

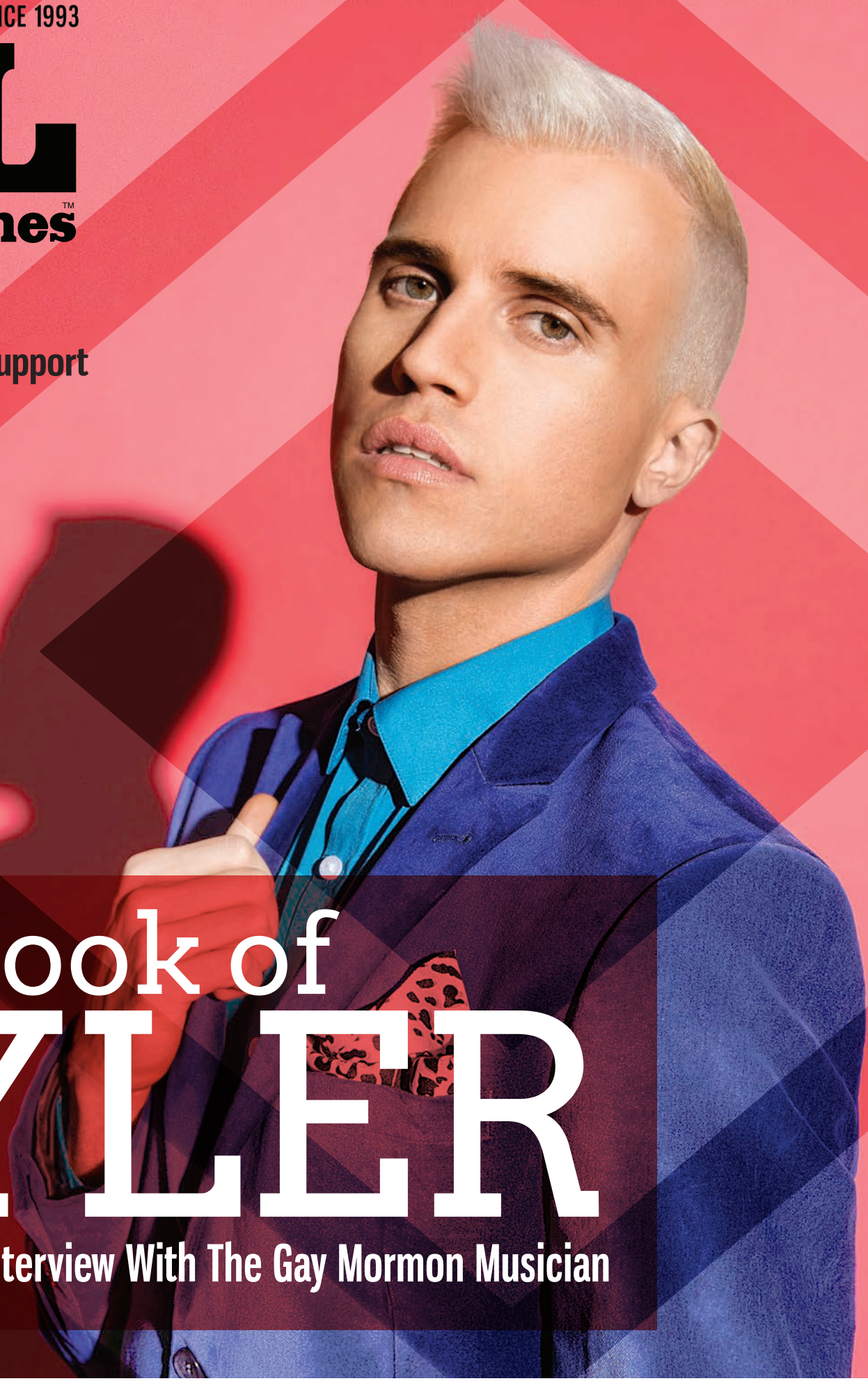
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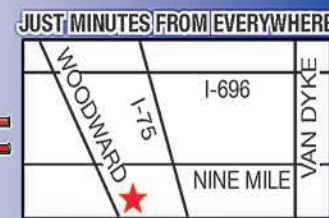


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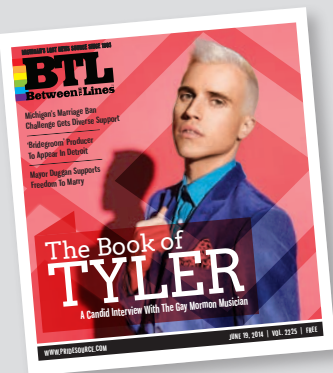
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COVER STORY

14 The Book Of Tyler
Photo: Andrew Zaeh



Equality Michigan does not support the religious exemptions and holds onto enough concerns around the exemptions that we reserve the right to withdraw support for ENDA.

– Equality Michigan Executive Director Emily Dievendorf, pg. 10



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ONLINE XTRA



Online Report: National, International Advocates Converge In Iowa To Battle HIV Criminalization

Nearly 200 advocates interested in the growing battle against criminalizing people living with HIV converged on Grinnell, Iowa last week to begin the process of forming a national movement.

Michigan is a leader in prosecuting people with HIV. HIV criminalization is broadly defined as prosecuting people, or subjecting them to greater sentences, because of their HIV-positive status. Read complete coverage by BTL Reporter Todd Heywood at www.pridesource.com

ONLINE Q&A



Judy Collins Talks Before Ann Arbor Performance

Check out Pridesource.com on Thursday for an interview with music legend Judy Collins, who performs June 22 at The Ark in Ann Arbor.

COOL CITIES



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Pride Goes To The Zoo

And Brings Dancing Queens

BY AJ TRAGER

KALAMAZOO – Pride month continued its parade through Michigan this past weekend with the Seventh Annual Kalamazoo Pride. West Michigan brought its love to the Zoo, a love for family and a love for acceptance, a pulse that could be felt throughout the small city with a big city feel.

Held downtown in Arcadia Creek, the festival generated vibrant color in the already scenic spot in Kalamazoo's center. To get in, attendees walked across the Arcadia Bridge lined with rainbow balloons and were met with a large four-sided chalkboard with "What is love, What is family, What does Pride mean to you and What makes Kalamazoo so great?" quoted on the top. As the weekend progressed, the board got covered with answers to the questions, full of affirmations about loved ones and the inviting and welcoming atmosphere Kalamazoo embodies.

On Friday afternoon, a local drag competition kicked off the celebration followed by performers and the drag show awards. KPride took a rest for the twilight hours and was at it again for the whole afternoon Saturday, ending the event with an ABBA tribute band, chock-full of super troopers and dancing queens lasting until eleven.

KPride had record-breaking attendance Friday evening alone, and the Pride board reached its sponsorship goal of \$60k ten days before Pride. This means that all the money that came in the door this weekend is profit to the Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center (KGLRC), says Carol Anderson, KGLRC board president. There was 14 hours of entertainment and over 40 booths throughout the weekend.

Attendees took breaks from walking around talking to local vendors and LGBT groups and signing up for newsletters and local support groups by stepping into the Bell's Brewery tent, quenching their thirst on some beers like Oberon or Sparkleberry -- an ale designed specifically for KPride.

Jordan Horsefeathers was at KPride with his friends Christopher Terkos, Susan Terranella, Carl Brown and Justin Cook. Everyone except Cook has been coming to KPride for years, and they said they were all pleased with this year's



KZoo Pride had great weather and record attendance. BTL Photos: AJ Trager

festival. They want the festival to run later and open earlier but understand that city ordinances and a limited number of evening performance slots make it difficult to extend the hours of Pride.

"Everyone is comfortable in being here and that is evident in how many people are here," Horsefeather's said. "And it is a wide array of people. It's not just the LGBTQ community; it's also our allies and we have a lot of families here, which is really good."

Terranella is a small business owner of a downtown shop called Cakes Boutique, one of the few places in Kzoo that had pre-event tickets available for purchase. She has received discrimination for her open support of the LGBT community in the past, but Terranella believes that allies and LGBT members showing up in support will bring more acceptance throughout the Kalamazoo community at large.

"Having those allies, or if they aren't allies, showing their support, which is sometimes a difficult kind of thing to do if you are a small business owner, will help with the bias shift," Terranella said. "Like how do I teeter that and still make sure that I'm not offending my



customer who might not be in support of the community, or do I really want those people as my supporters or not. Am I going to be hurt that badly if I offend them?"

"I think the biggest thing that needs to happen is we need to see our allies become advocates and one of the ways they can do that is by showing up," Terkos, member of the KGLRC, pressed. "And it's not just showing up for pride;

See KZOO, page 8

www.PrideSource.com

Canton Community Helps Push Ordinance Forward

BY AJ TRAGER

CANTON – On June 10, Canton Township became the 35th municipality in Michigan to adopt an anti-discrimination human rights ordinance that adds sexual orientation and gender identity to the list of groups protected against wrongful termination and rejection of employment, housing and public accommodation.

Twenty minutes into the meeting, it looked like the ordinance wasn't going to pass and that the Board of Trustees was going to delay adoption until Jan. 31, 2015 hoping that the State legislature would give the matter its full attention. According to many members on the dais, including Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin and Trustees John Anthony, Pat Williams and Thomas Yack, the ordinance was a "done deal," just not on Tuesday. It was an important issue and they planned on doing something about it, board supervisor Phil Lakey said.

The board identifies themselves as conservative. Steven Sneiderman, the lone Democrat on the board, was the first to speak against tabling the ordinance and introducing a resolution instead, calling it a complete cop-out.

"I believe the time is now to get this done, supporting this can only look good for Canton Twp.," Sneiderman said in his opening argument. "I personally won't be able to sleep tonight knowing that we have the power, authority and public backing to make this happen and we will not take that action."

There was a standing ovation after Sneiderman's remarks, an applause that lasted just shy of a minute. Lakey, board supervisor, brought the room back to agenda attention. It was stated once again that this is a state issue, not a municipality issue, and that the current ordinance does not have the language to be properly implemented.

As the second largest township in Michigan, passing this ordinance would send a message to the other municipalities that this is

an important issue in Michigan and for the Michigan people. A majority on the dais came out to say they have a LGBT member in their friends or family. The audience grumbled and sneered. One could feel the contempt. There was an overwhelming feeling of "Why wait?"

Next motion of the evening was public comment on the decision facing the board. This is where things got really interesting.

“We feel this year might be the strongest chance for the legislature to pass an amendment to the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act. These ordinances, beyond enforcement, serve an important function. Symbolically, they send a message that Canton is a community that values treating people fairly and that values diversity. Second, they send a message to the community itself that this kind of discrimination is not to be tolerated. But third, and equally important, they have helped build momentum, for the first time in a very long time, for the legislature to seriously consider amending Elliott-Larsen.”

Jay Kaplan, LGBT Legal Project Staff Attorney of the ACLU of Michigan, was the first to get up and comment.

"We feel this year might be the strongest chance for the legislature to pass an amendment to the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act. These ordinances, beyond enforcement, serve an important function. Symbolically, they send a message that Canton is a community that values treating people fairly and that values diversity," Kaplan stated. "Secondly, they send a message to the community itself that this kind of discrimination is not to be tolerated. But thirdly, and equally important, they have

helped build momentum, for the first time in a very long time, for the legislature to seriously consider amending Elliott-Larsen."

Kaplan also mentioned the 1700 or so other communities in Michigan that have not adopted this ordinance and touched upon Canton's worry about enforcement.

"You're right. You won't have the same enforcement powers that the state civil rights law does. But if you look at these

- ACLU Michigan Attorney Jay Kaplan

communities, you'll find that very often they don't get many complaints filed. And it's not because the idea of discrimination never occurs; it's because just by passing an ordinance itself you've sent a message, you've made a preemptive strike that this kind of thing is not to be tolerated," Kaplan said.

Joanna Hill, a resident of Hazel Park who works in Plymouth for an electrical engineering company, is no stranger to work discrimination. As a transgender woman, Hill has been terminated from employment because of her LGBT status. She wants to see the tides turn so

See Canton, page 8

Man Attacked At Pride Speaks Out

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

DETROIT – In this social media obsessed world we live in, there's already a hashtag for it: #justiceforchonglee. It, in this case, is the horrific attack on 20-year-old Christin Howard by a gang of eight men outside of Motor City Pride Sunday on the Detroit Riverwalk. Howard, who is known to many by his social media moniker, Chong Lee, spoke to Between The Lines about how it all started.

"A girl had noticed me from Instagram, and she wanted to take a picture with me," Howard recalled. "As I'm posing for the picture, this guy is over there talking about me, saying 'this gay fag ... this gay sissy.' I knew he was talking about me, but I'm just ignoring him. Then as I started to take the picture, he walked up and said, 'You got the nerve to have some long hair in, you fag. I'll beat your ass.'"



Christin Howard sustained multiple injuries, including a fractured finger. Photo courtesy of Christin Howard.

Howard knew immediately that he was in trouble.

"First, I thought it was just going to be him," he said. "But then they all formed a circle around me and I was like, 'Y'all gonna jump me?' And from there, that's when the fight broke out."

Video of the fight posted on YouTube is painful to watch. It shows Howard fighting a good fight until he is overwhelmed by the number surrounding him.

"I'm not a fighter at all," said Howard. "But I guess when it's time to fight, I go into defense mode and it just happened."

Soon, though, Howard was forced to the ground, where multiple men took turns kicking him. In the end, he walked away with a fractured finger, bruising to the chest, a mark on his forehead and a bloody eye.

In the days following the attack, Howard and his mother, Tammara Howard, met with the Detroit Police, who are considering the attack a hate crime.

Though the police have no suspects in custody, Howard said he believes the men who did this to him will be caught.

"I believe we're going to find them for sure," he said. "Justice will be served."

Asked if he could deliver a message to his attackers, Howard had little to say.

"It's sad that they had to jump on one innocent person to prove a point. I'm going to just leave it alone and leave it to God."

So was there a lesson in this for Howard?

"I learned that everybody don't have your back like they say they do," he said. "Gays need to stick together. It's very funny that straight men can stick together when it comes to bashing on gays. But when it comes to gay men, I guess they get scared. But I think we all need to stick together."

Sticking closer to him more than anyone now is his mother.

"I teach my children to be who you are and to mind your own business and treat people nice," said Mrs. Howard. "But I never told them the other part, about how people might not treat you nice. It hurts me to see it. This is my son's life. This is his business. His hair. He's gay. What does that have to do with another person? As a parent this is a nightmare. I get a call my son has been jumped and I'm trying to get there. I thank God that he's keeping me strong to be able to get through this, and I thank God my baby didn't get killed or end up in a coma."

"He's gonna live his life," she continued. "He's not going to stop living because of these stupid guys, animals, whatever you want to call them."

Police announced on Friday that a juvenile suspect was in custody in the Christin Howard beating case. They are still seeking additional suspects.

To Report A Hate Crime Call Michigan Equality at 1-866-962-1147 ext. 107

LGBT Groups Against ENDA's Religious Exemption

BY CHUCK COLBERT

A growing number of national and statewide LGBT organizations are coming out against the proposed Employment Non-Discrimination Act, saying that while it bans workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, the federal law also would allow religious organizations to discriminate against LGBTs even in non-ministerial or pastoral capacities.

Advocates for LGBT equality maintain the proposed religious exemption, unprecedented in civil rights legislation, would in effect gut the non-discrimination protections.

