out for dinner/drinks after. Team Michigan, 352 Hill St., Ann Arbor. info@TeamMichiganUS TeamMichiganUS

**Karaoke Night** 8 p.m. Lansing Association for Human Rights, 1250 Turner St., Lansing. 517-487-5338. lahronline.org

**Thursday, Sep. 5**

Free HIV Testing 5 p.m. Free, anonymous HIV testing is available at S3 Safe Sex Store every Thursday until 9 p.m. Testing is performed by HARC staff. Call to schedule an appointment, but walk-ins are more than welcome. S3 Safe Sex Store and HIV/AIDS Resource Center, 1209 S. University, Ann Arbor. 734-741-1434. info@bak-inc.com

Lansing Community College Gay Straight Alliance 5:30 p.m. Bingo after at Esquire. Lansing Association for Human Rights, Lansing. spenny@lcc.edu lahronline.org

Connections 6 p.m. Open to all LGBT and Ally youth from 13-18. Join us to meet other LGBT and Ally teens and socialize in a safe space. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., Kalamazoo. 269-434-2434. Kglrc.org

Foster Parent Orientation 6 p.m. Learn more about how you can help children in need by becoming a licensed foster parent. Call to register today. Free event. Judson Center, 12723 Telegraph Road, Suite 200, Redford. 313-255-8258. Foster_Care@judsoncenter.org


Speak Out 6:15 p.m. Offers a welcoming environment for LGBT people to improve their public speaking and leadership skills. Meets the first and fourth Thursday of every month. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, Grand Blanc. 810-587-3932. JimToyCommunityCenter.org

Transgender Helpline 6:30 p.m. A representative from Transgender Michigan is available to answer questions on helpline. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

20 Somethings 7 p.m. Social group for young adults. Followed by an evening out. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

**Beautiful Monthly Social** 7 p.m. A monthly get-together for people living with HIV and their families and friends. Beautiful, 1415 Gwyn Ct., Number 111, Detroit. 313-733-8183.

**Gender Non-Conformists** 7 p.m. A social and discussion group for transgender, genderqueer, genderneutral and gender-exploring individuals. Space also available to significant others. Meets every Thursday. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. jenkins@goaffirmations.org

**JGN Family & Friends** 7 p.m. Topics vary from month to month. A gathering of people who have family or friends who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or who are questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity. Join us as we offer support, share our experiences, and learn about the issues impacting the LGBTQ and allied community. The Jewish Gay Network of Michigan, 6800 S. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 248-342-5661. jgnmi.org

Men’s Film Group 7 p.m. Social group to meet and discuss films of interest to men. Meets every Thursday at Affirmations. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Soccer 7 p.m. We promote the growth of soccer and foster a sense of community for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and LGBT-friendly players. We pursue these goals by providing a venue for the play of soccer where we encourage players of all levels (especially beginners/first timers) to participate and improve their skills through club-sponsored soccer academy sessions and pick-up play. Out For Kickz Detroit, 27725 Greenfield Road, Southfield. info@outforkidetroit.com OutForKickzDetroit.com

Weekly Support Group 7 p.m. Weekly support group for members of the HIV/AIDS community. 2441 Pinewest Dr., Ferndale. wingsmi.org

**Whole Lives, Healthy Lives Adult Support Group** 7 p.m. This one-of-a-kind program in Berrien County helps attendees support each other in healthy ways through active listening and caring feedback. OutCenter, 132 Water St., Benton Harbor. 269-925-8330. OutCenter.org

**Friday, Sep. 6**

**Arts, Amish & Adventure** 7:30 a.m. Experience the Amish lifestyle from many scenic parts of lower Michigan, beginning in the Detroit Metropolitan area and ending on the picturesque Lake Michigan shoreline. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Veteran’s Affairs Support Group 3:30 p.m. A support group for any veteran or Veteran’s Affairs (VA) patient. Meets every other Friday; call for dates and room location. Veteran’s Affairs, 4646 John R St., Detroit. 313-576-1000, ext. 6.

