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Brian, age 45, California

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COVER

22 It's good to be Takei



NEWS

- 4 LGBT equality debate used as campaign fodder by far right
- 5 Glenn causes more controversy in 98th House race primary
- 8 The best of Hotter Than July 2014
- 10 Michigan marriage case gets 6th circuit hearing
- 11 Rallies and march for marriage equality planned in Michigan, Ohio

OPINION

- 12 Parting Glances
- 13 Why trans exclusion at Michfest must finally end
- 13 Boycott Michfest till trans inclusion a reality
- 14 Creep of the Week

TRAVEL

- 16 Michigan goes to Ohio
- 18 Tips for your Market Days trip
- 21 Douglas-Saugatuck hosts gay prince

LIFE

- 26 Hear Me Out
- 28 The end of an era at Robert Kidd Gallery
- 30 Happenings
- 32 Puzzle
- 34 All hail the drag queen

Painting trans* women as dangerous is drinking the extremist Kool-Aid. It naively ignores the violence we do to each other by claiming that we can be in a space that accepts intolerance and degradation and still be safe.

— Equality Michigan Executive Director Emily Dievendorf, pg. 13



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ELECTIONS



Election 2014: Aug. 5 Primary Could See Openly Gay Candidates Advance Across Michigan

With elections just around the corner, several openly gay and hundreds of LGBT-affirming candidates are running across Michigan. Keep up with the excitement online at www.Pridesource.com

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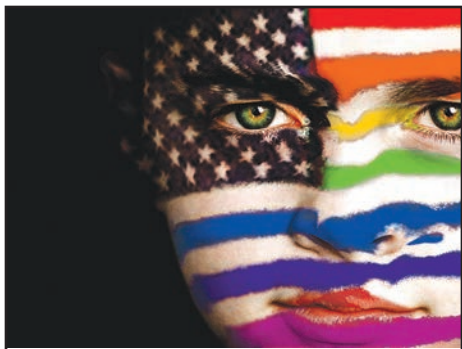
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VOTE AUG. 5

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Right wing activists are targeting a pro-equality, northern Michigan Republican for ouster over his support for adding sexual orientation and gender identity to the state's civil rights law. Conservative activist, former Republican lawmaker and resident of Wisconsin Jack Hoogendyk sent a plea for funding for Lee Chatfield's challenge of Rep. Frank Foster (R-107) on July 23.

"For those of you who are not aware, there is an election in Northern Michigan upon which all eyes in Lansing are focused, and which could have a huge impact in determining our future religious liberty," the email, paid for by The Institute for Conservative Enlightenment PAC continues, "This election features Republican incumbent Rep. Frank Foster of Petoskey who has become a crusader for the homosexual agenda. Foster has requested language for a bill, which would add homosexuals to the Michigan civil rights code. The question in this election is whether a Republican can champion the radical homosexual agenda and survive politically. Many squishy Republicans are watching to see how this will come out."

The email goes on to request financial support for Chatfield, who works as a teacher for a Christian academy in northern Michigan.

"People of faith have a lot riding on this election," the fundraising request concludes. "You can help to send a powerful message to Lansing about Republicans who embrace the radical homosexual agenda, one with which the House Speaker, the Senate Leader and the Governor are all currently flirting. Any financial help you could give to Lee would be vitally important to the outcome of this race."

Equality Debate

While Foster has been a voice for equality in the GOP dominated state house, he has not been endorsed by Equality Michigan's PAC. The battle in the 107th is not the only place in Michigan where equality is campaign fodder. On Monday, The Madison Project PAC, a rightwing political action committee run by Hoogendyk, issued endorsements in races across the state. In the endorsement announcement, Hoogendyk

LGBT Equality Debate Used As Campaign Fodder By Far Right

Aug. 5 Primary Snapshot Sees Critical Ideological Battle Underway In Michigan Republican Party

claims Republicans in Lansing are prepared to increase the gas tax – a move being contemplated to fix Michigan's crumbling roads – and "pass legislation to discriminate against Christian businesses that don't want to participate in homosexual wedding ceremonies."

The latter allegation is an assault on legislation to amend Michigan's civil rights law, Elliot-Larsen, to include sexual orientation and gender identity. Right wing advocates fear amending the law will result in a floodgate of complaints against businesses that refuse to provide services to people based on their real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. Advocates often cite the case of a Colorado bakery that was recently punished by the state for refusing to bake a cake for a same-sex marriage celebration.

Equality Michigan said it was busy focusing "on moving Michigan forward," and would not respond to the allegations in the Madison Project release.

Anti-Gay Tom McMillin Seeks U.S. Rep. Seat

Meanwhile, conservative state representative Tom McMillin is waging a campaign by U.S. mail to replace retiring 8th Congressional Rep. Mike Rogers. Rogers announced earlier this year that he was retiring from Congress after seven terms in order to pursue a radio show. McMillin is in a pitched battle for the Republican nomination against former Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop. Bishop is the odds on establishment choice; McMillin is being supported by Tea Party groups.

McMillin has sent at least six mailings to voters in the district, which spans Ingham, Livingston and northern Oakland counties. In the most recent piece, he promises to "stop the invasion" of unaccompanied children from Central America.

Despite his blanket mailings to the district, McMillin is trailing Bishop by 12 points according to an EPIC-MRA poll. The Free

Press reports that when polling participants were informed that Bishop had been endorsed by Rogers, his lead jumped to 52 percent over McMillin's 32 percent. McMillin tells the Free Press his internal polling shows him down by 8 points. He told the paper that his votes increase when voters are told he has been endorsed by the Tea Party Express.



From left candidates Rudy Serra (State Rep 27th District), Jon Hoadley (State Rep 60th District), Jeremy Moss (State Rep 35th District) and Garnet Lewis (State Senate 32nd District).

Moving into the primary election in August, according to July 15 financial reports filed with the Federal Elections Commission, Bishop had raised \$344,525.91, with \$231,073.50 on hand. McMillin raised \$180,662.98 and had \$129,351.99 on hand.

Attorney General Schuette Faces Uphill Battle

In the race for Attorney General, incumbent Bill Schuette, a Republican, got bad news last week when a new statewide poll from EPIC-MRA found he was facing an uphill battle in his bid for re-election. The poll found only 39 percent of voters planned to cast their ballot for him. Democratic challenger Mark Totten got 33 percent, while 28 percent of voters were undecided.

Bernie Porn, pollster for EPIC-MRA, says those numbers should concern Schuette, but MLive reports the AG is not worried. In fact, Tim Skubick reports at MLive that the AG – who has fought marriage equality, the Affordable Care Act and medical marijuana

implementation – expects to win the November general election by "6-7 points."

Governor's Race Tightens, Peters In Lead For U.S. Senate Seat

In the gubernatorial race, Democrat Mark Schauer has closed a 9 point gap in his challenge to Republican Gov. Rick Snyder. Schauer is now trailing Snyder by only 3 points, within the poll's four percent margin of error. In the race to replace retiring Senator Carl Levin (D-Detroit), Democrat Gary Peters is leading former Republican Secretary of State and defacto Republican nominee for Senate Terri Lynn Land by 9 points.

Openly LGBT Candidates

Four openly gay candidates seeking state office Aug. 5 have been endorsed by BTL as follows:

- Garnet Lewis is running in the 32nd District which includes Saginaw, Zilwaukee, Tittabawassee Township, Frankenmuth and Swartz Creek. Check out the campaign website www.garnetlewis.com.

- Jon Hoadley is running for State Representative in the 60th District which includes Kalamazoo and Kalamazoo Township. Hoadley is squaring off against David Buskirk and Pamela Brown Goodacre is a hotly contested seat. Hoadley has outraised and outspent his primary opponents according to campaign finance reports.

Check out the campaign website www.jonhoadley.com.

- Jeremy Moss is running for State Representative in the 35th District which includes Southfield and Lathrup Village. Check out the campaign website www.jeremyforsouthfield.com.

- Rudy Serra is running for State Representative for the 27th District which is made up of several South Oakland County communities including Hazel Park, Ferndale and Berkley. Check out the campaign website <http://rudyserra.ngpvanhost.com>.