Shannon Minter, legal director for the San Francisco-based National Center for Lesbian Rights, said in an email that NCLR now “strongly oppose[s] any religious exemption in ENDA or any other federal, state, or local non-discrimination law that is broader than the religious exemption that already exists in federal civil rights laws.”

“We do not support legislation that will create a new and broader exemption for LGBT people than exists for other protected groups,” Minter said. “While we are confident the current discriminatory religious exemption in ENDA will not be part of the final legislation, we will not continue to support ENDA if it is not changed to be consistent with Title VII’s religious exemption.”

The 1964 Civil Rights Act Title VII in fact contains an exemption that addresses a narrow issue, specifically the interest of a religiously affiliated organization to create a community of fellow believers.

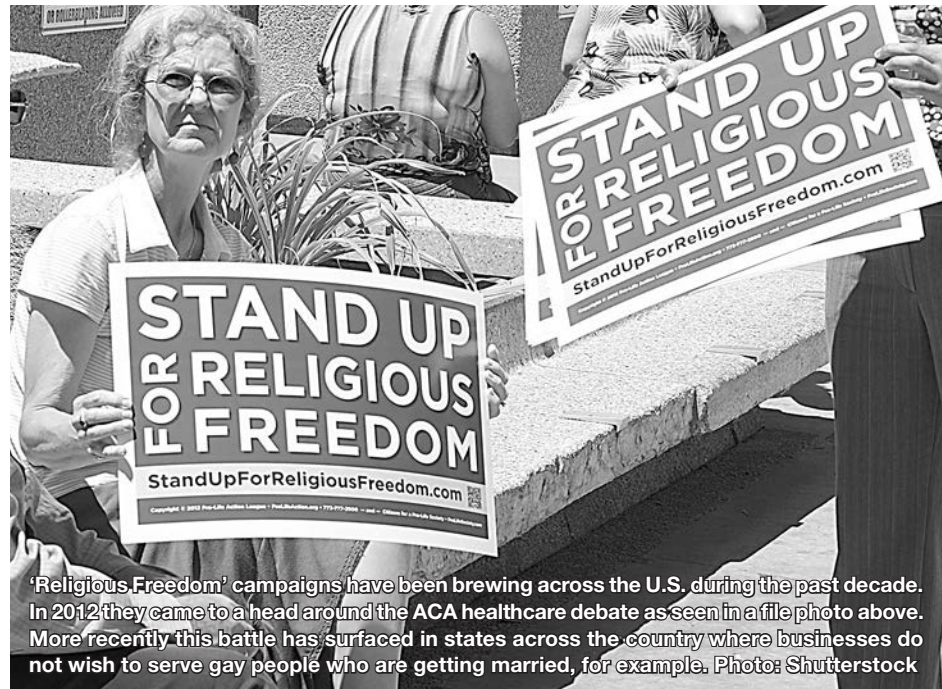
Accordingly, the exemption allows faith-based organizations to hire employees based on their religion in order for the entity to maintain a religious community, a faith based-identity. Title VII does not restrict protections in the law against workplace discrimination based on race, sex or national origin.

Reached by telephone, Minter said that if ENDA were enacted in its current form it would be “the first time in any civil rights legislation at any level, to my knowledge, expressly permitting discrimination on any other basis other than religion.”

He added, “There is a long history now of accommodating religious beliefs, by permitting certain narrowly defined religious employers to favor individuals from the same faith.

“That Title VII exemption,” explained Minter, “is reasonable” as “religious liberty is important. That kind of accommodation, we have decided for a long time now, makes sense.”

“But never, ever,” he added, “has a civil rights law – certainly not at the federal level or state level – said in addition to that, you can also discriminate on the basis of other protected categories, such as race, gender,



“Religious Freedom’ campaigns have been brewing across the U.S. during the past decade. In 2012 they came to a head around the ACA healthcare debate as seen in a file photo above. More recently this battle has surfaced in states across the country where businesses do not wish to serve gay people who are getting married, for example. Photo: Shutterstock

Advocates for LGBT equality maintain the proposed religious exemption, unprecedented in civil rights legislation, would in effect gut the non-discrimination protections.

disability, sexual orientation or gender identity.”

Minter said that “sanctioning that type of discrimination is antithetical to the whole purpose of an anti-discrimination statute. And to set the precedent that there is somehow something special or different about anti-discrimination laws for LGBT people that warrant that kind of unprecedented and unprincipled exemption would open a door that we do not want to open. I think it is very dangerous.”

In a similar vein, Mark Snyder, a senior communications manager for the Oakland-based Transgender Law Center (TLC), said in an email that his organization is now “unable to support ENDA in its current form.”

At the same time, he added, “We are fully committed to continuing to work for the passage of a law like ENDA that contains an exemption for religious organizations that is no broader than the exemption in Title VII.”

In his recent comments, Snyder reiterated TLC’s “grave concerns” about the religious exemptions that were voiced last spring in a joint statement, along with NCLR, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

That statement spelled out the implications of a faith-based exemption in the proposed legislation: It could provide religiously

affiliated organizations – far beyond houses of worship – with a blank check to engage in employment discrimination against LGBT people.

“Some courts have said that even hospitals and universities may be able to claim the exemption; thus, it is possible that a religiously affiliated hospital could fire a transgender doctor or a religiously affiliated university could terminate a gay groundskeeper,” TLC’s statement said.

In addition to NCLR and TLC’s opposition to ENDA, GetEqual and Queer Nation no longer support its current version.

For its part, New York City-based Queer Nation has called for a comprehensive civil rights law that would ban discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, education and federally-funded programs.

The Human Rights Campaign, Lambda Legal, ACLU and the National Center for Transgender Equality all support the current measure but remain concerned about any religious exemption carve-out provisions.

Moreover, recent legislative attempts at the state level in Arizona, Idaho, Kansas, Oregon, Tennessee and South Dakota by social conservatives and the far right that would enable persons to discriminate against LGBTs and same-sex couples based on religious beliefs have only raised the level of concern.

On the matter of social conservatives’ efforts to empower discrimination against LGBTs, Jay Michaelson, Ph.D. offered his assessment.

“Religious conservatives have really succeeded at ‘moving the goalposts’ here. Just two years ago, this kind of broad exemption was a huge compromise for the Obama administration, in the context of the Affordable Care Act. Now, ENDA’s backers are offering it up as the default position. That is a huge, silent victory. And we all know what the ultimate goal is: Religious exemptions for anyone who wants one, including corporations and individuals. That would represent a tragic erosion of the rule of law,” he said.

Michaelson, a visiting scholar at Brown University, authored the 2013 report, “Redefining Religious Liberty: The Hidden Assault on Civil Rights.” He said that it’s “gratifying” that some organizations are saying that ENDA in its current form is “too high a price to pay.”

“Employment non-discrimination is vitally important, but at what cost?” Michaelson said. “Hopefully, progressive members of Congress will insist on an appropriate, narrow exemption for churches and religious functionaries, while rejecting this over-broad one that would leave hospital orderlies, school cafeteria workers and shopping mall security guards without protection.”

Statewide Groups Weigh In

Several statewide LGBT groups are also voicing their own growing uneasiness, including Equality California (EQCA), which said in a June 9 statement that it “supports passage of” ENDA, “but strongly oppos[es] the broad religious exemption attached to it.”

“Ensuring that all American employees are judged on the quality of their work, not their sexual orientation or gender identity, is fundamental to achieving full equality,” said Rick Zbur, EQCA executive director-elect. “But that protection shouldn’t come with an asterisk or loophole, and that’s what this religious exemption is – a way to promise full protection without delivering it. This exemption undermines the value of ENDA and it must be fixed.”

In voicing concerns, EQCA, which rarely weighs in on federal legislation, also pointed to California’s anti-discrimination protections “that don’t include this broad religious exemption.”

“These protections have been proven fair and effective in the nine years since they were enacted,” EQCA’s statement said.

In the Midwest, another statewide LGBT group, Equality Illinois, also issued a statement on ENDA, insisting the religious exemption

See ENDA Religious Exemption, page 10

Diverse Support For Same-Sex Couples In Michigan's Marriage Ban Challenge

Republicans, Businesses, Military, Religious And Child Advocacy Groups Sign On With Amicus Briefs

BY BTL STAFF

DETROIT – In 31 unique amicus briefs submitted Tuesday to the U.S. Court of Appeals in the 6th Circuit, scores of Republican leaders, businesses, military, faith leaders and religious institutions, child advocacy organizations, as well as numerous legal scholars, urged the court to put an end to Michigan's laws that deny same-sex couples the freedom to marry. The 6th Circuit, which has pending cases from all four of the states within its jurisdiction — MI, OH, TN and KY — will hear arguments in those cases on Aug. 6.

Among the most notable briefs filed were:

Marriott, eBay, Pfizer, Starbucks and television network CBS joined nearly 50 other businesses detailing the impact on employers of the unequal treatment mandated by states that refuse to permit or recognize legal marriages between same-sex couples.

25 high-ranking Republicans, including Rick Johnson, former Republican Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, cited the “big tent” view of their party and argued that marriage equality was consistent with longstanding GOP values of families, freedom and individual liberties.

In the first marriage case brief ever filed by law enforcement officers and first responders, the signatories urged the Court to strike down discriminatory marriage laws. Collectively, they represent thousands of active duty and retired law enforcement officers who serve and protect communities.

Current and former members of the United States military and their families submitted a brief to highlight the significant implications of the Court's decision in these cases for the well-being of LGBT veterans and members of the armed forces, their families and the vitality of the nation's military as a whole.

Dozens of regional and national religious organizations and clergy also filed an interfaith brief arguing that the constitutional principles of religious freedom and separation of church and state require that same-sex couples must have equal access to civil marriage.

Leading family law professors and



Plaintiffs Jayne Rowse and April DeBoer at the March 27 press conference at Affirmations Community Center in Ferndale, after U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman struck down Michigan's marriage ban.

respected child welfare advocates wrote that banning same-sex marriage harms families and makes children of same-sex couples less protected and respected than their peers.

A total of 20 Republicans, both current and former office holders and party officials in Michigan, signed the brief.

The American Sociological Association and the American Psychological Association reported three decades of social science research that consistently finds that same-sex couples are just as capable of being good parents and that their children are just as well-adjusted.

“As Republicans, we embrace the individual freedoms protected by our Constitution,” said Chris Ward, former Republican Majority Floor Leader, Michigan House of Representatives. “We are honoring Ronald Reagan's vision of limited government and personal liberty by recognizing the basic rights of all citizens to marriage. The time has come to move forward and fulfill the meaning of those words for our friends, neighbors and family members in same-sex relationships.”

A total of 20 Republicans, both current and former office holders and party

officials in Michigan, signed the brief.

Businesses across the state of Michigan filed a brief, including Atlas Cut Stone, Gleason & Associates Claims Services, Growing Hope, Intel Corporation, Marriott, Pakmode Publications, Porter Automotive and several retailers, law firms and manufacturers. Google, which has a campus in Ann Arbor, also signed the brief, which argues that state laws that deny marriage to gay and lesbian citizens are bad for businesses.

Donald Kreiss, Bishop Southeast Michigan Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America said the brief “bears witness to our highest religious values, honoring love and affirming that we are all God's children. This is an important

day. We are telling the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals that many religious leaders and congregations in Michigan and across the country support equality of all persons

before the law.”

The Bishops of the Episcopal Church, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ, the Covenant Network of Presbyterians and Union for Reform Judaism joined the brief.

DeBoer v. Snyder was originally filed in Jan. 2012 to challenge the Michigan law restricting second parent adoptions to married couples. Due to the state's marriage ban, gay and lesbian couples are prohibited from providing the security and stability to their children. At the suggestion of Judge Bernard Friedman, the complaint was amended to add a challenge to the marriage amendment to the Michigan constitution which prohibits the legal recognition of any gay and lesbian relationships, including civil unions and domestic partnerships.

On March 21, Judge Friedman struck down Michigan's marriage ban.

Mayor #19: Duggan Signs On In Support Of Marriage Equality

BY BTL STAFF

DETROIT – Mayor Mike Duggan joins with many other Michigan and national mayors in support of Marriage Equality, becoming the 19th Michigan mayor to sign up with Mayors for the Freedom To Marry.

Joined by over 419 mayors from 38 states across the country, Duggan signs on as a Mayor for the Freedom to Marry, an initiative by Freedom to Marry, a national organization founded in 2003 with the goal of getting equal marriage nationwide.

Originally discussed at the U.S. Conference of Mayors in 2009, the initiative was launched in January 2012 and Freedom to Marry has worked diligently to get all the United States mayors signed up. At its launch, the bipartisan coalition had over 75 mayors pledging to support marriage for gay and lesbian couples. The initial list included four mayors from Michigan: John Hieftje of Ann Arbor, George Heartwell of Grand Rapids, Bobby Hopewell of Kalamazoo and Karen Majewski of Hamtramck.



Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan is the 19th Mayor in Michigan to sign the pledge for marriage equality at the Freedom To Marry website.

Michigan Mayors for the Freedom to Marry include:

John Hieftje - Ann Arbor, MI
Mike Duggan - Detroit, MI
Nathan Triplett - East Lansing, MI
Barry Brickner - Farmington Hills, MI
David Coulter - Ferndale, MI
Dayne Walling - Flint, MI
George Heartwell - Grand Rapids, MI
Karen Majewski - Hamtramck, MI
Ryan Bladzick - Holly, MI
Bobby Hopewell - Kalamazoo, MI
Virg Bernero - Lansing, MI
David Lossing - Linden, MI
Robert Neimi - Marquette, MI
Rod DesJardins - Munising, MI
Kurt Metzger - Pleasant Ridge, MI
Allan Lowe - Roosevelt Park, MI
Jim Ellison - Royal Oak, MI
Tedd Wallace - South Lyon, MI
Paul Schreiber - Ypsilanti, MI

Don't see your mayor on the list? Ask them to join the campaign by visiting www.freedomtomarry.org/pages/mayors-for-the-freedom-to-marry.

it's speaking up at work and speaking up here or when you see things that are unjust. That's where we are going to see a big change in the shift."

The group says this year's KPride is much bigger than the last. Terkos even imagined that the turn out was something close to 15 thousand, Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center's goal. The importance of small business representation was on the radar for these Pride members.

"I think the corporate support that we receive is really fantastic," Terkos stated. "Quite specifically through Bell's, PNC and Kellogg, they are very supportive of the LGBT community because they really understand the value of a fully engaged employee and a fully engaged community."

Madison Kay has been to every KPride event since it started seven years ago. She was there with friends Deanna Earle, Jasmine Statzer and Melanie Mott. The group of girls likes how it continues to get bigger every year despite being in a conservative town. Kay says she has never been discriminated against since she came to Kalamazoo 15 years ago and likes that the city is open to everything.

"There's so much more to do this year, more vendors, people, more prizes and people to see," Kay laughed.

The girls planned on going to an after party, perhaps at Metro, the local gay bar or to Louie's, another bar in town hosting a drag show. But for KPride next year, they'd like to see more in every area, but specifically a parade.

"I don't think downtown is ready for that yet," Earle said, rainbow make-up outlining her left eye. "It's too conservative, still, Kalamazoo is. But the fact that they have embraced us, it's incredible. And I love Kalamazoo and just the fact that we have this, it keeps getting bigger and bigger every year, and everyone is so accepting and loving and it's fantastic."