Riot Youth 4 p.m. A youth-led, safe space for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning youth and their allies. Riot Youth also is a space for youth to talk and find support about their struggles as LGBTQQA youth. They have workshops on various issues such as gender identity/expression, intersections of LGBTQQA identity with race and other social identities, LGBTQQA history and writing workshops. They also do Drag kings and queens, host movie nights, and have parties. The Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington, Ann Arbor. 734-214-9995. neutral-zone.org

**Friday Night Socials: Aff Trivia** 6 p.m. Snacks and beverages available for purchase. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

**Womyn’s Film Night** 7 p.m. Film: Anjelah Johnson waxes comedic about her first-ever Comedy Central special, former “MADtv” cast member and ex-Oakland Raiders cheerleader Anjelah Johnson waxes comedic about makeup mishaps, the great game of football, and what it’s like to be cute, funny and broke. Known for colorful characters like Bon Qui Qui, the smack-talking fast food worker, and Tammy, the

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www.PrideSource.com
sassy Vietnamese nail salon employee, the Mexican-American comedian leaves her live audience cheering for more. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-396-7105. Goaffirmations.org/

Free HIV Testing - Youth Only 7:30 p.m. Free HIV testing for youth 21 and under. Provided by either AIDS Partnership Michigan or Michigan AIDS Coalition. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-396-7105. goaffirmations.org

Drag Queen Bingo 10 p.m. A fun alternative to your usual weekend hot spots. Shows get out just early enough for you to hit the local clubs or bars! Refreshments from our full coffee bar (coffees, teas, smoothies), sodas, water, and more. Tickets: $20. 18+. Club Five15, 515 S. Washington Ave., Royal Oak. 248-515-2551. Five15.net

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Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase “Comedy Jamm” Thursdays It’s cut-loose comedy as we present the comedy of 12 of the current rising stars in the Detroit Metro area and beyond. Tickets: $5. Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 1 - Aug. 29. 734-796-9080. Aacomedy.com

CONCERTS

Chelsea Alehouse Brewery “SupeRCoLdLiNeD”. Chelsea Alehouse Brewery, 420 N. Main, Suite 100, Chelsea. 9 p.m. Aug. 31. Chelseaalehouse.com

DTE Energy Music Theatre “The Doo Wop Brothers” Tickets: $10 -25. 70. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 30. 248-377-0160. DTEM.com

Kerrytown Concert House “Henrik Karpeyan and Karen Hakobyan” Violin and piano. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sep. 5. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Olympia Entertainment “The Voice” “We Love Tour”. Tickets: $35-99. 50. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Sep. 5. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com


The Arka “Student Welcome Show: Pearl and The Beard” Tickets: $12. Free with student ID. The Arka, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sep. 7. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Arka “Colin Hay” Tickets: $27. The Arka, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sep. 6. 313-761-1800. Theark.org

The Arka “The Appleseed Collective & The Red Sea Pedestrians” Tickets: $15. The Arka, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 29. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Arka “The Duhs” Tickets: $21+. The Arka, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sep. 6. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Arka “Ruby Vele & the Soulphonics” Tickets: $15. The Arka, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sep. 7. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

THEATER

The Magic Bag “Floodwood” Tickets: $15. The Magic Bag, 22202 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 7 p.m. Sep. 7. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com


The Majestic “Pinback and Deathfella” All ages. Tickets: $15. The Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Sep. 4. 313-833-9700. majesticdetroit.com


FESTIVALS
Citizens Bank “Ford Arts, Beats and Eats” A culturally unique presentations of artists, musicians, and food exhibits from the Metro Detroit area. Admission: $3. Downtown Royal Oak, Royal Oak. Aug. 30 - Sep. 2. artsbeatsbeats.com


Pontiac Pride “Pontiac Pride” Our goal is to promote the unique features that make Pontiac, Michigan such an amazing city -- and to help create a cleaner, safer and more financially sound Pontiac. Pontiac. Pontiac. Aug. 1 - Aug. 31. Pontiacpride.com