Glenn Causes More Controversy In 98th House Race Primary

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Gary Glenn, head of the American Family Association of Michigan, is once again causing controversy in state politics. This time, Glenn is a candidate for the 98th House district of Michigan. He is running as a Republican.

But a DeVos family backed political group – The Great Lakes Education Project at www.glep.org – is not only supporting his rival for the nomination, Karl Ieuter, but also sending a mailing to the district which has some of Glenn's rightwing ministerial supporters gnashing their teeth. The winner of the primary is expected to replace Tony Stamas, who has served three terms in the House and is ineligible to seek another term.

The mailing, attacking Glenn on his support of the FAIR tax scheme, notes that he has argued gays should be imprisoned and that he has publicly supported essays written by white supremacists. The latter allegations sent a group of black pastors, with deep ties to Glenn's anti-gay activism, into overdrive on Monday.

"In retaliation, GLEP is now funding false and malicious attacks that accuse Gary of wanting to imprison all gay citizens," the pastors wrote in a press release circulated by Stacy Swimp, a minister from the Flint area who spent years in prison after being convicted of assault with intent to murder. "Worse, and this is where we come in, they unbelievably accuse Gary of endorsing 'white supremacists' and 'Klan leaders.'"

Glenn has, indeed, said he believes people should be imprisoned for homosexuality. In February 2010, Glenn told the Michigan Messenger that he supported calls by Family Research Council employee Peter Sprigg for re-criminalizing homosexuality. Sprigg had made the claim in support of his opposition to repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" – the law that excluded out gay service members in the U.S. military.

"The short answer to your question is yes, we believe that states should be free to regulate and prohibit behavior that's a violation of community standards and a proven threat to public health and safety – including, as of the United States did throughout its history, homosexual behavior," Glenn wrote to Messenger at the time. He was responding to whether or not he supported re-criminalizing homosexuality.

Glenn's KKK Connection

The rightwing radical has also championed the writings of known white nationalists. When Republican National Committeemen Dave Agema came under fire a year ago for relying on the writings of Dr. Frank Joseph, Glenn posted a note to salute and thank Agema via Facebook message for posting the letter. The letter



Gary Glenn, head of the American Family Association of Michigan and longtime anti-gay crusader, has the support of conservative black ministers who are downplaying his extremist views that are connected to the KKK and to imprisoning gay people.

from Joseph alleged, among other things, that homosexuals accounted for half of all murders in large cities, that a large swath of homosexuals are infested with intestinal parasites, homosexuals prey on children and that 21 percent of lesbians die in traffic accidents, suicide or the result of murder.

Information in the posting is sourced to propaganda written by Edward Fields. Fields is an active participant in Georgia KKK activities, reported MLive's Ken Braun. He has also alleged the Holocaust was not nearly as bad as history teaches.

The press release supporting Glenn from black pastors was signed by, among others, Bishop Ira Combs of Jackson and Rev. Levon Yuille of Ypsilanti. Both Combs and Yuille, ironically, signed onto Glenn's failed federal lawsuit challenging the federal hate crimes law, formally known as the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act. Shepard was a gay man who was robbed, savagely beaten and hung on a fence in Laramie, Wyoming in the 90s. Byrd was a black

The mailing, attacking Glenn on his support of the FAIR tax scheme, notes that he has argued gays should be imprisoned and that he has publicly supported essays written by white supremacists. The latter allegations sent a group of black pastors, with deep ties to Glenn's anti-gay activism, into overdrive on Monday.

man who was tied to a truck bumper and dragged to his death in Texas during that same period. Both crimes were motivated by animus, court records show.

Emails to Stacy Swimp seeking to clarify if the pastors supported Glenn's call for re-criminalization of homosexuality were not responded to by Swimp at press time.

Glenn has, indeed, said he believes people should be imprisoned for homosexuality.

BTL Strongly Endorses Statewide Candidates

BTL Strongly Endorses the following candidates this fall:

Mark Schauer for Michigan Governor
<http://markschauer.com>

Mark Totten for Michigan Attorney General
www.marktotten.com

Gary Peters for U.S. Senate
www.petersformichigan.com

Note that BTL endorsements for other statewide races will happen after the state political conventions held the weekend of Aug. 23 - 24.

BTL Strongly Endorses the following openly gay candidates in Aug. 5 primary:

Garnet Lewis is running in the 32nd District which includes Saginaw, Zilwaukee, Tittabawassee Township, Frankenmuth and Swartz Creek. Check out the campaign website www.garnetlewis.com

Jon Hoadley is running for State Representative in the 60th District which includes Kalamazoo and Kalamazoo Township. Check out the campaign website www.jonhoadley.com

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Rudy Serra is running for State Representative for the 27th District which is made up of several South Oakland County communities including Hazel Park, Ferndale and Berkley. Check out the campaign website <http://rudyserra.ngpvanhost.com>

Important Dates & Resources

Tuesday, Aug. 5 – Primary Election
Monday, Oct. 6 – Last day to register for Nov. 4 General Election

Tuesday, Nov. 4 – General Election
Check here for your current status as a registered voter in Michigan <https://webapps.sos.state.mi.us/mivote>

VOTER GUIDE 2014

BTL LGBT & Progressive Voter Guide will be compiled and distributed online at www.pridesource.com

Visit Pride Source Votes 2014 online as the election season moves forward for news and developments on candidates that will move the state forward toward full equality for LGBT citizens.

Register to receive your digital voter guide online at www.pridesource.com

Lesbian Couple See Home Ruined In Hate Crime Attack

BY AJ TRAGER

KALAMAZOO—A West Michigan lesbian couple came home to a hate crime coating their house. The Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center (KGLRC) reminds the Kalamazoo community that a state amendment to the Elliott-Larsen Act is imperative and forms a hate crimes Awareness Coalition.

“Move Or Die.” That is what a Katrina and Marashette Burks came home to on July 16, spray-painted all around their North side residence. Thieves broke into their house, stole items, destroyed their belongings and coated the walls with hateful and vulgar graffiti.

“They didn’t even have the decency to bring their own spray paint, they got the stuff off my back porch, so its really ridiculous,” said Katrina.

Their wedding photo that hung in the living room was smashed – their wedding album-gone. The couple cannot go anywhere in their home without seeing messages of hate.

“There’s been gay people since the beginning of time. We’re not going away. Regardless of how you feel about lesbians or homosexuals in general, keep them to yourself,” said Marashette.

Despite the threats, the Burks say they aren’t moving.

Kalamazoo Public Safety Chief Jeff Hadley said that the force will continue to investigate



The vandals spray painted the walls and other property in the couples’ home, including a wedding photo of them on the shelf. The couple also lost their wedding album.

the crime, but there are currently no suspects. Hadley also stated that his department cannot seek a hate crime charge because of Michigan’s statute which protects individuals against crimes due to “race, color, religion, gender, or national origin,” but not sexual orientation and gender identity.

“It’s a problem, because the LGBT community is a vulnerable population that is target of a specific hate, and crimes like that

go along with that hate, and to not have us as a protected class is a huge issue,” KLGRC Executive Director Jay Maddock said.

There have been several incidences of hate targeted at the Kalamazoo LGBT community in the past month, most of which have gone unreported to media due to fear, Maddock says, “And that’s a problem.”

Over 50 percent of LGBT individuals live in fear of targeted violence. Michigan is one

of 18 states which does not include sexual orientation in its hate crime legislation and one of 22 states that does not include gender identity in state hate crime legislation.

“When a hate crime happens to an individual or family in our community, it affects us all. The realization that it could have been any one of us quickly rises to the surface,” Maddock said. He believes there is no doubt that the couple was targeted for their sexual orientation.

“They broke into the home, stole items, but then they went the extra mile and included a message of hate,” Maddock said. “I saw the graffiti on the walls...This was a targeted crime.”

TOWN HALL AUG 13

Kalamazoo Resource Center

The KGLRC has called for community action to stay informed and keep others informed to always be alert and look out for one another and to get involved in LGBT community events. A community forum will be held on Aug.13. Check the KGLRC website for more information at www.kglrc.org.

Washtenaw County Candidates Rated On LGBT Issues

BY BTL STAFF

Ann Arbor’s Jim Toy Community Center (JTCC) has released the results from its first municipal candidate questionnaire for the 2014 Washtenaw County primary elections.