Among those that held a booth at KPride were Jon Hoadley, an openly gay man running for State Representative this summer, Mr. Friendly, The Western Michigan University LGBT Alumni group, Transcend, The Humane Society, TransMichigan, Equality Michigan, the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra and WMUK.

For more information about Kalamazoo Pride visit www.kglrc.org/pride/. To see photos and stay connected with Kalamazoo Pride go to their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/KalamazooPride.

Visit our website to see our
2014 Pride Photo Gallery
 >> www.PrideSource.com

West Michigan Pride: Rocking The Calder For Equality

BY BTL STAFF

GRAND RAPIDS—The 26th Annual Grand Rapids Pride Festival packed Calder Plaza this past weekend, filling downtown GR with rainbow flags and loving couples.

The LGBT Network, who took control of Pride planning after an eight-year hiatus, presented the festival. Celebrations kicked off with a parade at noon through downtown GR ending at the entrance. April DeBoer, Jayne Rowse and their children were the 2014 Grand Marshals.

"This year we had more of a crowd watching. It was huge," Executive Director of The LGBT Network Christina Wade said. "I couldn't even imagine. This year it was crazy how many extra floats we had and walkers. I was amazed. And all of a sudden we had this huge line at the gate."

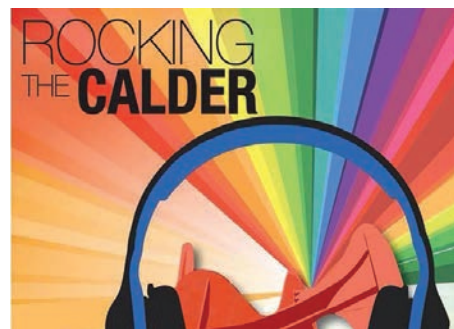
West Michigan Pride hosted roughly 80 vendors and only cost one dollar to get in. There were 10 different performances in 45 minute blocks that shook the stage, showcasing Potatoe Babies, DJ Craig Allen, WMGMC and many more, including a drag show.

Yogi Whitt, an officer with The LGBT Network, said that Pride is an opportunity for LGBT residents to celebrate their community.

"We want to bring awareness to the fact that who we are has changed," she said. "We're parents. We raise families. We work. We do the same things that everyone else does. The only difference is who we love."

But not all of the roughly 7k people who showed up to West Michigan Pride were LGBT allies or friendly for that matter.

Christine Weick, most known for getting a slushy thrown on her on Mother's Day as she stood on Grandville in GR with a sign that



read "Thank your mom today for not being gay," came out with a new sign made for Pride: "Warning, God draws a line on gay marriage."

Weick was there throughout the day, standing on the other side of a fence dividing her from The LGBT Network's booth. Wood8TV reported that Pride month highlights a still divided Michigan and met with Weick during Pride.

"We offered her waters and to come in and use the porta-john. Wanted to show that all we want is compassion and equality," Wade smiled. "We treated her like anyone else in the community, with open arms. She didn't really get it. But at least we know that we were better."

More protesters were seen at West Michigan

“ We want to bring awareness to the fact that who we are has changed. We're parents. We raise families. We work. We do the same things that everyone else does. The only difference is who we love. ”

- Yogi Whitt, an officer with The LGBT Network

Pride but were evacuated from the festival around 2 p.m. by Grand Rapids police because they didn't have licenses for the megaphones they used to holler slanderous comments and harass attendees.

"We really lucked out with the weather, with such a gorgeous day," Wade said. "Everybody was in such good spirits. Our Pride committee rocked it out of the park! I was so proud of just how well my committee and us pulled together for the first time in so long."

Sponsors for West Michigan Pride included Jeffery Richard Salon, Michael Kooistra Realtor, 5/3 Bank, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Aerial 4 Me, LGBTee's, Griffin Properties, Bar Fly Ventures, Honest to Goodness Tattooing and Piercing, Steelcase Inc., Rumors, Vito's Pizza and Brewery Vivant.

For more information on West Michigan Pride and to see photos of the event visit www.grlgbt.org or visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TheLGBTNetwork/timeline.

► Canton

Continued from p. 5

that the LGBT community feels secure in their workplace and that young people stay in Michigan after they receive their college degrees. Her company has two positions available for immediate hire and is having trouble finding appropriate candidates.

"We need to make sure that the young graduates think that Michigan is a cool place to live. And they don't right now. They don't. Because things like this don't get passed," Hill said. "They have LGBT friends, which are just a part of their life and accepted completely, [who] are not welcome in Michigan. So please, I ask you to consider passing this ordinance today because our businesses need it."

"I come to you today because I understand what fairness looks like," Sommer Foster, Canton resident and director of political advocacy for Equality Michigan, said. Foster is also a member of the library board and has a long time Canton resident.

"Hiding takes a toll on their ability to put themselves 100% into their jobs. They have to completely separate their home life from their work life. Which means no personal phone calls can be overheard or emails that can be read. No pictures of loved ones on their desk. No honest dialogue with coworkers, clients or customers. No questions like are you married or do you have children. All of these things you and I take for granted."

Community members came out in strong support of approving the ordinance. Among those who spoke after Kaplan were George Bellavich, president of the Plymouth-Canton Parents, Friends and Families of Lesbians and Gays (PFFLAG), Bryan Smith, a pastor at the Geneva Presbyterian Church, Scott Green a student at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, Julie Rowe who works as a lobbyist in Lansing and Tina Terrill, a lesbian who waited until she was 48 to come out; all urged board members to stand up and be leaders.

Then, approximately 72 minutes after discussion of the human rights ordinance

began, a motion to declare adopting the amendment to the code of ordinances and adding in Chapter 36 Equal Rights, was suggested, seconded, voted on and approved 6-1, with Trustee Tom Yack being the only one to dissent.

A complete victory for the Plymouth-Canton LGBT community, and to the Michigan LGBT community, adding in one more municipality to the list of those that support equal rights for all. This win for the community serves as an example of how coming out to show public support of a county, township, state or federal decision can truly make a difference.

"I'm pleased with the agreement we came to. I want it to be done throughout the United States federal legislation. I was hoping this would not come to a big meeting and that we could try to work together, but I am glad the citizens spoke up and changed minds. I'm glad we have this ordinance. But we have a long way to go to achieve full equal rights for all," Sneiderman said.

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Obama Signs Executive Order To Ban Discrimination By Federal Contractors

BY BTL STAFF

WASHINGTON, D.C. – President Barack Obama, responding to years of pressure from national LGBT organizations, signed an executive order Monday barring federal contractors from discrimination against LGBT employees.

“This is a major step forward in the struggle for freedom and justice for LGBTQ workers and their families,” said

“This is a major step forward in the struggle for freedom and justice for LGBTQ workers and their families.”

- Rea Carey, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

Rea Carey, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. “Now millions of people will have the economic security they need to provide for their families.

Through his actions, the President has demonstrated again his commitment to ending discrimination. We thank all the organizations who have worked so hard to make this piece of history. This decision is good for LGBTQ people, good for our economy and good for America. Unfortunately, many of us who don’t work for federal contractors will still lack workplace protections. Now we must redouble our efforts for the urgent passage of state employment protections and strong federal legislation.”

The move comes as the Employment Nondiscrimination Act faces mounting opposition from state equality organizations. Last week, The Washington Blade reported that 15 state equality organizations support the proposed law which would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, but have significant opposition to religious exemptions. The religious exemptions are so broadly written, it is believed that any business could claim a religious exemption as the basis and defense for discriminating against LGBT people or those believed to be LGBT.

The Michigan legislature continues to struggle with how to address discrimination against LGBT people, despite business leaders leading the call for passage of a law to protect the community. The state’s Department of Civil Rights released a report last year showing that discrimination against the LGBT community was “pervasive.” And Gov. Rick Snyder, a Republican facing re-election, has said he wants the legislature to debate the issue and have a vote. He made the comments last month at the Mackinac Island policy conference. Snyder is facing stiff opposition from Democrat Mark Schauer, who has unleashed a bevy of Facebook and other social media actions supporting the LGBT community.

► ENDA Religious Exemption

Continued from p. 6

provision be removed from “any bill that moves forward in either chamber.”

Like its California counterpart, Equality Illinois said it supports ENDA because of its overarching aim to “prohibit workplace discrimination against LGBT Americans” but opposes “including any exemptions that would give LGBT people less protection than other protected groups already under civil rights law,” according to the statement.

And like EQCA, Equality Illinois points to its state’s 2005 Human Rights Act, which “has worked effectively to protect LGBT employees on the same terms as other groups.”

Over the telephone, Bernard Cherkasov, executive director for Equality Illinois, said it is not out of the ordinary for statewide LGBT groups to speak out on federal issues.

“We have a great relationship with members of our congressional delegation, with senators and a good number of our U.S. representatives, who are champions of LGBT equality,” he said. “It was so important for us, from a state that fought for transgender inclusion in our own state version of ENDA, without those overly broad religious exemptions, with our partners and supporters, to say it is possible to pass state employment non-discrimination without religious exemptions and without selling out and getting those overly broad religious exemptions that are unprecedented in federal civil-rights legislation.”

Since Equality Illinois spoke out — the first statewide gay group to do so —

any number of statewide LGBT groups have followed suit, including Equality Michigan.

“Equality Michigan supports the passage of ENDA because our role as advocates is to stop harm, and in Michigan, a report from our own Civil Rights Department showed that discrimination against LGBT people in our state is pervasive,” said Emily Dievendorf, executive director.

However, she added “Equality Michigan does not support the religious exemptions and holds onto enough concerns around the exemptions that we reserve the right to withdraw support for ENDA should the exemptions prove likely to endanger its ability to provide

“Equality Michigan does not support the religious exemptions and holds onto enough concerns around the exemptions that we reserve the right to withdraw support for ENDA...”



- Equality Michigan Executive Director Emily Dievendorf

the intended protections and or to do no harm — two criteria any quality policy must meet the first time around.”

On the East Coast, the statewide LGBT group MassEquality, for example, and Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, a legal advocacy organization, said that while they still support ENDA, the religious exemption provision should be removed.

“Support for marriage equality is at an all time high and increasing, and yet many LGBTQ people across America still experience alarming rates of discrimination at work, at school, in housing and in public accommodations simply because of who they are,” said Kara S. Coredini, MassEquality executive director. “ENDA is about ensuring fairness and equality, both of which are undermined by [a religious] exemption that would result in second-class protections for LGBTQ people.”

Voicing agreement with Cherkasov, she added, “State-based LGBTQ groups have an essential and effective role to play on federal matters. After all, every federal issue is ultimately experienced in the state communities we call home.”

For its part, “GLAD still supports ENDA in this Congress while we strongly oppose its religious exemption and hope it will be changed,” said spokeswoman Carisa Cunningham, the organization’s director of public affairs and education.

ENDA passed the U.S. Senate on Nov. 7 by 64-32 vote, marking the first time that legislative body approved federal civil rights legislation banning anti-LGBT employment bias. In 1996, the Senate failed to pass ENDA by vote of 49-50.

Other stumbling blocks remain.

For instance, the current version of ENDA contains a provision that would ban state and local governments from

“retaliating against religious groups that take action only permissible because of [ENDA’s] religious exemption clause.”

And House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) has said over and over that he would not bring ENDA to a vote, claiming the legislation is unnecessary and would lead to frivolous litigation.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops opposes ENDA in its entirety, with San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone penning a letter to a Senate committee explaining the Catholic Church’s reasoning against the measure.

The pro-LGBT Catholic group Equally Blessed, which includes Dignity/USA, New Ways Ministry and Chicago-based Call to Action, among others, wrote (on September 16, 2013) to senators in support of ENDA but at the same time, the coalition raised concerns about any religious exemptions.

“We urge you to remove ... the religious exemption from the current draft of the bill. Our nation’s religious institutions have nothing to fear from legislation that treats every citizen as though they were equal in the eyes of God,” the letter read.

Trans Republican Wins Nevada Primary

BY KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Here’s something genuinely radical: a transgender candidate won a Republican primary for a Nevada assembly seat June 10. Lauren Scott, who was a Democrat until three years ago, won 58 percent of the vote over one other candidate for the nomination to represent the district that includes parts of Reno and Carson City. Republican Governor Brian Sandoval endorsed Scott in the June 10 primary. She’ll now run against incumbent Democrat Michael Sprinkle. This was Scott’s second run for the seat. She is a business consultant, a veteran of the Air Force, a former lobbyist for Equality Nevada and a former member of the state Equal Rights Commission. If she wins the seat, she will become the first transgender person to serve in a state legislature.

Ex-Gay Fairy Tale



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

This is the story of Dorian Lavender who has vanished from the party scene of music, stimulants, sex and is now ironically beyond the saving grace of suddenly discarded friends of which there were many. (Perhaps you knew him too.)

While no tracing of his family tree to Victorian days exists, it's rumored that Lavender is related to the fabled youth made famous by Oscar Wilde in "The Picture of Dorian Grey." I, for one, believe it to be so.

Dorian Lavender was gifted of looks so well proportioned, so stunning in effect, as to be spellbinding upon all who saw him. (I was too old to consider inviting him out for an evening of vicariously adventuring.)

Surprisingly, Dorian was not spoiled by his looks. "My looks are pleasant," he'd laugh. "If faces are fortunes, my bank account's modest but nonetheless drawing interest at the ATM."

His fate was sealed at an office party. "You're gay," said an artist whom he met. "Would you mind if I did a portrait of you? I specialize in portraits of the soul. I'm sure you have one."

Dorian wrote poetry. Composed songs. Painted. He line danced superbly. His dinner parties were fabulous. He went to the gym three times a week. He was golden in the summer. Fashionably seductive in winter.

His fate was sealed at an office party. "You're gay," said an artist whom he met. "Would you mind if I did a portrait of you? I specialize in portraits of the soul. I'm sure you have one."

Intrigued, Dorian agreed. It was his undoing. When the portrait arrived weeks later he was shocked. It was framed in mortice black and quite, quite ugly.

"Why have you done this to me," he iPhoned the artist. The artist responded, "That Dorian is how God sees your soul. You're lost! Damned! Must mend your wicked ways!"

For weeks the portrait haunted Dorian. He was mesmerized. "He's right," said Dorian, returning home from a night of much partying and little ecstasy. "I'll pray. Go to church. Be born again. My gayety's done with."

He proved resolute. The portrait scared him. He hid it away. Each day Dorian prayed. Each day the portrait began to change. As did he.

It crossed my mind when passing his condo that I hadn't seen him in months. I buzzed. A vaguely familiar but hideous man peeked out. "Yes?" he hissed. "Is Dorian home?" I asked. "Dorian is banished!" he snarled. "Good riddance to my past forever!"

As I turned to go, the 'apparition' shouted, "Hey! Wait. This image scares me. Take it." Alone that night I opened his package. It was Dorian's portrait. Young. Beautiful. Smiling. Serenely radiant. Obviously gay. His legendary beauty intact.

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Creep of the Week

Scott Esk

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

When I was a little kid I really wanted a rock tumbler. I remember looking through the JC Penney catalog and telling my mom that I hoped Santa would bring me one for Christmas. My mom said something about the tumbler using too much electricity and Santa never came through.