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Solution to puzzle from page 38

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Solution to puzzle from page 38

ALDA OSCAR SECS
CARS FLAKE ALLI
ARBIT TAPER AT0Z
DEBRA VONUS BOYZ
ELBOWS ANT REL
MEL SEGA ERODE
EDEN DESTINE
RAVEN SYMONE
SCREECH EXES
DINAH TOIL PST
ONO LIKE PESETA
OCTOPUS SUEY
WOO DEWEY USES
OMNI GRATE SEMI
PEEN SATIN ASSN
Editor's Pick

Designer to the stars, David Stark, has partnered with Detroit's historic Pewabic to create a unique piece for Culture Lab Detroit. The one-of-a-kind dinner plate is based on inspiration Stark received in the city. Known for inventive repurposing of free or low-cost materials, the artist brings his stylings through the dish.

Stark's previous clients have included Beyonce, Martha Stewart, the Metropolitan Opera, and more. Upon coming to Detroit, Stark was awestruck by Pewabic's glaze palette and creative process.

The David Stark designed plate will be featured through Dec. 31 in Pewabic Pottery's Museum Store and Gallery, 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit. Museum hours are 10 a.m to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday. For more information, call 313-626-2010 or visit www.pewabic.org.

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Happenings
Continued from p. 35


Miles & Ellie $18.50-42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Aug. 31 - Sep. 1. 734-433-7673. www.purplerosetheatre.org

My Name is Asher Lev Through Aug. 31. 734-433-7673. www.purplerosetheatre.org


Just Out

Across
1 Alan of “The Object of My Affection”
5 Spacey’s “American Beauty” award
10 Brief moments of erotica?
14 Mercury and Saturn
15 Candle in the wind, perhaps
16 Weight loss product
17 Somewhat
18 Become narrower
20 Messing around the “Will & Grace” set
22 Film about drag kings
24 Macaroni noodles
26 Queen of the hill
27 Civil War monogram
28 Soulforce’s Rev. White
29 Video game name
32 Eat away at
34 Forbidden fruit site
36 Foreordain
39 Just out TV actress whose name appears in circles
42 Offer an opera aria, jokingly
43 Melissa and Tammy, e.g.
46 Shore of entertainment
49 Work your fingers to the bone
51 LA clock setting
52 Mrs. Lennon
53 “Proud Mary” singer Turner
56 Spanish bread
58 1983 James Bond film about two lesbian foursomes?
60 Bacon said it’s “a good servant and a bad master”
63 Depp’s cross-dressing role
64 Disney duck
66 Makes do with
67 One-time Atlanta arena
68 Emulate Cicero
69 Teamster’s rig
70 Hammer part
71 Silky undies material
72 Grp. or org.

Down
1 Campus scene
2 Branded a breeder, e.g.
3 Sue Wicks, with balls
4 Houston hurler
5 Frequently, in lit class
6 Navratilova, for one
7 Cod, for example
8 Venue of “Spartacus”
9 “The Brady Bunch” episode
10 Swedish import
11 Southwest California city
12 Sated
13 What sells the meat
21 Comments around babies
23 One ruled by a dictator?
25 Ceremony at Beth Simchat Torah
30 Drag queen ____ Pool
31 It’s a good thing
33 Actor Auberjonois
35 Far-out travel agency?
37 Tickle Me Elmo maker
38 “Works for me!”
40 It may filter out gay porn
41 Business deductions
44 Holds in high regard
45 Doesn’t fold
46 Genre of “Beauty School Dropout”
47 Smackers that you take home
48 Nary a soul
50 Moon vehicle, briefly
54 Praise for Lammies, e.g.
55 Former NFL player Tuaoio
57 March king
59 Norse war god
60 Slap a bottom
61 Himalayan legend
65 Money for Ihara Saikaku

Solution on pg. 36

We speak LGBTQIA

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