The survey was designed to gauge and elicit candidates’ commitments to LGBTQ issues and equality. Every candidate filed with the Washtenaw County Clerk’s office was delivered the questionnaire, which asked them to describe their level of personal involvement with the LGBT community and also included statements where candidates could agree or disagree with certain topics. Those topics included same-sex marriage, domestic health benefits and same-sex adoption. Each candidate was allowed open-ended responses to each question or statement.

The 25 candidates who responded were rated on a scale of 1-5, with 1 showing no support for LGBT equality and 5 showing the most support and understanding of LGBT equality and issues.

The results found:

JTCC, as a non-profit, does not give out endorsements and has created the ratings system to aide the LGBT community. The center is located at 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. Call 734-995-9867 or visit www.jimtoycenter.org for more information.

Keep up with LGBTQ politics and politicians in your area at www.pridesource.com/specialsection.html?section=guide-voter

Candidate	Office	Rating
Veronique Liem	Washtenaw County Circuit Court	5
Jane Bassett	Washtenaw County Probate Judge	5
Constance Jones	Washtenaw County Probate Judge	5
Tracy Van den Bergh	Washtenaw County Probate Judge	5
Kent Martinez-Krantz	Washtenaw County Commission (D1)	4
Felicia Brabec	Washtenaw County Commission (D4)	5
Victor Dobrin	Washtenaw County Commission (D5)	4.5
Wilma Gold-Jones	Washtenaw County Commission (D5)	5
Ruth Ann Jamnick	Washtenaw County Commission (D5)	4.5
Andrew LaBarre	Washtenaw County Commission (D7)	5
Jeffrey Gallatin	Washtenaw County Commission (D8)	2
Yusef Rabhi	Washtenaw County Commission (D8)	5
Conan Smith	Washtenaw County Commission (D9)	5
Amanda Edmonds	Ypsilanti Mayor	5
Peter Murdock	Ypsilanti Mayor	5
Brian Robb	Ypsilanti City Council (Ward 3)	5
Christopher Taylor	Ann Arbor Mayor	5
Sabra Briere	Ann Arbor Mayor	5
Sally Hart Petersen	Ann Arbor Mayor	5
Sumi Kaliasapathy	Ann Arbor City Council (Ward 1)	4.5
Kirk Westphal	Ann Arbor City Council (Ward 2)	5
Nancy Kaplan	Ann Arbor City Council (Ward 2)	4.5
Julie Grand	Ann Arbor City Council (Ward 3)	5
Samuel McMullen	Ann Arbor City Council (Ward 3)	3
Chuck Warpehoski	Ann Arbor City Council (Ward 5)	4



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The Best of Hotter Than July 2014

BY JASON A. MICHAEL



Nearly 60 people attended Hotter Than July's annual Gathering on LGBT Issues Friday. The conference took place at the Michigan State University Detroit Center in Midtown. Tim Retzliff, a longtime Between The Lines contributing writer and a doctoral graduate of Yale University, delivered the keynote address, which focused on African American LGBT History in Detroit from 1945 - 1985.

"It's history that's slowly being forgotten," Retzliff said. While he mentioned familiar names like Ruth Ellis and controversial minister Prophet Jones, Retzliff also spoke of lesser known early gay organizers in Detroit such as Leon DeMeunier and John Pierre Adams. He spoke of the separatism and racism that existed in Detroit's LGBT community.

"African Americans who were 'in the life' in the two decades after World War II had far different options for socializing than lesbian and gay whites," Retzliff said. "They were largely unwelcome at the white working class gay bars around Farmer and Bates during the 1940s and 1950s."

Applause at the end of Retzliff's presentation was thunderous. It was followed by a panel discussion on bridging the gap between the LGBT community's past and future. Later, the Hotter Than July Milestone Awards were presented. Awardees included veterans of Detroit's LGBT community Kofi Adoma, Hank Millbourne and Rev. Darlene Franklin as well as younger activists Bre' Campbell and Royale Theus.

"We believe that Hotter Than July is a space where we recognize not only our past but our future," said Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of KICK, the agency that produces Hotter Than July.

Visit www.pridesource.com for coverage of all 2014 HTJ events along with photo galleries.

BTL PHOTOS BY JASON A. MICHAEL

- 1 Rhiannon and Shawnda on the boat ride
- 2 Khaos Mizrahi at the picnic
- 3 Izaya Cole performing at the picnic
- 4 Bre', John and David on the boat ride
- 5 The men of Kappa Psi Kappa at the Film Festival
- 6 Cierra Malone performing at the picnic
- 7 Robert Tate and Curtis Lipscomb pose with Democratic vice gubernatorial candidate Lisa Brown at the brunch
- 8 Drummers at the candlelight vigil
- 9 Innocence Rodeo at the picnic
- 10 Jerome feeling the rhythm on the boat ride
- 11 Logan Mario performing at the picnic
- 12 An up and coming drummer at the vigil
- 13 Chico Showboi performing at the picnic
- 14 Nkozi and Austin at the picnic





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The DeBoer-Rowse family returns to court Aug. 5. They are seen here after the conclusion of the trial in March that led to Michigan's same-sex marriage ban being struck down. BTL file photo: Andrew Potter

Michigan Marriage Case Gets 6th Circuit Hearing

What Can We Expect From Aug. 6 Hearing?

BY JAY KAPLAN

With 92 federal and state cases currently pending in 33 states, and with federal district courts striking down state law prohibitions on same-sex couples marrying, almost on a weekly basis, we are witnessing tremendous judicial progress towards marriage equality. This could eventually lead to a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court on marriage equality for same-sex couples once and for all in all 50 states. Before we can get there, however, many of these favorable district court decisions are being appealed to the next level of federal courts, the Circuit Courts of Appeals. These Circuit Courts cover several states, and the Appeal Court decision involving one state can impact all of those covered states. As of this date, we have two favorable decisions out of the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals upholding federal district court decisions in Utah and Oklahoma in favor of marriage equality. Over the next several months we can expect more decisions from the various Circuit Court of Appeals which will impact when and how the U.S. Supreme Court will take up this issue.

Currently, the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals has scheduled a hearing date next Wednesday, Aug. 6 in the DeBoer v Snyder case, Michigan's marriage case, along with marriage cases

pending in Tennessee, Ohio and Kentucky. The DeBoer plaintiffs are represented by private counsel Dana Nessel, Carol Stanyar, Ken Mogill and Robert Sedler. You'll recall that on March 21, Federal District Court Judge Bernard Friedman struck down Michigan's prohibition on same-sex couples marrying as unconstitutional, in violation of the equal protection clause of the federal constitution. Judge Friedman issued an order enjoining the State of Michigan from continuing to enforce this prohibition. He did not "stay" (put on hold) his Order and, for almost a 24-hour period, the law in Michigan was that same-sex couples could marry. During this short window, more than 300 same-sex couples (in four counties - Ingham, Oakland, Muskegon and Washtenaw) legally married in Michigan. Michigan's Attorney General Bill Schuette and Gov. Snyder immediately appealed to the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals requesting a stay of Judge Friedman's Order. It was granted by the 6th Circuit pending the appeal by the State, meaning that no further marriage licenses could be issued to same-sex couples.

The following is some basic information about the DeBoer Appeal in the 6th Circuit and what we may or may not be able to expect at the Aug. 6 hearing.

See Marriage, next page

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DeBoer is the only case on appeal challenging a state's ban on the right to marry. The other cases involve appeals of decisions ordering the states to recognize legal marriages between same-sex couples performed in other states.

- The 6th Circuit covers four states: Michigan, Kentucky, Ohio and Tennessee. The Courtroom for the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals where cases are argued is in Cincinnati, Ohio.

- There are five marriage equality cases on appeal before the 6th Circuit and all five cases will be heard on August 6. The DeBoer appeal oral argument will be heard at 1 p.m. An hour has been scheduled for the argument, with both sides having 30 minutes.

- DeBoer is the only case on appeal challenging a state's ban on the right to marry. The other cases involve appeals of decisions ordering the states to recognize legal marriages between same-sex couples performed in other states. Ohio: Henry v Himes and Obergefell v Himes (recognizing out of state marriages for purposes of death certificate).