Scott Esk

I'd basically forgotten about this unfulfilled wish until I read about Scott Esk, a Tea Party Republican running for Oklahoma House District 91. He also has a wish that involves rocks. However, while my wish was to make the river rocks around my family's backyard into shiny gems, his wish is to use those rocks to kill gay people.

That's right, folks. In 2014 a candidate for office is publicly endorsing stoning gay people to death. Because God. And also because he's a terrible person.

Granted, he doesn't have any gay-stoning plank in his platform, but he still made a public pronouncement via Facebook a while back. His declaration was in response to Pope Francis saying, basically, "Gays? Meh."

That's right, folks. In 2014 a candidate for office is publicly endorsing stoning gay people to death.

So Esk posted a couple of Bible verses he said advocated stoning gay people. And someone asked him if he was seriously advocating death to gays. "I think we would be totally in the right to do it," Esk posted. "That goes against some parts of libertarianism, I realize, and I am largely libertarian, but ignoring as a nation, things that are worthy of death is very remiss."

Totally in the right to kill homos, eh? Very remiss, indeed.

But don't worry. If elected, Esk won't make this a priority. "I never said I would author legislation to put homosexuals to death, but I didn't have a problem with it," he said according to the Inquisitr.

See? I mean, he might co-sponsor such a bill, but he's not going to do the hard work of writing it or anything.

"I know what was done in the Old Testament and what was done back then was what's just," he continued. "And I do stand for Biblical morality."

I don't know if you've read the Old Testament, but let me just tell you, it's super violent, super shitty toward women and basically a blueprint for a world no sane person would want to live in. But to Esk, it's apparently paradise and we should base our laws on Old Testament justice, where women and children were killed with impunity...

Oh, wait. Actually, considering the number of women and children who die at the hands of men in this country, especially men with guns, I guess we already do that. But that apparently doesn't go far enough for Esk.

This is problematic considering that, according to reports, Esk is currently separated from his wife. Which means he might well be heading toward divorce. And we all know that God hates divorce.

Apparently the whole "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone" doesn't apply so long as you're doing the Lord's work by killing the gays.

The good news is that the backlash against Esk has been swift. Even a blogger for the National Review Online wrote, "So, there we have it: 2014's first nominee for the Todd Akin Toes-on-Tonsils Award."

Let's hope that Esk gets his ass kicked in his primary election on June 24.



Ask Lambda Legal: University LGBT Centers And Ex-Gay Attacks

BY HAYLEY GORENBERG, DEPUTY LEGAL DIRECTOR FOR LAMBDA LEGAL

Q: My university's LGBT center was recently approached by a group that said by law we have to carry materials that promote "ex-gay therapy." Is this true?

From time to time staff or students at universities contact us with similar questions, and thankfully the short answer is, no, the law does not require LGBT centers at universities or colleges to offer material on "converting" or "repairing" anyone's sexual orientation or gender identity.

Just last month, Lambda Legal responded to an organized attack on this front against public universities throughout Virginia, and we also provided legal information to staff of LGBT centers nationwide approached by an organization that said campus LGBT centers had to carry ex-gay promotional material. The group argued that because the universities are public and receive government funds, the First Amendment requires that they must not engage in "viewpoint discrimination," excluding ex-gay materials from the information they offer.

The truth is that the First

Amendment's important protections against viewpoint discrimination do not apply to this specific situation. LGBT centers at universities are not created as public forums where free speech rights apply. It's similar to college curricula. For example, a history class is not required to include material from Holocaust deniers to "balance out" factual accounts of the annihilation of Jews, gay people, disabled people and others targeted in World War II concentration camps. LGBT centers at universities exist primarily to provide information and support for students on campus who identify as LGBT. They don't have to display information on disproven or dangerous practices that don't help or support LGBT people.

The leading medical and psychological associations in the United States have issued official statements against "conversion therapy," noting there is no proof that any therapy can change sexual orientation or gender identity or that any such practice benefits rather than risks harm to the people who receive it. Lambda Legal lists organizations and their statements online at www.lambdalegal.org.

Both California and New Jersey have outlawed "conversion therapy"

for minors. The laws were celebrated across the country, but immediately – though unsuccessfully – challenged in court by those who think being LGBT should be changed. Lambda Legal joined both cases as a friend-of-the-court on behalf of organizations working with LGBT youth. We urged the courts to uphold the laws prohibiting state-licensed mental health providers from using dangerous change efforts with minors. Read about the California cases, *Pickup v. Brown* and *Welch v. Brown* at www.lambdalegal.org/in-court/cases/pickup-v-brown-and-welch-v-brown.


Information on our more recent work against ex-gay attacks in New Jersey, the case *King v. Christie* can also be found on our website. We will continue to oppose these so-called "therapies" and remain vigilant when people who claim they can change someone's sexual orientation or gender identity attempt to bully LGBT-supportive spaces into offering their propaganda.

If you have questions, or feel you have been discriminated against because of your gender identity, sexual orientation or HIV status, contact Lambda Legal's Help Desk at 1-866-542-8336, or see <http://lambdalegal.org/help>

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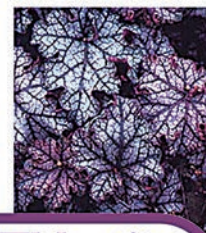
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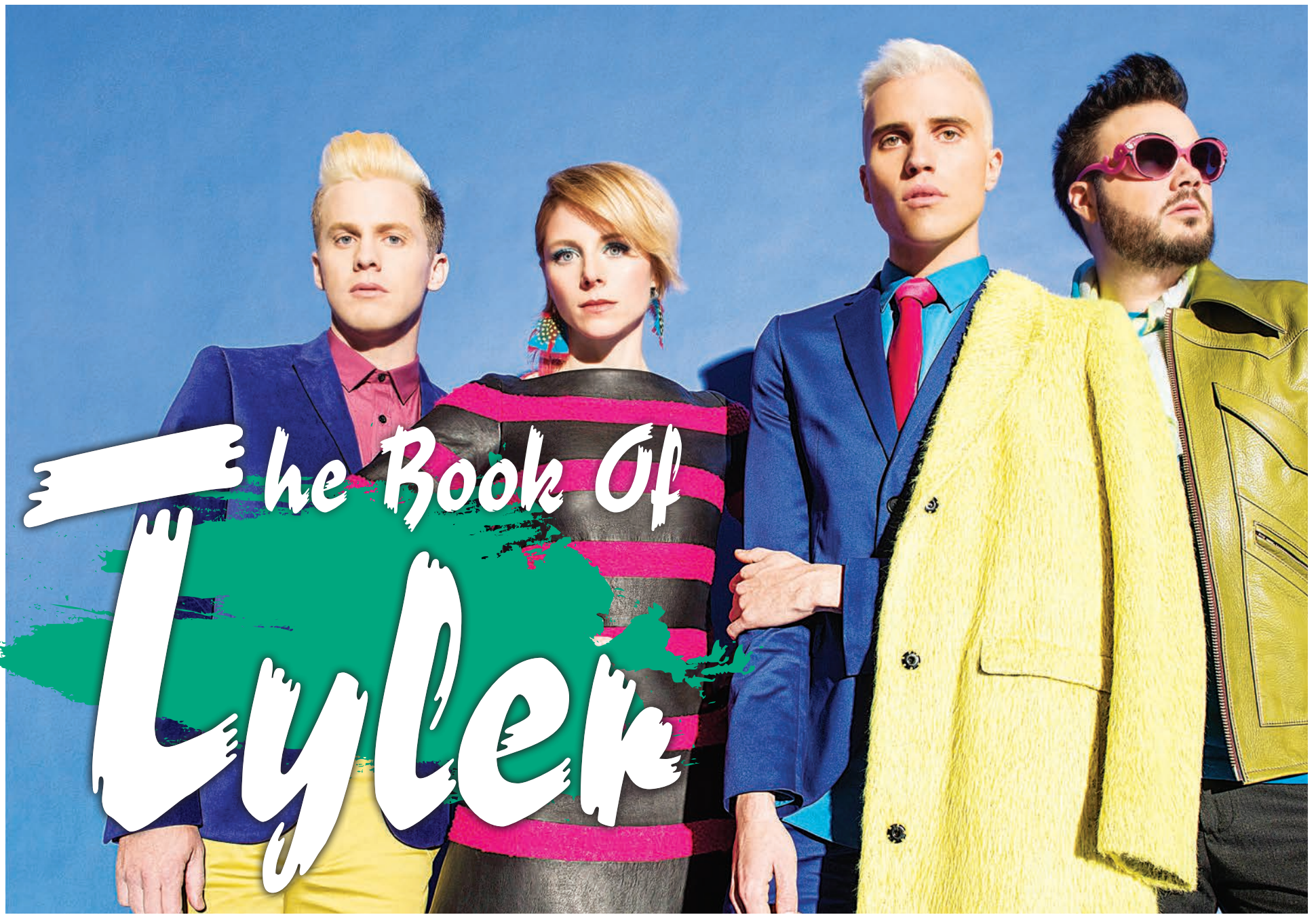
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Neon Trees frontman Tyler Glenn, second from right, is doing it his way. Photo: Andrew Zaeh

Neon Trees Frontman Talks Reconciling Gay Mormonism, Atheist Bashing & Bear Lust

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Neon Trees frontman Tyler Glenn is still figuring out what it means to be a gay Mormon. Not just how both modifiers can exist simultaneously, but *if* it's even possible that they do.

The alt musician spoke candidly on the heels of the band's latest album, "Pop Psychology," revealing how he's not letting other people—even the Mormon Church—define his relationship with God, the gay atheists who lambasted him for standing by his beliefs and one of the reasons he recently came out: to find love.

What does being a gay Mormon mean to you? How are you able to be both without feeling like a contradiction?

Yeah, it's interesting. Because there were things

about the church they didn't agree with, or they decided they wanted to live a different lifestyle regardless of sexuality, I had seen so many of my friends fall away from the church, even if they didn't necessarily want to. They just felt like they had to pick one or the other.

In my life, I've never felt like I totally wanted to do everything that I was told I had to. I've always been that way, and I still have a lot of faith in God and in a lot of the teachings of the church. Obviously there are things I scratch my head at, but I've always been that way. I just wasn't so quick to throw away that part of me and accept this other part of me, so I guess my situation is, I want to be open and honest and say I have these beliefs, that I have these feelings and I've acted on these feelings and this is who I am. I'm not ashamed of it. There have been a lot of people that have come up to

me since (I came out) and said, "Thank you for being that way, because a lot of other people feel that way too."

The Mormon Church is tolerant of homosexuality as long as you abstain from homosexual relations. That said, how are you able to reconcile Mormonism and homosexuality in terms of establishing physical relationships? What happens when you're in a relationship, and are you in one?

I wish I could find a relationship. I don't want to sound like I'm on the prowl, but when I came out, part of it was because I want to find love. I want to find somebody. I've never been all about the random hook-ups, although I've had those experiences, but that's just not who I am. Coming out was a release. I want to meet someone in a more open, normal setting and not just have to be covert on apps and online—hiding it.

I think reconciling—I don't know. I guess when it comes to it, I will. You know, I identify as Mormon because I believe in it, and regardless if, at some point, they decide to say, you can't be (Mormon), I still won't let someone here on Earth define my faith or my relationship with God and my beliefs. I will still identify with those beliefs.

So, if your bishop does not approve of your relationship with another man, you wouldn't walk away from the church?

I don't think I would be the one walking away, but I would probably be removed from the records. I mean, I do go occasionally, but I haven't actively gone to church in about seven or eight years. I've always kind of felt like I didn't fit in, but at the same time I love serving the mission, I love the teachings, I love "The

INFO

Neon Trees

7 p.m. June 29
The Fillmore
2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit
thefillmoreetroit.com

Book of Mormon.” There are a lot of things I really, really believe in. It’s funny. Coming out as gay – it was almost harder to come out as Mormon. I was surprised how many people didn’t know I was Mormon, that I was raised that way. I got a lot of flak from atheists, which is interesting. A lot of gay atheists were applauding that I was coming out, but bashing me because I decided to still remain Mormon.

Of all the people you’ve come out to in your life – your family, the church, the whole world – whose acceptance meant the most to you?

I don’t know if it meant the most, but at the time it did. My producer (Tim Pagnotta) and one of my really close friends who I’ve written so much music with was the first person I came out to. I really wanted him to know what the songs were about. I got the courage to tell him and his reaction was so loving and so caring. I never associated any sort of love with being gay, and then he congratulated me and it changed my world. It encouraged me to tell my parents, my family and my band. It really gave me the courage to come out publicly. I don’t know if it means the most in retrospect, but it definitely had the biggest impact on me.

You mentioned hooking up and how it’s really not your thing. Has your religion made sex a struggle for you?

My situation was really odd. I got really good at compartmentalizing. I assume a lot of gay men who aren’t out get really good at that. There were times when I didn’t feel guilt. It was more just the anxiety from hiding it. In my 20s, I really started to express and explore that (sexual) side of me. It got to the point where I was 25, 26 and I was OK with being gay, but I was just at a crossroads with how to live that way, if it was even anyone’s business. There was a long period of time where I thought, “I don’t have to come out; it’s not a big deal.” But then watching so many gay documentaries and seeing the pain and frustration and sadness – that there’s still not full equality – made me see why it’s important to come out, because it is important.

You’re not dating anyone now, but do you see yourself getting married?

Yeah, I want a family. I do. I know my parents support that. I think they’re a little unprepared for me to bring someone home. I didn’t know if it was something that would be a part of my reality, but I’m really happy. I don’t know how to meet that man as of yet, but I would like to.

You’ve done some browsing on gay apps, presumably Grindr and Scruff. Are you on the apps often these days?

I actually try to stay off the apps, but I have been on them before.

Do you get recognized?

When I was on them I didn’t ever have a face photo, but I currently have GROWLr because I like masculine, hairy guys – I guess we call them bears – so I have the app for that. But I’m not actively on it, so I don’t know if people are recognizing me or not.

From what you’ve said, it doesn’t sound like the Mormon Church had anything to say about your coming out.

Right, no one said anything.

Do you think the church lets you get away with more as a gay Mormon because you’re in the limelight?

I think they’ve dealt with so much PR backlash and that I’m pretty inconsequential to that. I heard from a lot of members and I’ve heard a lot from local leaders and they’ve said it’s a good thing that I did this, but there’s been no official stance.

Do you think the Mormon Church will one day support gay marriage?

I know that in recent years there’s a lot more acceptance. I really hate that the overall doctrine uses the word “tolerance,” because I hate that word, but I think it’s a step in the right direction. There are a lot of gay couples that actually live in my mom’s city who are also Mormon that go to church and hold callings, so that’s something you don’t see in the media. They’re actually actively able to serve; they’re not married, but they live together and they’re able to hold callings. But I don’t know, man. I would love that, of course.

What would you tell a gay Mormon kid who’s experiencing the same struggle you once did?

I actually have talked to a lot of them. I would hate to tell them “come out” only to find themselves in a situation where they’re kicked out of their homes, because that happens still, even in Utah. But I do remind people that it’s important to be themselves. I think that there’s a time and a place to come out, and I don’t know if waiting till I was 30 was the best thing, but it definitely has turned out fine and I’m a happy person. I’ve encouraged (kids) to just get a good support group and make sure they’re telling people that will support them. Then, when they have that support, eventually it becomes easier to tell the people who maybe aren’t as supportive.

How has being an openly gay man influenced you on stage? Now that you’re not hiding, can you be yourself more than ever?

Oh yeah. Man, it’s crazy. Just being able to say, “I think that guy is cute” around my friends – just normal things that people get to do – I get to do that now. Not having to lead a different identity every time I’m around a different person is really freeing and it’s made performing really effortless.

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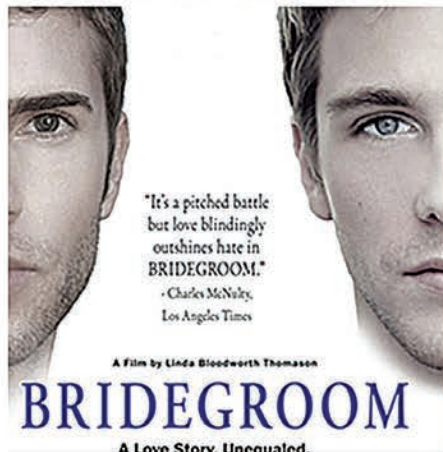
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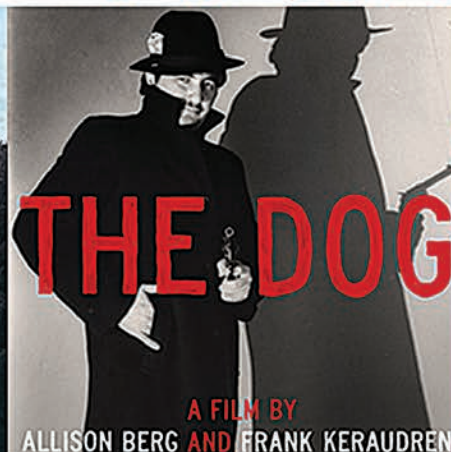
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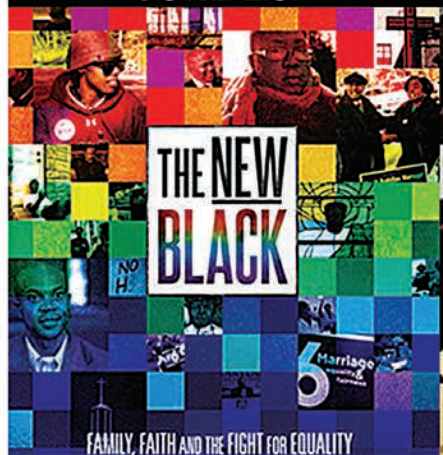
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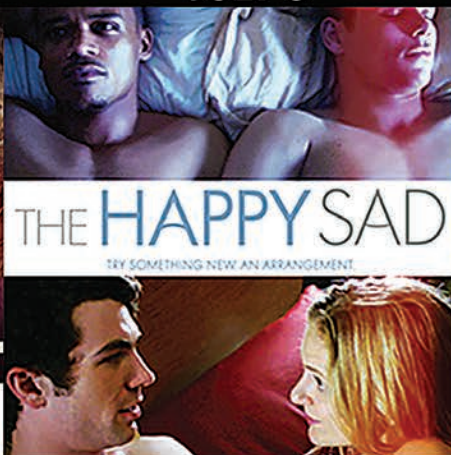
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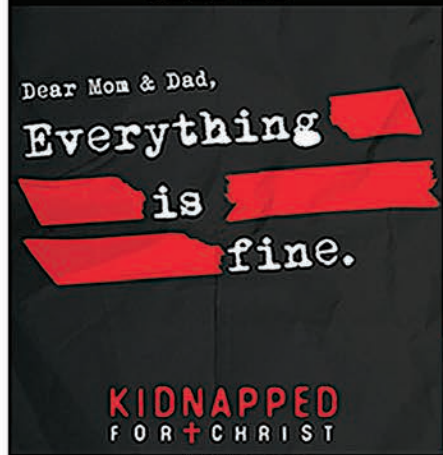
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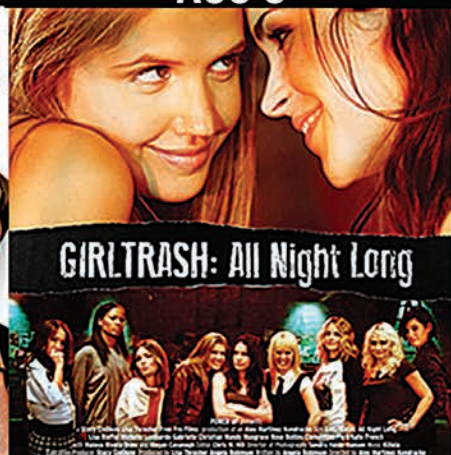
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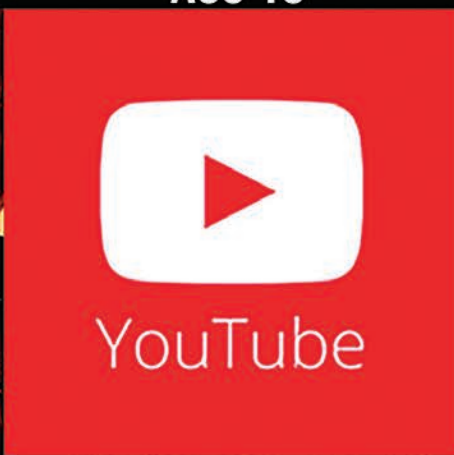
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A Universal Loss

Doc Co-Producer To Appear In Royal Oak After 'Bridegroom' Screenings

BY CHRISTOPHER J. TREACY

We'd all like to think that if we were lucky enough to find that elusive "soul mate," we could then ride off into the sunset without further ado. The worst parts – the loneliness, the longing, the less-than-stellar pairings that came before it – that would all be over with. Right?

Linda Bloodworth-Thomason's tear-jerking 2013 documentary, "Bridegroom" - which screens at 4:30, 7 and 9:30 p.m. June 25 at the Imagine Theatre - paints a powerful portrait of romantic male-on-male love struck by unbelievable tragedy. It's a wrenching reminder that life has a way of hurling curveballs at us. While some seek sanity in the notion that the universe (and whatever you believe governs it) works on a vague system of relative checks and balances, the plain truth is that awful circumstances sometimes

befell the kindest, most open-hearted people. And while this certainly isn't news, it's worth considering when you assess your feelings about "Bridegroom," which runs the risk of bringing out feelings in even our cattiest, most jaded brethren.

If Shane Bitney Crone, co-producer and one-half of the film's central duo, wasn't perfectly aware of this risk when he opted to let Thomason make her film, he's aware of it now. Those that lived through AIDS in the '80s have a tendency to speak of that time in terms of unparalleled disaster. Though warranted, it doesn't negate the hurts and losses that younger generations have faced since. Crone, 28, makes an important distinction that enlarges the scope of his story if you're willing to let it.

"My story is not unique, and that's actually the beauty of the film," says Crone, who will appear during a meet-and-greet after the 9:30 p.m. screening. "It's many people's story."

Simple, but true. Loss is loss – and



Shane Bitney Crone

seen from that angle, "Bridegroom" speaks some universal truths. The film chronicles the love affair between Crone and Thomas Bridegroom, detailing the obstacles both men had to overcome as teens coming up in differing environments. Montana-raised Crone is accepted as gay by his family, but feels largely rejected and antagonized by his peers. He seeks solace in California after graduating high school. Bridegroom, from Tennessee, remains closeted to all but his closest friends while attending the prestigious Culver Military Academy and going on to study at Vassar. When the two are introduced in Los Angeles, magic ensues. But, after a largely blissful six-year romance, Bridegroom falls from the top of a building and dies.

The shocking accident knocks the wind out of you. Watching Crone's immeasurable grief play out, especially when contrasted with the Bridegroom family's cold, tight-lipped treatment of him, feels like a harsh beating. Still, Crone knew that some viewers

INFO

Bridegroom

4:30, 7 & 9:30 p.m. June 25
Imagine Theatre
200 N. Main St., Royal Oak
www.neptix.com

might not be able to muster more than a sarcastic "boo-hoo" when he posted the commemorative YouTube video that eventually led Thomason to contact him about a full-length film. Gay audiences, especially men of a certain age who feel they've "been all through it," can be a tough crowd.

"I was worried that maybe I was being indulgent," he says. "I had to literally look at myself in the mirror and clarify my intentions. When it came to making the documentary, I had to learn to trust the director. I mean, to some extent, it's indulgent by nature – it is a story about me and Tom and our lives. And I didn't want to make it seem too perfect, because it wasn't. Our relationship had normal ups and downs. Some

people have claimed they think it isn't political enough, but I think that the director's intention was to get viewers that might not normally support people like us to see gay relationships in a new light. Shoving political ideas down people's throats may not be the best way to achieve that."

Perhaps not, but effectively tugging at their emotional fabric might be. Part of the way the film sets you up to feel Crone's loss so intensely is by underscoring what both men went through to become comfortable with themselves and their surroundings. Bridegroom's family is not at all supportive of his lifestyle and ends up blaming Crone for the whole situation. After years of effort, what seems like a reconciliation between mother and son (and son's lover) turns out to be little more than lip service. When it came time to making the film, the family, who blocked Crone from attending the funeral with the threat of violence, wanted nothing to do with the project.

See *Bridegroom*, page 23

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Andrew Bird, performing July 2.

Fun Of Every Flavor At Ann Arbor Summer Festival

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

Ann Arbor Summer Festival has kept Washtenaw County busy since June 13, but the fun won't stop until July 6.

The almost month-long festival features a smorgasbord of events, from movie showings, yoga retreats, DJs, folk musicians and hula hooping. Since 1984, the festival has offered dozens of activities, exhibitions, performances and more for the diverse nature of Ann Arbor. The festival has two main programs, one indoor and the other outdoor.

The indoor space, "the Mainstage," features ticketed events, while "Top of the Park," the outdoor program, has more free admission and family-oriented entertainment.

Upcoming Mainstage events include a presentation of NPR's "Ask Me Another" at 8 p.m. Thursday, June 26. Ophira Eisenberg hosts and Jonathan Coulton serves as house musician for the show that blends trivia, sketch comedy and live music. Tickets are \$25 for students, \$35 for general admission.

Together with special guest Tift Merritt, Andrew Bird and the Hands of Glory will play Ann Arbor at 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 2. The world-renowned musician brings violin, whistling and more together with Grammy-winning Merritt's country singing and songwriting. Tickets are \$35-45. Featured indoor events will take place at the Power Center, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor.

For "Top of the Park," different stages feature a wide variety of outdoor events.

Tasting events for both craft beer and wine will happen throughout the festival, for instance.

Some highlights of the outdoor portion of the festival include KidZone, a kid event hosted by Ann Arbor YMCA at 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 3 in the KidZone Tent. Children can make star-shaped bubbles, patriotic crafts and more in anticipation of Independence Day.

The Rackham Stage will show blockbuster films at 10 p.m. on various nights, such as "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" on Sunday, June 29 and "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" on Tuesday, July 1.

Transe Express: Les Tambours (The Drummers) will fill South Ingalls Mall with energetic percussion. The band, dressed as French tin soldiers, can be found at various times on Friday, June 27 and Saturday, June 28.

Nervous But Excited will reunite for one of their select few shows at 6 p.m. July 4 on the Grove Stage. The unique duo of Kate Peterson and Sarah Cleaver use multiple instruments, blended harmonies and "quirky" songwriting to convey their "pleasantly aggressive folk."

The festival will also feature select choices from some of Ann Arbor's top food choices, as well as beer, wine, coffee and more from area bars, cafes and more.

For more information on location details, times and events, call 734-994-5999 or visit www.a2sf.org.

Check out BTL's Cool Cities pages online at www.pridesource.com for more info on Ann Arbor and other LGBT-friendly areas of metro Detroit.



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Hear Me Out

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

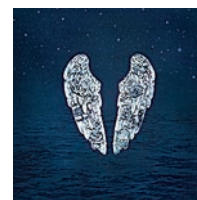
Miranda Lambert, Coldplay



Miranda Lambert, 'Platinum'

While Miranda Lambert's restless peers stray from the purity of the country genre to achieve mainstream acclaim, the "Nashville Star" alum has been widely popularized by sticking to her guns. She's known for slipping one in her back pocket should she need to pop an abusive lover ("Gunpowder & Lead," from 2007's "Crazy Ex-Girlfriend"), but what's more, Lambert's not leaving the house that built her. At least any time soon, as demonstrated by yet another feather in her cowgirl hat with the irresistibly witty, hit-heavy "Platinum." Writing with Music City mainstays like Shane McAnally and Brandy Clark, both openly gay, Dolly Parton's buoyant campiness comes to mind as Lambert drops some wickedly good wisecracks (the title track delivers this winner: "What doesn't kill makes you blonder"). "Two Rings Shy" is also reminiscent of Parton, who you'd imagine living for a line like, "I ain't wastin' good mascara, just to watch it running down." "Gravity's a Bitch" bemoans aging with biting humor, "Babies Makin' Babies" lives up to its name, and "Little Red Wagon" rocks a "backyard swagger." It's always been Lambert's gun-toting badassery that makes her unexpectedly

sentimental heart – from which she sings during the sweet love ballad "Holding on to You" – all the more powerful.
Grade: A-



Coldplay, 'Ghost Stories'

What do you do when the stars you used to sing about burn out? When the yellow turns to black? When the fixer needs some fixing? If you're Coldplay, you tell "Ghost Stories." And you tell those tales like you have for the last two decades: with the dysphoria of a lost puppy. Inspired by frontman Chris Martin's "conscious uncoupling" from Gwyneth Paltrow, and following the light-hearted arena venture that made "Mylo Xyloto" a forced flounder, the band takes a less commercial approach with this nine-song eulogy. It's quieter, more ethereal, there's no Rihanna, but in backtracking to their pre-pop genesis, they forgot the reason the world fell in love with them in the first place: emotional resonance. With few exceptions, their sonic interpretations of desolation and

heartache – though pretty and wistful, like soaring angels – disappear into the same cosmos they inhabit. The piano-led "O" is a dreamy coda as faceless as an actual dream, and "Midnight" works the Bon Iver-cum-vocoder effect – it's surprisingly not bad. Almost lovely enough to forget how many times you've heard something like it, the Avicii-produced, synth-charged "A Sky Full of Stars" is an extension of "Mylo." That it's the only song you're likely to remember says a lot about the forgettable "Ghost Stories," a Coldplay album so pale you'll have no choice but to consciously uncouple from it.
Grade: C

Also Out



Robyn and Röyksopp, 'Do It Again'

She's doing it again – making you get all dance-y. With punched-up synths and a chorus that just about combusts, "Do It Again" owns the floor much like you will every time you hear Robyn sing it. But that single isn't exactly indicative of the rest of her complex EP collaboration with Röyksopp, which begins and ends on less frenzied, more introspective notes. Its 10-minute fade-out calls back to the melancholy sprawl of "Monument," during which Robyn gets reflective: "When the moment comes, I can say I did it all with love." She can because it's true.



Sharon Van Etten, 'Are We There?'

Affecting without any of that sentimental preciousness – one line reads: "I washed your dishes, but I shitted in your bathroom" – there's a transparency to Sharon Van Etten's latest that daringly exposes the visceral emotions of the end of a relationship. A stunningly sad truth-telling about two hearts that have grown apart, "I Love You But I'm Lost" cuts deep. "I Know," too, is simple poignancy told potently. This fourth album from Van Etten is a work of soul-baring genius.