- Kentucky: Bourke v Beshear and Tennessee: Tanco v Haslem. These marriage recognition cases have been allotted 30 minutes - with 15 minutes for each side. Those cases will be heard after the DeBoer arguments. The 6th Circuit is expecting capacity crowds at these hearings and has set aside two overflow rooms for live streaming of the arguments.

- A three judge panel has been assigned to the case, as is typical with the Circuit Court of Appeals, despite the fact that there are a total of 14 sitting judges on the bench who hear cases (there is currently one vacancy on the Court). Those three judges (who have been appointed by the President of the United States for life terms) are Martha Craig Doughtrey (a Clinton appointee), Deborah Cook and Jeffrey Sutton (both appointees of George W. Bush). This panel will be hearing and deciding all five of the marriage related cases before the 6th Circuit. It's difficult to predict how they will decide based on the political affiliations of the Presidents who appointed them. Judge Sutton is considered a leader of conservative jurists on the 6th Circuit (he was Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia's clerk) and he is a member of the Federalist Society. However, he also was the first Republican Judge on a Circuit Court of Appeals to uphold the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act. It's safe to say, however, that there needs to be at least two votes out of the three to uphold the lower court decision in DeBoer.

- What is unique about the federal district decision in the DeBoer case is that it is the only marriage equality decision (other than the Perry case in California) where there was a full-fledged trial with both evidence and testimony supporting findings of fact.

This would seem to make the federal district decision less likely to be reversed on appeal. An appellate court reviews findings of law, not findings of fact.

- It is highly unlikely that the panel will issue a decision on any of these cases on Aug. 6th. All the cases have been thoroughly briefed, but it's much more likely that an opinion or opinions will be issued several months after the hearing date.

- The Court could issue one decision covering all five states, could issue five different opinions or could issue an opinion addressing the issue of marriage equality (DeBoer) and an opinion addressing the issue of recognizing legal marriages between same-sex couples granted in other states.

- These decisions will impact all four states in the 6th Circuit - so a favorable decision on marriage equality in DeBoer would impact not only Michigan, but Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee.

- The panel could decide to uphold the DeBoer decision - in favor of marriage equality. That doesn't necessarily mean that marriage licenses would have to immediately be issued in these four states. Michigan could (and most likely will) appeal this decision to the U.S. Supreme Court, and in doing so, they could request a stay of the Appeals Court favorable decision. They could also request an "en banc" rehearing of the case - asking that the entire panel of the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals review the appeal. If an en banc hearing is granted, this would obviously further delay a final decision from the 6th Circuit and any potential appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. (It should be noted that Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette had previously requested that the State's appeal be heard en banc, bypassing a three judge panel. This request was denied.

- The panel could reverse the lower court decision and hold that it is constitutional for states to deny same-sex couples the right to marry. If that does happen, the DeBoer plaintiffs could also request an en banc review or could appeal directly to the U.S. Supreme Court. Usually the Supreme Court is inclined to take a case where there are differing opinions coming from Circuit Court of Appeals (and here we would have the 6th Circuit reaching a decision that is at odds with the 10th Circuit).

Jay Kaplan is an attorney with the ACLU of Michigan and heads the LGBT project. He can be reached at jkaplan@aclumich.org.

Rallies And March For Marriage Equality Planned In Michigan And Ohio

BY AJ TRAGER

The 6th Circuit Court hearing is just around the corner and MI and OH marriage equality groups have worked hard to gather support for repealing the same-sex marriage ban. Several rallies and marches in both states have been organized. LGBT and allies are urged to bring their friends and family and show their support.

Ohio Gatherings

On Aug. 5, the eve of the hearing, a rally for marriage will be held in downtown Cincinnati at Lytle Park. The rally will be held from 5:30-7 p.m. and will feature speakers like former Ohio Governor Ted Strickland. Organizers of the event have asked attendees to wear red in support of marriage equality. Visit the Facebook website to sign up and get more info at www.facebook.com/events/328119387363737/.

There will be a march at noon the following day at the Cincinnati Federal Court House. The Midwest March for Equality will include OH, MI, TN and KY. The march will include a commitment ceremony and feature key speakers David Pepper, Joe Otis and Joshua Alan Snyder-Hill & Steven Steve Snyder-Hill. Coffee and donuts will be provided for those who participate early and arrive at 11:30 a.m. The march is expected to conclude around 3 p.m. For more info, visit the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/events/406902512782366/.

Michigan Gatherings

A marriage equality rally for those unable to make it to the Ohio events will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 5 in Flint at the Genesee County



Courthouse. Visit the Facebook page for more information and to RSVP at www.facebook.com/events/589041154549579/.

The Rally for Marriage in Michigan will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Aug. 5 at the First Presbyterian Church 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing.

Another rally for Michigan has been planned for the Detroit area, but a final location has yet to be decided. Follow pridesource.com to get up to date information on when and where to be for the 6th circuit rallies and marches.

For more information on the events to be held in Michigan go to <http://action.marriagemi.org/page/s/rally-for-marriage> and sign up.

Mich. Marriage Cases

In addition to the DeBoer case, there are four other marriage and relationship recognition cases in Michigan that have been filed in the federal district court against Gov. Snyder and the State of Michigan.

Bassett v Snyder (2012) – a federal lawsuit brought by the ACLU challenging a Michigan law that makes it illegal for certain public employers from offering health insurance benefits to same-sex partners of employees, even where - the eligibility criteria is unrelated to recognizing a same-sex relationship. A preliminary injunction was entered by Judge Lawson in 2013, preventing further enforcement of the law and we are awaiting a final judgment on the law which could permanently enjoin the law.

Caspar v Snyder (2014) – a federal lawsuit filed by the ACLU challenging the State of Michigan's refusal to recognize the legal marriages granted in Michigan as a result of the favorable decision in DeBoer (prior to a stay being entered). A motion hearing has been scheduled for Aug. 21 in Judge Michael Goldsmith's court in Flint.

Blankenship v Snyder (2014) – a federal lawsuit filed in the Eastern District challenging the State's refusal to recognize an out of state marriage, as a result of the decision in DeBoer. Plaintiffs are represented by Alec Gibbs.

Morgan v Snyder – a federal lawsuit filed in the Western District, challenging the State's refusal to recognize an out of state marriage, as a result of the decision in DeBoer. Plaintiffs are represented by Stephanie Myott of Rhoades and McKee.

JHVH's Door Bell Trade



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

It's hard to say if it's a good thing or an alarming thing, a plus or a minus for the city of Detroit, but there are 90,000 Jehovah's Witnesses in town for a second convention go around in two months.

When the JW's – everybody's unrelenting religious DBT (door bell trade) – were here in June the downtown area swarmed with 40,000 of these end times, apocalyptic zealots.

From my studio front porch vantage point, I'm counting the dozen or more Trinity Transportation buses that are dropping off and picking up these seemingly happy, conservatively dressed conventioners in front of the parking structure across from me.

There's a certain irony in the mode of pick up and deliverance by these rental yellow buses in that the JW's do not believe in the traditional Christian Trinity.

They also don't believe in a literal Hell, don't believe that Jesus is God don't celebrate Christmas or family birthdays, and are looking forward – eagerly, warning all in earshot – that a vindictive, vengeful Armageddon is just around the corner. (Misery loves company school of Christianity.)

JW's, like so many end-times American-founded millennialist religions – Seventh Day Adventist, Christadelphians, Worldwide Church of God and a host of other Left Behind fundygelicals – thrive and grow in times of global trouble, polar vortexes and political Tea Bagger disasters.

Back in the days of World War I, the JW recruitment campaign slogan was, "Millions Now Living Will Never Die!" These biblical alarmists at Bethel World Headquarters, Brooklyn, New York, predicted Jehovah's army of avenging angels would settle the score in 1914, then changed battle dates to 1925, 1950 and 1975.

The JW's no longer predict a specific trumpet shout for Armageddon, but tell any and all who will listen – or better still, purchase copies of Awake! and Watch Tower – ad nauseam – that it's time to repent, especially gays and lesbians. (They're currently sorting through 'transgenderism.' Oral sex was debated ten years ago.)

May I say, to the JW's credit, that a real plus for them as an American-based religion is that they don't get involved in politics. Theirs is a faith that truly practices – albeit by doctrinal default – separation of Church and State.

(JW's also don't salute the flag, say the Pledge of Allegiance or stand for the Star Spangled Banner, whether or not Aretha Franklin or Lady Gaga sings it. They do however drink alcohol. God knows it helps.)

I've been privileged to become artist friends with two ex JW's, Carl and Mariuca Wilson. Carl's a former elder; Mariuca, a once privileged member for several years of Bethel Headquarter staff. They met, fell in love, came to eventually realize that the JW theocracy was controlling and damaging to theirs and others' wellbeing and mental health.

Carl and Mariuca left the JW's, married and have since been disfellowshipped. No JW will associate with them. Carl's brother, well-known Ferndale massage therapist Steve, is gay, and Carl and Mariuca also left painfully saddened by the suicide death of a young gay kid who was told his life was an abomination to his doorbell ringing JHVH god. (Buzz off! Big Guy.)

Charles@pridesource.com

Equality Michigan Starts Petition To Change Michfest

BY BTL STAFF

Twenty-three years ago Nancy Burkholder was asked to leave the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival because she was not a "womyn-born-womyn." Since then, debate has taken place with festival owner Lisa Vogel and organizers of the festival and community members and artists across the country. On July 28, Equality Michigan called for an end to the "womyn-born-womyn" festival policy and is calling for an end to transgender exclusion at Michfest. It is asking the public to support the policy change by signing an online petition at <http://eqmi.us/mwfm14>.

"Finally, the reality is that the lesbian, gay and bisexual community cannot stand by any longer and pretend that any form of transgender discrimination can be painted over as a feminist or progressive issue. We must stand up, even if it is to our own, and make it clear that transgender women deserve to be treated as women in all settings. The comparison that a women's only festival is similar to a transgender only or people of color only event is offensive and unacceptable. The time

has come; we are drawing a line in the sand, this 'intention' can no longer stand," reads the petition page.

Equality Michigan is asking for support through the petition page and asking the public to sign the petition which states, "We have listened to your arguments over the past 23 years, and feel that we have waited long enough for you to catch up to the rest of us. The time has come, this 'intention' must come to an end. Until that happens, we are committed to the following:

"1. Demanding you end the 'womyn-born-womyn' intention at Michigan Womyn's Music Festival.

2. Request that Lisa Vogel, as co-founder and owner, meet with leaders of the transgender community and enter the space with an open mind to the notion that transgender womyn are womyn too, and have shared in their experiences.

4. Asking artists and attendees to act in harmony with their equal rights values and NOT attend the festival until the transgender discrimination ends, and instead support other women's events which are creating a safe space for transgender women so they can join as well.

5. Requesting that any artists participating this year speak against the policy while on stage.

6. Make it clear to any artists and vendors participating in the future that until this policy ends, their participation will be seen as anti-transgender discrimination.

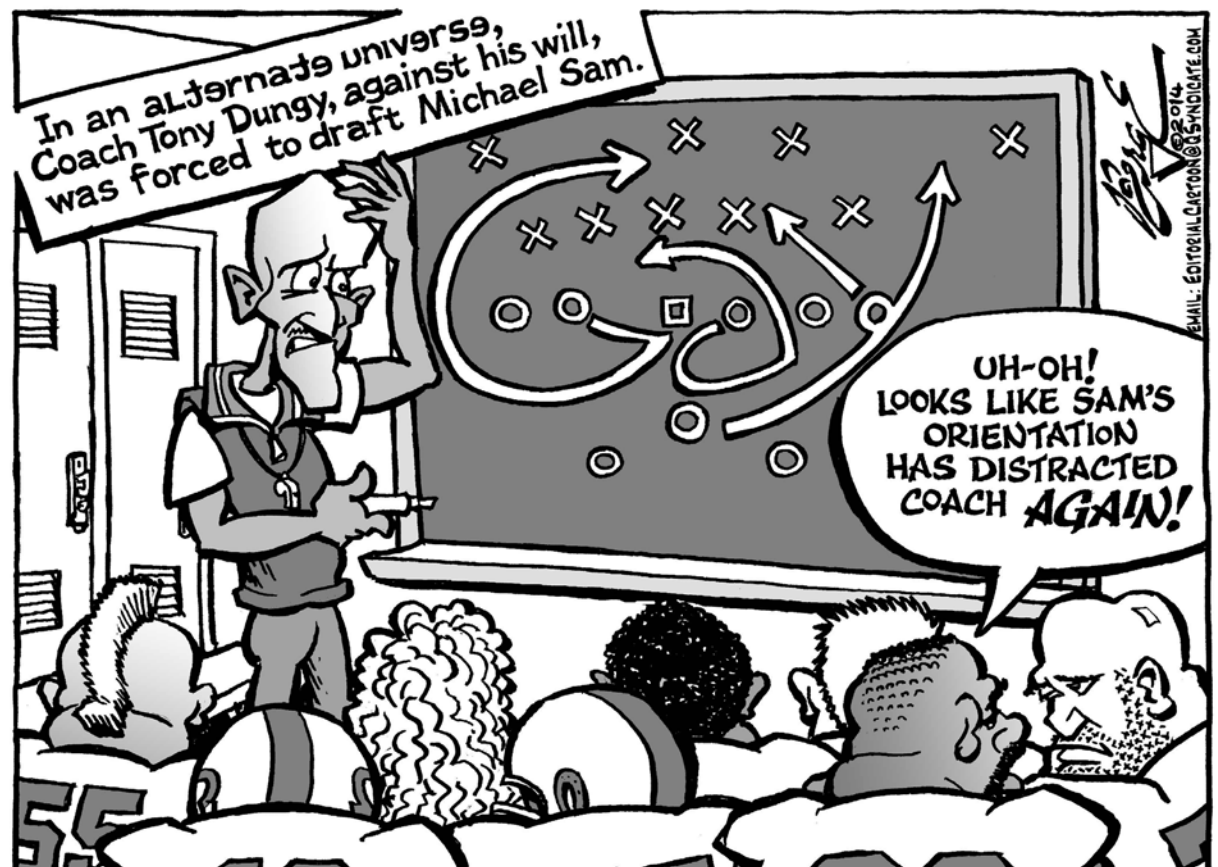
7. Share publicly a list of any future artists and vendors with entertainment venues and LGBT event producers with an explanation as to why they are seen as having committed anti-transgender discrimination."

Two viewpoints follow on the next page.

Join The Conversation

Offer your viewpoint on the Michfest debate by visiting www.pridesource.com or the BTL Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/BetweenTheLinesNewspaper.

See Lisa Vogel's original statement at www.pridesource.com/article.html?article=59817.



Viewpoint



OPINION BY EMILY DIEVENDORF

“We have said that this space, for this week, is intended to be for womyn who were born female, raised as girls and who continue to identify as womyn. This is an intention for the spirit of our gathering, rather than the focus of the festival.” – Lisa Vogel

The problem with a clearly stated intention is that it is also a declaration of ideology and a vision. In Lisa Vogel’s vision for the world that she creates every year through the Michigan Womyn’s Music Festival, trans*women are not included. Her “intention” is that, were they to follow the vision she clings to, they would not show up, or they would show up and crawl into themselves once inside the gates so as not to alarm other women with their presence. I ask you not to respect the intention. It isn’t respectable.

We are at a point in history where many of us, especially in queer and feminist communities,

Why Trans Exclusion At Michfest Must Finally End

are rightfully insistent that how we identify is who we are and that who we are and how we identify can be expressed in a multitude of ways along the gender continuum. If one of our allies in the struggle for equal rights identifies with the larger experience of being a woman/womyn, then they are with us and we are stronger together.

When women/womyn from all over the nation converge on one piece of land with the lofty goals of creating security, empowerment and inclusion for each other and one particular group of women/womyn is clearly defined as both not belonging and threatening the attainability of that utopia, we are offering validation to the arguments of those who dehumanize and attack trans*women. In our exclusion we are ensuring that we know trans*women less as humans and sisters and are less likely to feel accountable to a trans*woman’s suffering.