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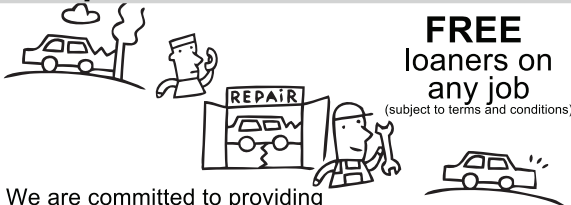
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Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, June 19

Twisted Games Party games and fully nude strippers. 18+. Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St., **Lansing**. 517-894-1315. Spiraldancebar.com

Detroit Elders 5 p.m. Discuss and address issues specific to the LGBT community as we "age in the D." Detroit Elders, 4750 Woodward, **Detroit**. 313-833-1300. belcrest5440@yahoo.com

Gender Hormone Counseling Sessions 6 p.m. Darnell Jones, RPH and GNA, will conduct one on one counseling sessions for the transgender community. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Relationship Skills Class 6 p.m. A series for LGBTQ people and their friends and loved ones. Topics include: exploring personal and cultural relationships, values, arguments and making agreements, accountability and building community connections. Tickets: \$5-35. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

The Art of the Cocktail: A Fundraiser for Public Art 6 p.m. 10 Ferndale bartenders in a craft cocktail competition. Tickets: \$40. Downtown Ferndale, 177 Vester St., **Ferndale**. 248-546-1632. info@downtownferndale.com

Pagan Chat Nights 7:30 p.m. Come socialize with FOCAS members and other area pagans! Michigan Pagans, 21700 West Road, **Woodhaven**. Meetup.com/michiganpagans

Friday, June 20

Festival of the Moon This will be the 10th anniversary of the event. Features Bell's Brewery, food, music and dancing. I Love Old Town, **Lansing**. lloveoldtown.org

World Pride Pride Toronto, **Toronto**. Wp14to.com

Summer Camp with Thomas Allen 6 p.m. Stop in, meet the artist, view some terrific work, and enjoy refreshments and camaraderie. OutCenter, 132 Water St., **Benton Harbor**. 269-925-8330. Outcenter.org

Drag Queen Bingo 7 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+. Five15, 515 S. Washington Ave., **Royal Oak**. 248-515-2551. Five15.net

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: Girls on Film 2 - Lesbian filmmakers explore themes of love and acceptance in this sampling of shorts from Power Up, which promotes the work of gay women in the media. In "D. E. B. S.," schoolgirls are trained to become elite crime fighters. "Give or Take an Inch" features siblings accepting their sister's impending sex-change operation. In "Fly Cherry," a young girl befriends an outcast. "Gay Propaganda" presents scenes from film classics remade with gay characters. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org/

Movie Night 7:30 p.m. Movies of an LGBT nature. Free. Battle Creek Pride

Resource Center, 16 E. Van Buren St., **Battle Creek**. Battlecreekpride.org

Nikki Holland 9 p.m. AWE, 37722 Van Dyke Ave., **Sterling Heights**. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

Saturday, June 21

Festival of the Sun This will be the 15th anniversary of the event. Will feature a variety of fine wines and beers for sampling as well as food, music and dancing. I Love Old Town, **Lansing**. lloveoldtown.org

Mad Hatter's Golf Proceeds benefit women in need and fighting long term

mictournament.org/Events.aspx

Gay Straight Alliance in Berrien County 2 p.m. LGBTQ youth, friends and allies, ages 14-18. OutCenter, 124 Water St., **Benton Harbor**. 269-925-8330. Outcenter.org

Greet & Eat 3 p.m. Women of Color Same Gender Loving 40 & Up, 1224 Randolph St., **Detroit**. Meetup.com/Women-of-Color-Same-Gender-Loving-40-UP

Dinner and Drinks 6 p.m. First of many meetups. Reservations will be made based on RSVP. Livingston Lesbian Friends, Fenton Road, **Fenton**.



The church seeks to be a "religious voice of inclusion and support for diversity." The inclusive church stands with LGBT people on their mission of inclusion, as well as in their pursuit of marriage, health benefits and the right to adopt and foster children. The free event will include a free-will offering taken to benefit the Ruth Ellis Center.

The concert and exhibits begin at 6 p.m. on Saturday, June 21 at Central Woodward Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The church is located at 3955 W. Big Beaver Road, Troy. For more information, visit www.centralwoodward.org.

illness. Tickets: \$85. The Godmothers, 23650 23 Mile Road, **Macomb**. Thegodmothers.org

Scrapfest An intense sculpture competition that takes place simultaneously with Festival of the Moon and Sun in which groups of artists, welders, and Scrapfest enthusiasts make scrap metal into one-of-a-kind art. I Love Old Town, **Lansing**. lloveoldtown.org

Wild West Summer Beer Fest Royal Oak Farmers Market, 316 E. 11 Mile Road, **Royal Oak**. 248-246-3276. Ci.royal-oak.mi.us

LGBT Older Adult Summit 2014 8:30 a.m. Free. LGBT Older Adult Summit, 3408 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. Lgbtolderadults.com

Barbara Essex 11 a.m. Author of Bad Boys of the Bible and Bad Girls of the Bible. Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit (MCCD), 2441 Pinecrest Dr., **Ferndale**. 248-399-7741. Mccdetroit.org

Storytime with HSHV 11 a.m. This program pairs children ages 2-5 with animal interactions, as well as stories, activities and crafts. Humane Society of Huron Valley, 2513 Jackson Ave., **Ann Arbor**. 734-662-0600. Nicolasbooks.com

Motown Invitational Classic Detroit River Cruise 12:45 p.m. Dancing, 2 cash bars - a tea dance down the Detroit River. \$25 per person/limited seating to 250 persons. Tickets Now available at Just 4 Us, Steven Bs Barbershop and Menjos! Motown Invitational Classic, **Detroit**. 313-727-4101. billhav2003@yahoo.com <http://>

Meetup.com/Livingston-Lesbian-Friends-Meetup

Welcoming Diversity 6 p.m. Concert by DTMC and two museum quality photo exhibits. Our goal is to reach out to the LGBT community and the greater community of Troy with a progressive Christian voice of diversity and inclusion and to combat stereotypes and prejudice. Free. Detroit Together Men's Chorus, 3955 W. Big Beaver Road, **Troy**. 248-644-0512. Centralwoodward.org

Courtney Act and Adore Delano 8 p.m. Plus Deangela Shannon, Deja Van Cariet, Bentley James and Crystal Harding. Tickets: \$25. Murray & Peter, 42705 Grand River Ave., **Novi**. Neptix.com

Ransom 8 p.m. A crime mystery for teams of up to four to solve! Reward for who cracks the case first. A benefit for the spay/neuter program at Tail Waggers 1990. Tickets: \$25-100. Tail Waggers 1990, **Plymouth**. 734-855-4077. Tailwaggers1990.org

Sunday, June 22

Macomb Orchard Rail Trail 10 a.m. Get Out Bike, Division Road, **Richmond**. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

Vaccination Clinic 10 a.m. Low cost vaccinations, testing and microchips. Tail Waggers 1990, 31215 Southfield Road, **Beverly Hills**. 734-855-4077. Tailwaggers1990.org

Brunch at Como's 12 p.m. Gay Single Men Over 21-Metro Detroit & Canada, 22812 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. Meetup.com/GAY-SINGLE-MEN-OVER-

21-METRO-DETROIT-CANADA

Outpouring 12:30 p.m. LGBT-affirming service. Non-denominational Christian. Affirming Love Ministries, 9550 Oakland Ave., **Detroit**. Affirmingloveministries.webs.com

TransCend TransCend provides support and resources to the Southwest Michigan transgender community, their significant others, family, friends, and allies. Meetings occur twice per month on the 2nd Wednesday and 4th Sunday. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. Kglrc.org

Pride NA 6:30 p.m. Confidential and anonymous. Open to all individuals impacted by addiction. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-

Editor's Pick

Detroit Together Men's Chorus will put on a concert alongside museum-quality photo exhibits this week at Central Woodward Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Troy. The exhibit will feature two separate displays. The first, "Love Makes a Family," displays portraits of LGBT people and their families. The second exhibit, "We Have Faith," displays LGBT people of faith in service to the church and their communities.

4234. Kglrc.org

Euchre Tournament 7 p.m. Battle Creek Pride Resource Center, 16 E. Van Buren St., **Battle Creek**. Battlecreekpride.org

Showbiz Sunday 10 p.m. Delicious, Maria Mirelez, DJ Lippgloss and more. Additional showtimes at 11 p.m. and 12 a.m. Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St., **Lansing**. 517-894-1315. Spiraldancebar.com

Monday, June 23

Nest Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Monthly Bible study focusing on LGBTQ issues. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 508 Denner St., **Kalamazoo**. Kglrc.org

Restorative Yin Yoga with Meditation 6:45 p.m. Get pampered. GOAL, 1945 Pauline Blvd., **Ann Arbor**. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

Faith Alliance Movie Night 7 p.m. In celebration of Pride Month, join us for the movie Beyond Gay The Politics of Pride - Despite thousands of people cheering in the streets, Pride is much more than a parade and a party. Its a giant step on the road to true human equality. Light refreshments (popcorn and soft drinks). Free. Affirmations Faith Alliance, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. jlewis@goaffirmations.org Goaffirmations.org

Tuesday, June 24

Sixth Annual Pride Banquet Tickets: \$15-25. PFLAG Tri-Cities, **Saginaw**. Pflag.org

Aff Action Night 6 p.m. Educating

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Editor's Pick

Fresh off of the finale of "RuPaul's Drag Race," drag queens Courtney Act and Adore Delano come to Novi this weekend. Presented by Murray & Peter, the live performance will also feature Crystal Harding, Bentley James, Deja Van Cartier and Deangela Shannon.

The queens rounded out the top three of Logo's reality show, finishing second to recent Andiamo performer, Bianca Del Rio. Both Adore and Courtney are known for their sensational singing, having both been top finalists on "American Idol" and "Australian Idol," respectively.

The drag performance begins at 9 p.m. on Saturday, June 21 at Andiamo Event Center, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi. Tickets are \$25. For more information, call 248-268-2840 or visit www.neptix.com to purchase.

others about how to make Michigan an equality state. Pizza provided for volunteers. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Saginaw Valley LGBT Pride Awards Banquet 6 p.m. Perceptions, 120 Ezra Rust Ave., **Saginaw**. Equalityymi.org

Circle of Life: Pet Ownership Discussion and Support Group 6:30 p.m. Led by a licensed counselor. Share stories, frustrations, grief and successes. Tail Waggers' 1990, 28402 Five Mile Road, **Livonia**. 734-855-4077. Tailwaggers1990.org

Life's a Stitch 6:30 p.m. Open to those who Crochet, Knit, Quilt, Needlepoint, Macrame and Jewelry. Free. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Transgender Life Support 7 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Wednesday, June 25

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

Senior Koffee Klatch 1 p.m. A lively, discussion and social group for LGBT adults over 45. Group covers topics pertaining to aging and outside speakers. Potluck dinners at members homes, lunches out and holiday parties. Meets ever Wednesday on the upper level of the Affirmations

building. Senior Koffee Klatch, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

Bridegroom 9:30 p.m. Meet Shane Bitney Crone at official after party. Murray & Peter in Association with Affirmations and Between the Lines, 200 N. Main St., **Royal Oak**. 248-943-2411. Neptix.com

Test: A film by Chris Mason Johnson 9:45 p.m. Winner Outfest Grandy Jury Prize. Cinema Detroit, 3420 Cass Ave., **Detroit**. 313-281-8301. Cinematodetroit.com

Thursday, June 26

Workshop on Nonprofit Diversity & Inclusion - Success Stories in the Field 8:30 a.m. 2. 0 continuing education credits for social workers. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Free HIV Testing 2 p.m. Free anonymous HIV testing offered at S3. Call ahead for an appointment, or walk-ins welcome. S3 Safe Sex Store and HARC, 1209 S. University, **Ann Arbor**. 734-741-1434. info@bak-inc.com S3safesexstore.com

Connections 6 p.m. Open to all LGBTQ and Ally youth from 13-18. Join us to meet other LGBTQ and Ally teens and socialize in a safe space. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. Kglrc.org

Princess Cruise on the Detroit River 6:30 p.m. A portion of ticket sales will benefit Freedom House, a safe space for LGBT from around the world who escape persecution to come to the

US. Tickets: \$25-50. Freedom House, 2630 W. Lafayette, **Detroit**. 313-964-4320. Freedomhousedetroit.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

MUSIC & MORE

Benefits/Social Events

Arbor Opera Theater "Fifteenth Anniversary Opera Gala" Tickets: \$22-40. Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 N. University, **Ann Arbor**. 7 p.m. June 21. 734-763-8587. Arboropera.com

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "Celebrating the Arts Together" Cocktails, strolling dinner, dancing plus fabulous silent + live auctions. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., **Saugatuck**. June 21. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

Classical

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "DSO at Stony Creek Metropark" Tickets: \$12-50. Stony Creek Metropark, 4300 Main Park Dr., **Shelby Township**. 8:30 p.m. June 21. Dso.org

Palmer Woods Music in Homes "Kamau Kenyatta-Shahida Nurullah & Friends". Palmer Woods Neighborhood, **Detroit**. 8 p.m. June 21. 313-891-2514. Palmerwoods.org

Palmer Woods Music in Homes "Orquesta La Inspiracion". Palmer

Woods Neighborhood, **Detroit**. 8 p.m. June 20. 313-891-2514. Palmerwoods.org

Concerts

Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase "Comedy Jamm" 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. 8 - Sep. 25. 734-996-9080. Aacomedy.com

Blind Pig "The Creepshow" 18+. Tickets: \$12-14. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., **Ann Arbor**. 9 p.m. June 21. 734-996-8555. Blindpigmusic.com

Cranbrook Art Museum "Modern / Moderna: Amie Siegel and Terence Gower". Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., **Bloomfield Hills**. June 21 - Aug. 31. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookart.edu

DTE Energy Music Theatre "Lionel Richie" With CeeLo Green. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, **Clarkston**. 7:30 p.m. June 20. 248-377-0100. Palacenet.com

The Ark "Judy Collins" Tickets: \$49. 50-75. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 7:30 p.m. June 22. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Melissa Ferrick" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. June 21. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Magic Bag "Kenny Olson & The All-Time Lows" Featuring Peter Keys, J Kott & Brandon Calhoun. Tickets: \$10. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. June 26. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

United States Air Force Band, Airmen of Note "United States Air Force Band". Miller Auditorium, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., **Kalamazoo**. 7:30 p.m. June 23. 269-387-2300. Usafband.af.mil

Wharton Center for Performing Arts "Gordon Lightfoot" Tickets: \$35. Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Lane, **East Lansing**. 8 p.m. June 19. 517-432-2000. Whartoncenter.com/events/detail/gordon-lightfoot

Woodside Church "Monthly Jazz Vespers" Alternative worship service featuring local musicians from Flint and surrounding area. Presented in coffee house setting; refreshments will be served. Woodside Church, 1509 E. Court St., **Flint**. Sep. 20 - Nov. 21. 810-767-4911. woodsidechurch.net

See Happenings, page 24

good a job as possible making her film and says it represents his relationship with Bridegroom accurately. Despite a lack of big-budget polish, he says he's proud of what it has become (the film has garnered some serious accolades, including winning both the Tribeca and Outfest Audience Awards) and how it's changed him. Crone mentions seeing the movie "Philadelphia" before being old enough to understand it. In his mind, it created an indelible link between sexuality and death, leaving him thinking for many years that he was destined to die for merely being homosexual. The awful irony of

having his lover perish in a calamitous accident isn't lost on him, but Crone says the experience has helped him put death and dying into better perspective.