Please, embrace and appreciate your “Fest family,” but reunite and grow your family at an event that does not harm others. For marginalized groups, our close-knit support system is commonly that which is developed over time with people who were once strangers but who share our experience. Your found family is invaluable. If you view Michfest as your safe space remember that trans*women are the least protected from violence among us and

are needing, desperately, a safe and validating place to rest.

Many excuses for trans*exclusion at Michfest are rooted in prejudice and ignorance. Painting trans*women as dangerous is drinking the extremist Kool-Aid. It naively ignores the violence we do to each other by claiming that we can be in a space that accepts intolerance and degradation and still be safe. Painting trans*women as foreign to our experience as women when many of our trans*sisters have spent a lifetime feeling cast out simply because their identification with the female experience is so very real, is to tell them that we don’t believe them when they tell us who they are. It is to say clearly with our dollars, our presence and our silence that we don’t see them as women. It uses arguments that have been used against women of color, women of certain faiths, women who are gender non-conforming and women of different ethnicities against another group of our own. It hinders the safety of any womyn attending that cannot or won’t fit themselves into boxes. It makes us wrong.

While our world is starting to more openly celebrate trans leaders and pop culture icons, we are not yet making the connection that while anti-trans violence may most often come from outside the LGB communities (not always) we are complicit in the vulnerability of trans*people. Michigan has no legal protections

in place to combat hate crimes and transgender women of color are disproportionately targeted for the most violent hate crimes. The exclusion of trans*people continues to make them islands or to ignore that they are left stranded on islands, even while we are finally acknowledging the danger they are in.

Equality Michigan – as the statewide advocacy organization for the LGB and T communities in Michigan – asks that you live your values. Stop playing Fest. Stop sponsoring Fest. Stop attending and giving your money to an event that, in being passive in its bigotry, is active in its exclusion – because your money is its own passive acceptance of how your investment impacts those around you. Stop making excuses. Supporting Michfest makes us weapons against our own people. Until trans*women are invited to sit next to you as their authentic selves, it is hypocrisy and it is harm. Until the Michigan Womyn’s Music Festival’s “intention” is changed to a “policy of full inclusion for all women,” we must stop supporting Michfest.

Sign our petition at <http://eqmi.us/mwfm14>. Contact the artists. Build the pro-woman/womyn oasis you need, wish to see and that ALL women deserve.

Emily Dievendorf is executive director of Equality Michigan. She can be reached at Emily@equalitymi.org.

Viewpoint



OPINION BY ZOE STEINFELD

Our culture hates transgender women like me. If a TV is on, I can expect to be demeaned as disturbing and laughable, deceptively attractive and tellingly ugly, excessively feminine and unavoidably masculine. These stereotypes are contradictory but persistent. Growing up, even friends repeated them, assuming that no one who would mind could hear, and I was shamed into silence.

People don’t see me. They see dehumanizing images, which influence who they think a trans woman is: certainly not any woman they might know. In reality, we share communities – including queer, feminist, lesbian and women’s communities. We share with other women a need for healing space from a world that tells us, from our earliest memories, that being a girl is less. A world that punishes us for not being something we aren’t with every sort of violence it can muster. In 1976, Michigan Womyn’s Music Festival founder Lisa Vogel advertised her event to fill this need. That Vogel claims a women’s festival was never intended

Boycott Michfest Till Trans Inclusion A Reality

for all women can only mean that at first Vogel mistakenly assumed we weren’t women. Once she realized we’d been attending all along, she added the caveat “womyn-born-womyn” to her definition, rather than examine why it might be that trans women felt the need to be there.

We are crushed under a unique and terrifying blend of sexism and transphobia out here, that murders trans women at a rate several times higher than other queer women. Meanwhile, the hyper-visible Michfest gives credence to the idea that our only refuges should turn us away. We’re not demanding they let us in, but that they stop pushing us out. We’re not invading women’s spaces with men’s bodies, we’re women banished from our own spaces. Any woman with a body has a woman’s body.

To tell a marginalized woman that she’s not welcome in a women’s space because her body upsets you is not body-positive. To judge her an outsider based on a violent patriarchal system of sex assignment is not feminist. To echo conservative paranoia about her isn’t progressive. To attempt to speak in her stead – by wearing a t-shirt and attending a workshop – while paying to enjoy the institution that silences her isn’t allyship.

I’d love to simply ignore the largest women’s gathering in the world and not be reminded of my second-class status, or listen to misconceptions about my socialization or some projected “male energy.” But as a queer, feminist, Michigander woman, it’s here in my backyard, and I have to

I’d love to simply ignore the largest women’s gathering in the world, and not be reminded of my second-class status, or listen to garbage about “male energy.” But as a queer, feminist, Michigander woman, it’s here in my backyard, and I witness my friends speaking of a place that invalidates me with reverence.

witness my friends speaking with reverence of a place that rejects me. It’s so close to home in every sense that it feels like a slap in the face.

I know most of you want to change something you love so that I can love it too. But ask yourselves if, in the absence of our voices, your efforts have been enough. None of this is new. We first had this conversation over twenty years ago when Nancy Burkholder was interrogated and ejected, and every year since. Meanwhile, trans women are jeered, misgendered, publically outed, and in a twist of irony, accused of being abusive for speaking out against our own oppression. The ban has

become an “intention,” but official statements still reinforce this hostility. After all this time, whom do you still expect to persuade? The year after this first started, a survey found that three quarters of attendees wanted us to stay, but the only changes we see from the organizers today are the mildness of the phrases they substitute for “NO TR***IES.” Because Vogel implies that the festival’s future is your responsibility and not hers, you want to change her perspective from within. Instead, you are giving your assurance that as long as she feigns progress, you will never be too fed up on our behalf to walk away from the Land you love. The vast majority of you support inclusion. This festival is yours too. Real change will occur when you are willing to stand in solidarity with us until Michfest apologizes and welcomes us home.

As many groups of marginalized women have taught us, there is no “universal woman’s experience.” But if you do the right thing, this patch of earth could flourish into a source of strength for all women. If the Law of the Land can be changed, this is the only way. And if it can’t, what are you doing there? There are other women’s festivals that include trans women. Please, don’t go to Michfest.

Zoe is a trans rights activist operating out of the Lansing area. Support trans inclusion by signing the petition at <http://eqmi.us/mwfm14>*

Creep of the Week

Michele Bachmann

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Okay folks, let's get a couple of things out of the way here. First, Michele Bachmann



Michele Bachmann

is still a member of the United States House of Representatives no matter how many times I close my eyes and wish she would go away. Second, she did not say that immigrant children should be forced into work camps. It's a story that originated on a poorly done satire

people with unique points of views and life experiences or anything. Nope. Just a bunch of dyke clones on motorcycles and identical muscled guys wearing thongs on a rainbow parade float forcing everyone to worship their cocks. After all, if you don't eat your meat you can't have any pudding.

Sorry, I think I was just channeling a Marcus Bachmann fever dream... My point is,

As for financing the gay agenda, well, she's right about that. For example, my gay agenda currently is to buy a house and I need a mortgage. Voila, my gay agenda is

As for financing the gay agenda, well, she's right about that. For example, my gay agenda currently is to buy a house and I need a mortgage. Voila, my gay agenda is being financed.

website and progressive sites such as Think Progress got a little too excited and published it as fact.

In their defense, however, Bachmann says a lot of crazy shit. And the tenor of the Republican immigration debate is perfectly suited to include an argument that we should round these kids up and make 'em work to teach them "about the American way of life."

So sorry, not sorry, Michele Bachmann.

Especially since Bachmann really did say some incredibly awful things during a July 23 appearance on the Filth and Liberty radio show.

Bachmann and host Dave Garrison were having a sad discussion about how mean gays are to people "with a Christian world view" and how gays want "to punish people who don't agree with [their] viewpoint." Because of how Christians are a persecuted minority in "God we trust" America.

"This is their ultimate goal, is to not allow for diversity of opinion on this issue, because they don't want to be celebrated, they want to force everyone to not only agree with them but also have to finance their agenda," Bachmann wailed.

First of all, it's cute that Bachmann thinks that gays agree with each other about everything. Because, you know, homos aren't individual

being financed.

Of course, right-wing loons like Bachmann prefer to make up totally crazy shit that they claim is the "gay agenda."

"I believe that we're going to see coming an effort for, uh, multiples in marriage, not just two, but multiples in marriage," she says. "I think they wanna legalize that. I think also they want to abolish age of consent laws, which means children, uh, we will do away with statutory rape laws so that adults will be able to freely prey on little children sexually. That's the deviance that we're seeing embraced in our culture today."

Uh, no. There is not a cultural embrace of polygamy or kid fucking and anyone who claims such a thing is an idiot.

"We need to stand up and as believers not be afraid to speak the truth," she says to her fellow anti-gay Christians. "Don't be intimidated, there's no reason to be."

Unfortunately, Bachmann's relationship to "truth" and facts is pretty rocky. But that's never stopped her before.

Which is why so many people believed it when they read that Bachmann favored Americanization labor camps for immigrant kids. Because she's a fountain of bad and hateful and stupid ideas.

Fourth Circuit Panel Strikes Down Virginia's Same-Sex Marriage Ban

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit July 28 affirmed a district court ruling striking down Virginia's ban on marriage for same-sex couples. The decision will not take effect immediately, but will go into effect in 21 days, unless the defendants file a motion to stay the ruling. The ruling will also be stayed if the defendants ask the full court of appeals to review the case.

"We recognize that same-sex marriage makes some people deeply uncomfortable," said Circuit Judge Henry F. Floyd. "However, inertia and apprehension are not legitimate bases for denying same-sex couples due process and equal protection of the laws. Civil marriage is one of the cornerstones of our way of life."

In a 2 to 1 vote, the panel of U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit ruled that a fundamental right to marry is guaranteed under the constitution regardless of sexual orientation. Circuit Court Judge Rodger L. Gregory joined Judge Floyd in support of overturning the ban with Judge Paul V. Niemeyer in opposition.

"Civil marriage is one of the cornerstones of our way of life," Floyd said. "It allows individuals to celebrate and publicly declare their intentions to form lifelong partnerships, which provide unparalleled intimacy, companionship, emotional support and security. The choice of whether and whom to marry is an intensely personal decision that alters the course of an individual's life. Denying same-sex couples this choice prohibits them from participating fully in our society, which is precisely the type of segregation that the Fourteenth Amendment cannot countenance."

This ruling makes the 4th Circuit the second appeals court to decide that state bans are unconstitutional. U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit in Denver has struck down bans in both Utah and Oklahoma.

Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe praised Attorney General Mark R. Herring for refusing to defend the ban and applauded the court's

"We recognize that same-sex marriage makes some people deeply uncomfortable. However, inertia and apprehension are not legitimate bases for denying same-sex couples due process and equal protection of the laws."

- Circuit Judge Henry F. Floyd

ruling for equality. Herring came out in support of the challengers of the Virginia ban shortly after taking office this year.

"This is a historic ruling for our Commonwealth, and its effect will affirm once again that Virginia is a state that is open and welcoming to all," McAuliffe said. "I want to thank Attorney General Mark Herring for his leadership in this case, and all of the men and women who fought for years to make this day a reality. Progress does not always come as quickly as we hope it will, but today is yet another example of how justice, equality and the people who fight for those values will always persevere in the end."

The case, *Bostic v. Schaefer*, included a certified class made up of approximately 14,000 same-sex couples in the commonwealth who want to get married or want their out-of-state marriages recognized in Virginia and are represented by the American Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU of Virginia, Lambda Legal and the law firm of Jenner & Block. In addition, two plaintiff couples in Norfolk are represented in the case by attorneys Ted Olson and David Boies, their law firms, Gibson Dunn and Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP and the law firm of Shuttleworth, Ruloff, Swain, Haddad & Morecock, P.C.

"The historic Supreme Court case that allowed for people of different races to marry, so providentially named *Loving v. Virginia*, started here," said James Esseks, director of the

ACLU Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Project, who argued the case for the class before the federal appeals court. "In the 47 years since, committed same-sex couples in the commonwealth have been patiently waiting for the freedom to marry the person they love. Today's decision sends a message that everyone deserves the dignity and protection that only comes with marriage."

The couples representing the class in the case are Joanne Harris and Jessica Duff of Staunton and Christy Berghoff and Victoria Kidd of Winchester.

"We're overjoyed that we're a step closer to being recognized by our loved ones and community the same way that all of our opposite-sex married friends and relatives are," said Harris. "Although Jessi and I are absolutely committed to each other and our son, marriage holds an unparalleled meaning, both legally and emotionally."

If the Supreme Court doesn't grant review of the decision, the appeals court decision will be final, and all same-sex couples in Virginia who want to get married or want their marriages recognized will be able to do so. The ruling could also impact similar bans in the remaining 4th Circuit states (North Carolina, South Carolina and West Virginia) that continue to discriminate against same-sex couples.

More information on this case can be found at: www.aclu.org/lgbt-rights/harris-et-al-v-mcdonnell-et-a.

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MICHIGAN GOES TO OHIO

Meet The Athletes Competing At The Cleveland Gay Games

TRAVEL GUIDE

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

The Ninth Gay Games will be coming to the Great Lakes this August with the Cleveland Gay Games. Considered the “LGBT Olympics,” the event first began in 1982 when Dr. Tom Waddell designed the event in San Francisco as “a vehicle for change.”

Out of this initial event has come the Federation of Gay Games, which serves as governing body, and ever-growing participation and positive change for the LGBT community. This year’s games in Cleveland, themed around “Go All Out,” will have over 8,000 participants – LGBTQ or allied – competing for gold, silver or bronze. Events familiar to Olympic-watchers, such as soccer, swimming and track & field, will be featured, as well as some more unique sporting events like rock climbing, flag football and more. Two “cultural

events” – band and chorus – are also held. The games run from Aug. 9-15, with the opening ceremony presented from 6 to 10:30 p.m. on the first day of the games. A live broadcast of the opening ceremony can be viewed at www.ccesportsnetwork.com.

Ken Mammo, a Michigan-based athlete and a Gay Games Ambassador, notes that the 2006 games in Chicago had over 10,000 athletes from over 100 countries. “Like the Olympic games, each country enters the stadium followed by the U.S. who enter by state. Exciting is an understatement!” Mammo says of the opening ceremony. “I was never so proud of our community, seeing so many athletes coming together in the spirit of competition. The entire city of Chicago was very welcoming and supportive. I’m sure Cleveland will be just as welcoming.”

Michigan will be well represented at these games, and BTL spoke to a few who will be competing in Cleveland. Here’s what they had to say:



Flag Football

Flag Football is similar to American football except for tackling; instead of more physical force typically found in the game, players have a flag hanging from their belts removed in place of a tackle. The Michigan Panthers will be the LGBT team representing the mitten state at the Gay Games, with

some players competing in other sports such as diving, rock climbing and soccer (on the Detroit Drive). The group, which celebrated its eighth anniversary on July 17, played its first game at the Chicago Gay Games (where they won, 45-7). Head of the team, Leeron Kopleman, spoke with BTL. “I’ve been on the team since the beginning, playing receiver,

center and quarterback on offense and corner on defense,” he says. “We’re hoping we come home with a medal like we did in 2006, but no pressure.” That pressure might subside as the team looks forward to several more competitions after the games. “We participate in three annual, national tournaments against other state’s teams,” Kopleman adds. “In October, we’ll be going to GayBowLXIV in Philadelphia, and in February we’ll take in some sun at the Florida Sunshine Cup. There’s also PrideBowl in Chicago next June.”

Outside of the “Gay Olympics,” the Michigan Panthers play as part of the Metro Detroit Flag Football League, open to both LGBTQ and allied. The league has grown to eight teams, including athletes from Toledo and Windsor, and play in the spring and fall (the fall season begins Sept. 6).

Find out more about the MDFFL or the Michigan Panthers at www.mdffl.org or www.michiganpanthers.org.