"I don't fear death the way I used to," Crone says. "After Tom passed away, I no longer cared about dying. Coming out the other end of that, I realize there are so many things that interfere with living a full life. Making this movie was definitely part of the grieving process for me. For the first year after the accident, I kept to myself. It felt so good to share the story, and I'm really grateful that I was allowed to participate to the extent I did."


► Bridegroom

Continued from p. 17

"I had hoped they'd have participated," he says. "I believe documentaries should present two sides of every story, but we reached out to them and they didn't respond. I know that there are members of his family that have seen it, but it's his parents I'm most interested in. Honestly, I think they would be surprised to see that we included as much positive information as we could about them."

Crone still feels that Thomason did as


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Questions?
Teresa Springer: tspringer@wellnessaids.org
(810) 232-0888
Facebook: Flint Gay Pride Society




Editor's Pick



Ann Arbor Civic Theatre's Studio Series presents "Or," by Liz Duffy Adams, June 20-22.

Newly released from debtors' prison after a disastrous overseas mission, Aphra Behn – poet, spy and soon-to-be the first professional female playwright – is desperate to get out of the spy trade. She has a shot at a production at one of the only two London theater companies, if she can only finish her play by morning despite interruptions from sudden new love, complicated

royal love and a very dodgy ex-lover who may be in on a plot to murder the king. Against a background of a long drawn-out war and a counter-culture of free love, cross-dressing, and pastoral lyricism, the 1660s look a lot like the 1960s in this neo-Restoration comedy.

The A2CT Studio Theater is located at 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. Performances are at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$12. For additional information, call 734-971-2228.

▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 23

Festivals

Ann Arbor Summer Festival "Ann Arbor Summer Festival" A variety of entertainment, themes and more throughout the festival. Various, Ann Arbor. June 13 - July 6. A2sf.org

City of East Lansing "18th Annual Summer Solstice Jazz Festival (SSJF)". Downtown East Lansing, East Lansing. June 20 - June 21. Eljazzfest.com

Shows

Blind Pig "Nice Peter" All ages. Tickets: \$18. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 19. 734-996-8555. Blindpigmusic.com

Lisa Bousson LLC "A Public Demonstration of Mediumship with Psychic Medium Lisa Bousson" As a Spiritual Medium and Psychic, I receive information from spirit, which is to be presented to the living. I'm used as the middle-man, standing between the worlds. Tickets: \$25-30. Metro Detroit, 81 Macomb Place, Mt. Clemens. 7 p.m. June 24. 586-322-3217. Lisabousson.com/public

The Ark "May Erlewine 'Where We Are' Album Release Concert" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 20. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Wurst Bar "Release: Musician and Author Expo" Will showcase regional talents both on-stage and in a casual book- and CD-signing setting. The Wurst Bar, 705 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti. 6 p.m. June 22.

THEATER

Civic/Community Theater

Oliver! \$15-35. The Crowell Opera House, 129 E. Maumee St., Adrian. June 13 - 22. 517-264-SHOW. Crowell.org

Or \$12. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at A2CT Studio, 322 W Ann St., Ann Arbor. June 20 - 22. 734-971-2228. a2ct.org

Rent \$20. Project DayDream at Congregational Church of Birmingham, 1000 Cranbrook Road, Bloomfield Hills. June 26 - 29. projectdaydream.org

The King and I \$7-15. The Twin City Players, 600 W. Glenford Road, St. Joseph. Through June 29. 269-429-0400. twincityplayers.org

The Sunshine Boys \$7-24. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Through June 22. 269-343-1313. kazoozoo.org

The Wizard of Oz \$22-30 in advance; \$2 extra at the door (if available). Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. Through June 22. 248-541-6430. stagecrafters.org

College/University Theater

Fools Free. Lansing Community College Performing Arts at Outdoor Amphitheatre, Washington Mall between Dart Auditorium & the Gannon Building, Lansing. June 25 - 29. 517-483-1488. lcc.edu/showinfo

Professional

A Raisin in the Sun \$15-24. Hope Sumer Repertory Theatre at Knickerbocker Theatre, 86 E. Eighth St., Holland. June 18 - July 1. 616-395-7890. hope.edu/hsrt

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day \$15. Hope Sumer Repertory Theatre at DeWitt Studio Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. June 25 - Aug. 8. 616-395-7890. hope.edu/hsrt

Cabaret \$33-35. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Through June 29. 269-343-2727. farmersalleytheatre.com

Call Me Cass Suggested donation of \$10. Y Arts at Marlene Boll Theatre inside the Boll Family YMCA, 1401 Broadway St., Detroit. June 27 - 28. ymcdetroit.org/yarts

Cole Porter's You Never Know \$25-40. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. Through June 22. 248-377-3300. mbtheatre.com

ComedySportz Michigan Actors Studio, 648 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Through Aug. 30. 877-636-3320. comedysportzdetroit.com

Coriolanus \$7-14. Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company at Dog Story Theater, 7 Jefferson SE, Grand Rapids. June 19 - 28. dogstorytheater.com

Crane Maden \$10 adult, \$5 child. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. Through June 28. 313-961-7777. puppetart.org

Detroit Free. Summer Circle Theatre at Michigan State University Auditorium Building, Lawn by the Red Cedar River, Grand River and Auditorium Road, East Lansing. June 18 - 21. 517-355-6690. theatre.msu.edu/index.php/productions/summer-circle-theatre/

Endangered Species \$17-20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through June 22. 313-868-1347. detroitreptheatre.com

Gay Play Series (GPS) \$10-30. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. June 20 - 30. 248-545-5545. theringwald.com

Improv Mondays \$5 at the door. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. 313-365-4948. planetant.com

My Dearest Friend \$20. The Snug Theatre and Gem Theatrics, 160 S. Water St., Marine City. Through June 22. 810-278-1749. thesnugtheatre.com

Ruthless Free. Summer Circle Theatre at Michigan State University Auditorium Building, Lawn by the Red Cedar River, Grand River and Auditorium Road, East Lansing. June 25 - 28. 517-355-6690. theatre.msu.edu/index.php/productions/summer-circle-theatre/

Sandbox Play Festival \$10-15. Tipping Point Theatre, Genittis Hole in the Wall, 108 E. Main St., Northville. June 20 - 22. 248-347-0003. tippingpointtheatre.com

Shakespeare in Hollywood \$35. Barn Theatre, 13351 W. M-96, Augusta. Through June 22. 269-731-4121. barntheatre.com

Sirius Broadway \$50-100. Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley, Detroit. 7:30 p.m. June 20. 313-967-0999. matrixtheatre.org

Steam Heat \$39-42. Mason Street Warehouse, Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. June 27 - July 13. 269-857-2399. sc4a.org

Stone Soup: A Wrap Opera \$5-8. Wayne State Summer Children's Theatre at Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. June 19 - 29. 313-577-2972. wsushows.com

Stonewall Rapture \$20. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 7 p.m. June 22. 269-756-3879. acorntheater.com

Storytelling in the New Leaf Lounge \$10. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8:30 p.m. June 19. 269-756-3879. acorntheater.com

The Dixie Swim Club \$35-41. The Dio - Dining and Entertainment, 135 E. Main St., Pinckney. Through July 6. 517-672-6009. diotheatre.com

The Last Romance \$18.50-42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Aug. 30. 734-433-7673. purplerosetheatre.org

See Happenings, page 30

www.PrideSource.com

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Beyond simply advertising, though, these companies support us in many ways, including sponsoring community events and funding community-based charities in order to earn our loyalty.

Taking an annual pulse on market trends through surveys helps demonstrate the LGBT community's growing power, and influences positive change.

Everyone who completes the survey by June 30, 2014 may enter into a drawing to win one of five US \$100 cash prizes, or designate a non-profit charity to receive the prize.



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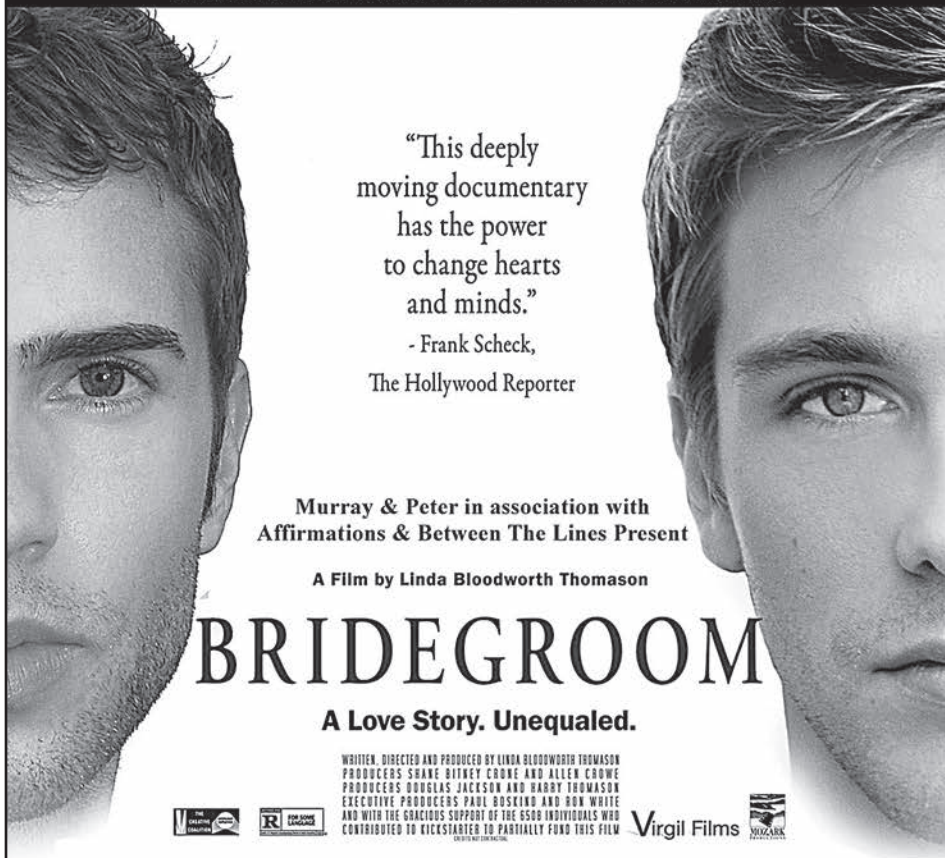
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Adams Family Values On Stage At The Snug

BY JOHN QUINN

They say that “behind every great man there’s a great woman.” That truism has seldom been more apparent than in the admirable partnership between John and Abigail Adams. A glimpse into that 54-year relationship is brought to The Snug Theatre by the husband and wife acting team of Gary E. Mitchell and Mary Beth Quillin in “My Dearest Friend.”

For those of you who stayed awake in American History class, you know John Adams as first vice-president of the U. S. and our second president – an apolitical man who served only one term because his more aggressive vice-president, Thomas Jefferson, pulled the rug from under him. Unless you have read David McCullough’s splendid biography; entitled, not surprisingly, “John Adams,” you are probably less aware of the pivotal role of his wife and “level-headed councilor,” Abigail.

Michigan playwright Mary G. Kron meticulously researched her project, but was more fortunate than most historians in having primary resources for recreating historical figures. John inherited a farm in Braintree, Mass., but was also a Harvard-educated lawyer. First his law practice and later his government and diplomatic work took him away from home – for months and years at a time. Abigail aptly managed their affairs. They were prolific letter writers – and some 1,200 of them were preserved. Excerpts have been crafted into a sort of dialogue; they are the meat and sinew of this charming play.

Historian Joseph Ellis noted that the letters between John and Abigail “constituted a treasure trove of unexpected intimacy and candor, more revealing than any other correspondence between a prominent American husband and wife in American history.” Indeed. Although Abigail was home schooled, she possessed an intellect as sharp as her husband’s. She was a thinker far ahead of her time, and her opinions and council figured heavily in John’s political philosophy. Consider this quote from one of her letters: “If perticular care and attention is not paid to the Ladies we are determined to foment a Rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any Laws in which we have no voice, or Representation.” Bear in mind spelling wasn’t standardized until that fussy Webster published his dictionary in 1828. John and Abigail



Gary E. Mitchell and Mary Beth Quillin in “My Dearest Friend.” Photo courtesy of The Snug Theatre

INFO

My Dearest Friend

GEM Theatrics at The Snug Theatre,
160 S. Water St., Marine City. 7 p.m.
Thursday-Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday
through June 22. 1 hour, 55 minutes.
\$20. 810-278-1749.

www.thesnugtheatre.com

are a couple you’d like to know better.

The fact that Mitchell and Quillin are married brings a spark of real-life to their performances – there’s less “getting into character.” Since the source material is written in formal, turn-of-the-19th century language, the delivery is sometimes convoluted, but always well-articulated. Don’t bother trying to parse sentences; just sit back and go with the flow.

“My Dearest Friend” is referred to above as a “dialogue,” but it’s an unusual one. The original exchanges were written, not spoken, and the play is set some time after Abigail’s death in 1818. She speaks as a revived spirit in John’s memory, and the exchanges, once confined only to paper, can live again.

The couple debate politics, philosophy, animal husbandry,

economics – the significant and insignificant details of people separated by circumstance but not by emotion. We hear a little biased opinion about their famous contemporaries: Washington (elevated to sainthood), Jefferson (poseur), Hamilton (hypocritical scum) and Franklin (depraved). There are references to other people and events that are less well known, and therein lay the only snag in this tale.

I have read McCullough’s biography and came away from it with the same love and admiration for John and Abigail as the author found in his research. I have the context, then, to identify the topics written about. I know the stories of the various figures. I know, for instance, that Alexander Hamilton suborned members of Adams’ cabinet and was instrumental in the president’s defeat in the election of 1800. I know the sad stories of their children. But how many others in the audience will have the historical knowledge to understand the circumstances behind their story? Or does it matter?

“My Dearest Friend” is not a history book. It is the intimate story of two extraordinary people that transcends history. That’s a tale worth telling.

Naked Men's YOGA

Meets in Ann Arbor

TUESDAYS AND SATURDAYS 6:30-7:30 PM

Contact Dave at message4@aol.com

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/michigan_mens_clothing_optional_yoga

Solution to puzzle from page 28

W	E	P	T		S	T	O	C	K		O	L	G	A		
E	S	A	I		N	O	P	A	R		M	A	R	Y		
T	O	R	T		O	N	E	N	O		E	T	R	E		
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D	R	Y	E	R		C	A	L		S	A	R	A	N		
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M	E	N	S			S	I	N	G	S		B	L	E	W	



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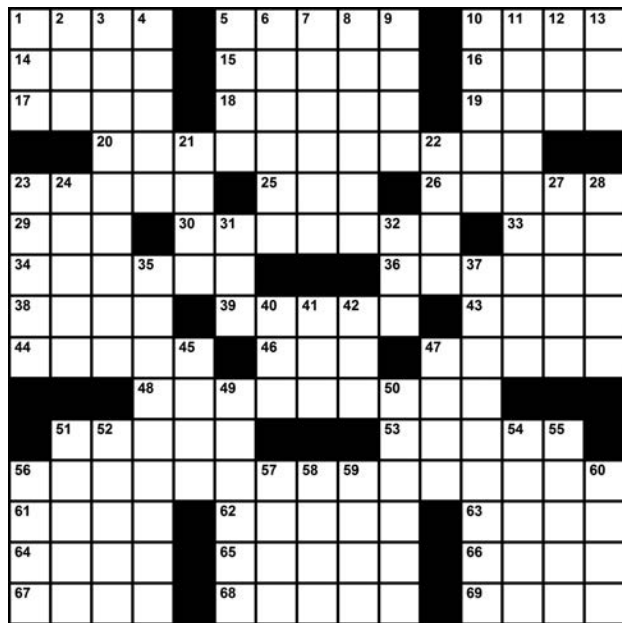


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Across

- 1 Secreted a fluid onto the face
- 5 Type of market for bears
- 10 Poet Broumas
- 14 Morales of "Resurrection Blvd."
- 15 Wall Street term
- 16 Madonna, in a creche
- 17 Legal wrong
- 18 Bridge bid, briefly
- 19 Verb of Verlaine
- 20 Movie about Armand and Albert
- 23 One goes from here back into the closet
- 25 Ariz. neighbor
- 26 Filmmaker Nishit
- 29 Brynner of "The King and I"
- 30 Fez features
- 33 Hot temper
- 34 Murdoch with a flower?
- 36 Comes to rest
- 38 When doubled, Mork's good-bye
- 39 Start of Maya Angelou's comment about Albert?
- 43 "Queen of Country" McEntire
- 44 Close of "Serving in Silence"
- 46 Rilke's I
- 47 Reef buildup
- 48 How tops like to see their dates?
- 51 Thief's hoard
- 53 Drive erratically
- 56 More of the comment
- 61 Sauteed leftovers, perhaps
- 62 Mixed-up fruits
- 63 Lysol target
- 64 Personal lubricant ingredient
- 65 Totally absurd
- 66 "Margaret Mead ___ Me Gay"
- 67 Part of YMCA
- 68 End of the comment
- 69 Pleasured orally

Down

- 1 Astroglide alternative
- 2 Kahlo's that
- 3 "What's your sign?," for example?
- 4 Support Metropolitan Community Church, e.g.
- 5 Type of appeal
- 6 Pick-me-ups
- 7 Britten's "Billy Budd" and "Peter Grimes"
- 8 Elton's light in the wind
- 9 Fast food pioneer
- 10 Last letter for Socrates
- 11 Party guy, after a night of cruising
- 12 Warning from Toto
- 13 Always, to Shakespeare
- 21 "Ziegfeld Follies" costume designer
- 22 The A in GLARP
- 23 Like faint embers
- 24 Like Gomer's Mayberry
- 27 Caribbean vacation spot
- 28 Mt. Everest locale
- 31 Sophie B. Hawkins' "___ Lay Me Down"
- 32 "Ben Hur" novelist Wallace
- 35 Tans at South Beach
- 37 Shock everyone
- 40 Do-it-yourselfer's purchase
- 41 Sgt. or corp.
- 42 Bit of resistance on the circuit
- 45 Enjoy some ladyfingers, e.g.
- 47 Prompted on Broadway
- 49 Main argument
- 50 Garbo, and others
- 51 Oil source
- 52 Cicely of "Fried Green Tomatoes"
- 54 Gore in the library
- 55 Eat away at
- 56 George Michael's band
- 57 "___ Get a Witness" (Marvin Gaye)
- 58 "Six Feet Under" creator Ball
- 59 Type of bang
- 60 Barrymore of "Boys on the Side"

Solution on pg. 27

Classifieds

01-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AA MEETINGS

Ann Arbor-Friday

7:30 pm, St. Andrews Episcopal Church Gay AA, 306 N. Division St. Closed/Discussion.

Bloomfield Hills-Sunday / Tuesday / Thursday

8:00 pm, North Woodward Equality, Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, lower level classroom - enter first walkway off Woodward entrance. Big Book/12 & 12 Meeting.

Detroit-Tuesday / Friday

8:00 pm, Downtown Gay AA, Fort Street Presbyterian Church, 631 West Fort St. Closed/Discussion (Open 1st Friday of every month).

Farmington Hills-Monday

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

Ferndale-Monday / Wednesday / Friday

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

Ferndale-Saturday

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

8 p.m. Go After Your Sobriety Gay AA, Drayton Ave Presbyterian Church, 2441 Pinecrest. Closed/Discussion.

Livonia-Friday

8 p.m., West Side Story's Gay AA, Providence Medical Center, 7 Mile & Newburgh. Closed/Discussion.

Warren-Monday

7:30 p.m., Eastside Serenity Gay AA, Odd Fellow's Hall, 830 S Monroe St Closed/Discussion.

101-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AL ANON

Diversity Wednesday Al-Anon Family Group

Wednesday 8pm
St. Luke's Parrish Hall (in basement)
Lewiston & Livernois, Ferndale MI
Closed Meeting

Go After Your Serenity (G.A.Y.S.) Al-Anon Family Group

Saturday's 8pm
Drayton Ave. Presbyterian Church (in basement)
Pinecrest & Drayton, Ferndale
Closed Meeting

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► Happenings

Continued from p. 24

The Red King's Dream \$20-30. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through June 29. 248-347-0003. tippingpointtheatre.com

The Sound of Music \$10-40. Arbor Opera Theater at Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 N. University, Ann Arbor. Through June 22. 734-763-8587. arboropera.com

The Sound of Music \$15-30. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through Aug. 7. 616-395-7890. hope.edu/hstr

The Summer Circle Free. Summer Circle Theatre at Michigan State University Auditorium Building, Lawn by the Red Cedar River, Grand River and Auditorium Road, East Lansing. Through June 28. 517-355-6690. theatre.msu.edu/index.php/productions/summer-circle-theatre/

The Weird Free. Summer Circle Theatre at Michigan State University Auditorium Building, Lawn by the Red Cedar River, Grand River and Auditorium Road, East Lansing. Through June 28. 517-355-6690. theatre.msu.edu/index.php/productions/summer-circle-theatre/

The Wizard of Oz \$24-79. Broadway in Detroit, Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. June 17 - 29. 313-237-SING. broadwayindetroit.com

When It Rains, It Pours \$10. Shawn P Entertainment at Fairhill Missionary Baptist Church, 11715 Livernois, Detroit. 6 p.m. June 28. 1-800-838-3006. brownpapertickets.com

ART 'N' AROUND

Art Detroit Now "3rd Thursdays in Detroit" 45+ local galleries and retail locations stay open until 9 p.m. to offer the best in contemporary art. Multiple, Detroit. Aug. 15 - Oct. 16. artdetroitnow.com

Cranbrook Art Museum "Culture Breakers: The Living Structures of Ken Isaacs". Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. June 21 - Oct. 5. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookart.edu

Cranbrook Art Museum "Ephemera: Fragments from Cranbrook's Social Life" A rich and varied look at the ephemera that illustrates Cranbrook's social life during the 20th century. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. May 1 - Sep. 28. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookart.edu

Cranbrook Art Museum "Warhol On Vinyl: The Record Covers, 1949-1987+" Drawing from the world's preeminent collection of record covers by Andy

Warhol, this exhibition showcases how Warhol used the record cover as a means to popularize his name and directly impact popular culture. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. June 21 - Oct. 31. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookart.edu

Cranbrook Art Museum "Paul Evans: Crossing Boundaries and Crafting Modernism" The first comprehensive survey of Paul Evans's work, this exhibition documents Evans's role in the mid-century American studio furniture movement. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. June 21 - Oct. 12. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookart.edu

Cranbrook Art Museum "Saarinen House: A Total Work of Art" Designed in the late 1920s, the house served as the home and studio of Eliel Saarinen and Loja Saarinen from 1930 through 1950. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. May 1 - Oct. 31. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookart.edu

Detroit Artists Market (DAM) "313" Nine preeminent photographers whose striking visuals form a tribute to the city we love. Detroit Artists Market, 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 6 - July 12. 313-832-8540. detroitartistsmarket.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "Detroit -- Bruce Weber" Photographs. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 20 - Sep. 7. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "Let Me Show You What I Saw: American Views on City and Country, 1912-1963" Whether they were captivated by quiet fields or looming buildings, artists' visions were becoming increasingly personal and abstract, going beyond the merely visible to suggest a world filled with feeling and meaning. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Dec. 1 - June 29. 313-833-7900. ww. Dia.org

Downriver Council for the Arts "Adult Watercolor Class" Facilitated by Shirley Clungan. Drop-in. Open to beginners to advanced. Students bring own supplies. List available at first class or in DCA office. Admission: \$10. Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. Aug. 7 - June 25. 734-720-0671. Downriverarts.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Kathleen Gilje: Portraits of Paintings" Meticulously rendered new incarnations of old masterpieces. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. May 2 - July 20. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

Henry Ford Museum "Women Who Rock: Vision, Passion, Power" Women Who Rock is an unprecedented chance to revisit the musicians who helped shape the soundtrack of your life - innovators like Madonna and Aretha Franklin, Janis Joplin and Tina

Turner and dozens of others. Henry Ford Museum, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. May 27 - Aug. 17. 313-982-6001. Thehenryford.org/events/womenWhoRock.aspx

Level One Bank "ART Exhibit Featuring Anthony Bacon" Mr. Bacon presents Images depicting Detroit & S. E. Michigan. The artists opening will be on Friday, May 30 from 3 - 6 p.m. The artist works vary in style and range from abstract to realistic. Many music & techno related themes will be shown. Level One Bank, 22635 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. May 30 - July 28. 248-414-6500.

MOCAD "Dara Friedman: Projecting". Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. May 16 - July 27. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

MOCAD "Mobile Homestead" A permanent art work by the late Mike Kelley. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 1 - June 30. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

Museum of New Art (MONA) "Rendering Carbon: The Art of Exploring an Element" A talk with Ian Boyden scheduled for 3 p.m. on May 18. Museum of New Art (MONA), 15655 33 Mile Road, Armada. May 16 - June 20. 248-210-7560. Detroitmona.com

One 313 Workshops "Faces of God (Ritual Masks)" For ages 4+. Free. Number House, Heidelberg Project, 3632 Heidelberg St., Detroit. 12 p.m. June 21. 313-974-6894. Heidelberg.org

Pewabic Pottery "Martha Grover & Kala Stein Exhibition" Executing two different approaches, these artists explore the vessel by creating sculptural forms and installations through their traditionally utilitarian function. Pewabic Pottery, 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit. May 16 - June 29. 313-626-2000. Pewabic.org

River's Edge Gallery "Motor City Griot Society: Forty Statements" The work of Steve Glazer. River's Edge Gallery, 3024 Biddle, Wyandotte. June 20 - July 2. 734-246-9880.

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "The Lake Effect: Contemporary Art at Ox-Bow". Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. June 12 - Aug. 23. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

The Friends of Modern Art "Flint Art Fair". Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. June 21 - June 22. 810-234-1695. Flintartfair.org

University Of Michigan Museum Of Art (UMMA) "An Eye on the Empire: Photographs of Colonial India and Egypt" The zenith of the British Empire in the later nineteenth century coincided with a unique convergence of cultural, technological, and economic forces. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. April 1 - June 29. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

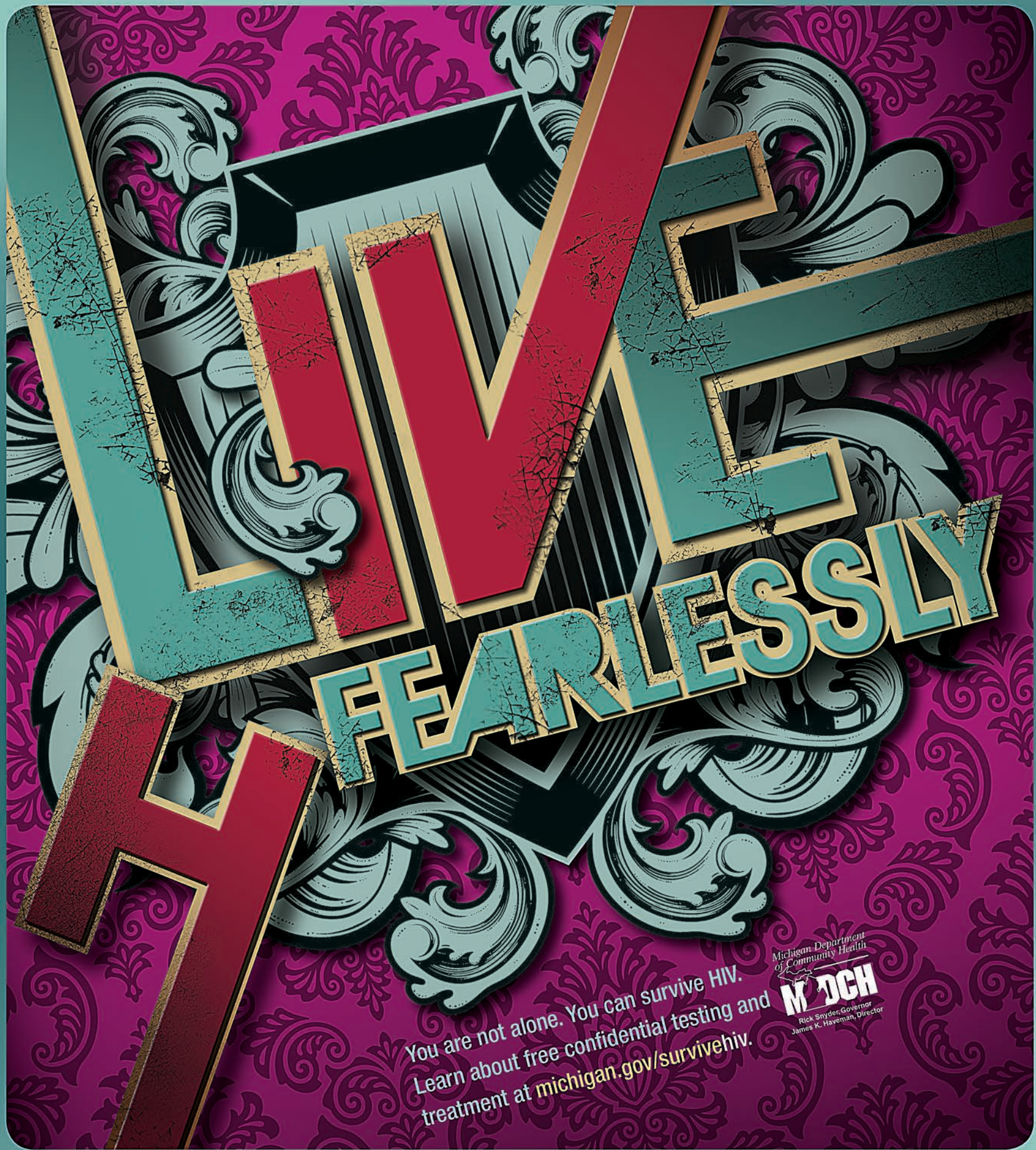
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