See Gay Games, page 20

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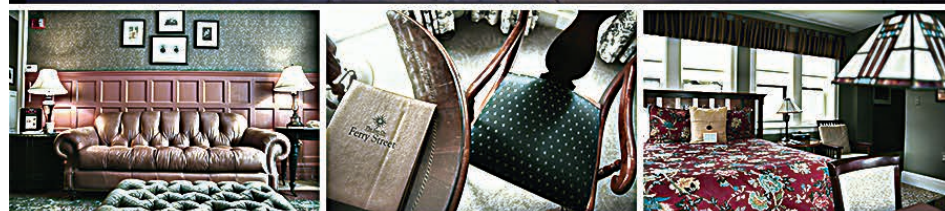
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Tips For Your Market Days Trip

TRAVEL GUIDE

BY JEROME STUART NICHOLS

Each summer for the past 32 years, queers, freaks and friends from around the world converge on downtown Chicago to shop, eat and dance during the Midwest's largest street fair, Market Days. About 100,000 people are expected to flood into the six-block stretch Aug. 9-10 for this year's festival, many of them Michiganders.

With only a \$10 suggested donation for entrance, and a selection of 400 food and art vendors, it's well worth the few hours it takes to get there from the Detroit area.

"It's an eclectic group of people," says Novi resident Kevin Griffin, who attends Market Days annually. "You see families – quite a few people with strollers – and I always run into some friends out there. Then you have the people in leather (who are) really scantily clad. It's really fun!"

And with so much going on, it can also be overwhelming. Here's some tips from local attendees to help you navigate the gayness of Market Days:

Drag

No queer-centric event would be complete without some queens. "You get to see a few drag queens walking down the street," Griffin says. "I can't understand how they survive in that heat with all that stuff on!" Out of the sun, and in their natural night-club habitat, every gay club in the area will have their best ladies on display.

For a drag-while-you-dine



experience, Michael Durant of Berkley recommends visiting Kit Kat Lounge & Supper Club in Boystown (3700 N. Halsted St., Chicago; 773-525-1111). "I've eaten there a number of times," Durant says. "The food is good; the drinks are good. It's a fun atmosphere."

Music

Market Days has hosted a myriad of musical acts, including Darren Criss, En Vogue, Kat Graham, Jody Watley and Wilson Phillips. In 2011, Jennifer Holliday belted out her world-famous Broadway classic "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going."

This year, the lineup includes headliners Belinda Carlisle, Deborah Cox and Steve Grand on Aug. 9; on Aug. 10, it's Neon Trees, Mary Lambert, Rockell and Karmin. But it won't just be big names. Expect lots of queer indie bands, local treasures and, of course, street performers.

Getting there

For the greatest balance of value and control over your travel, Griffin recommends driving. Taking the toll roads offers a much shorter trip, but remember to have enough change for all the tolls. If you must take non-toll roads, schedule your arrival

in late morning or late night to avoid the rush-hour crunch. (Check out GasBuddy.com before you fill up to find the cheapest gas around you.) Alternatively, an Amtrak train ride offers a chauffeured ride, comfortable seating and great views; long delays on the return trip, however, are common.

Getting around

Getting around Chicago is a cinch if you rely on public transportation. There are buses, the train and, if you're only in town for Market Days, Griffin suggests getting a Ventra card from the Chicago Transportation Authority (VentraChicago.com). It's

\$5 for the initial card and \$10, \$20 or \$28 for a one-, three- or seven-day pass, respectively. The card is good on all CTA buses and trains. After it expires, keep the card to refill for up to four years. If cabs are more your thing, Uber and Lyft both offer flexible ride options.

Where to stay

Where you stay in Chicago depends on much you're willing to spend.

For a city like Chicago, try Priceline.com or Hotels.com for more reasonable rates. If you need non-traditional, home-style or last minute lodging, check out Airbnb.com; pricing is often cheaper than hotels but with the comfort and privacy of staying in a home.

When looking for a place to stay, try looking right outside the heart of Market Days (remember: public transportation can get you where you wanna go). In Griffin's experience, those hotels tend to be more expensive and not quite as posh. Griffin recommends Hotel Felix (HotelFelixChicago.com), and both he and Durant suggest Club Quarters (ClubQuarters.com).

Regarding Club Quarters, Durant says, "You're within walking distance of everything. The rooms are super clean and they're about three blocks away from the 'L' train station. For what you pay for the room, you're really getting your money's worth."

For more information on North Halsted Market Days, visit Northalsted.com.



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► **Gay Games**
Continued from p. 16

Swimming

Many LGBT athletes will be heading to the games for solo feats. Ken Mammo of Royal Oak will be competing in the swimming competition, of which he has been competing for 13 years. “My best events are free style and fly,” Mammo says. “I’ve swam the 50, 10 and 200 fly at swim meets. However, in the last year I’ve been working on swimming individual medley (IM) events, where you swim all four strokes in the following order: fly, back, breast and free. My best time for the 400IM is 8:19:51, so I’m hoping to set a new personal best at the games by beating that time.” Mammo, who swam in the Chicago Gay Games in 2006 in addition to his work as a Gay Games Ambassador, will be swimming the 200 and 400 IM and 400, 800 and 1,500 free-style events at this year’s games.

Soccer

With the World Cup only recently over, those still yearning for soccer have the Gay Games to look to for continued “football” festivities. Michigan will be sending the Detroit Drive to represent the state and its LGBT citizens in soccer, with players from cities like Walled Lake, Pinckney, Detroit, Clawson, Ann Arbor – and even a previous Michigan resident who’s traveling from Texas – to play with the Drive. At the Cleveland Gay Games, 40-50 other teams from around the world will be playing in either the competitive or recreational leagues; the Drive will play in the latter group. Though the team will play in the recreational division, they played the Cleveland Fury, the city’s own LGBT soccer team heading to the Gay Games, to stoke the fires of competition.

Members of the Drive and Shawn Conner, one of the founding members of the team, spoke with BTL about the league, its history and its goals at the games. The vice president of the “Out For Kicks” Detroit Soccer League, which the Detroit Drive is a part of, Conner also serves as the Detroit Drive’s assistant coach, referee and sometimes player. Out For Kicks is a non-gender specific soccer league open to all skill levels, with players’ ages ranging from 20-50; the league has been around for two years. “It’s a once in a lifetime event,” Conner says excitedly. “We’re excited

“ I was never so proud of our community, seeing so many athletes coming together in the spirit of competition. ”

– Ken Mammo on the Chicago Gay Games in 2006



to represent Detroit. Four years ago, the games were in Europe; it’s great that it’s in driving distance this time.”

Zach Randel, who will compete in both flag football and soccer at the games, has been playing soccer since he was 4 years old, but has only been in flag football since last fall. “I participated in my first tournament in Chicago, so I got my feet wet,” he notes. Randel joined the Detroit Drive after discovering them at Motor City Pride last year. The Royal Oak native notes, “I’m hoping that both the teams I play with take gold; sports are one of the few things that I have a strong passion for.”

Another Drive player, Jon Hansen, spoke about his experiences with the team and the games. The Battle Creek native has played soccer on and off since his youth, though he still had concerns about his skill level when joining the Drive. “I think my initial thoughts were being worried about my skill level,” Hansen notes, “but Shawn and David (Carlini, the head coach) allocate time to run drills, and other members who

are more skilled always offer advice, tips and help when needed.” The midfielder and defenseman participates in the “Out For Kicks” recreational soccer league, where he initially heard about the Detroit Drive. “Unfortunately the rules for the Gay Games require our Detroit Drive team to be comprised of men,” he says. In addition to this issue, Hansen worries about the tendency for soccer to go overlooked in the States. “I think I’m worried about the foreign teams,” Hansen admits. “Most foreign countries live and breathe soccer, where as here in the U.S., soccer falls behind football, baseball, hockey and basketball. I’m hopeful that we will be a strong competitor in the recreational division and win several games.”

For more information on Out For Kicks and the Detroit Drive, visit www.outforkicksdetroit.com

For more information on the Cleveland Gay Games and various event locations, visit www.gg9cle.com.

Competing in most sports at the games involves signing up versus qualifying competition. It also involves a tremendous amount of support, financial or otherwise. Dr. Conner estimates it to be “about \$1,000 per person to get everyone to the Gay Games. It’s very expensive.” In addition to fundraisers at places like Menjo’s in Detroit, the Detroit Drive, the Michigan Panthers and other teams and athletes have been hosting fundraisers to get the necessary funds. The Drive have a Fundly page to help raise funds at <https://fundly.com/help-send-detroit-drive-lgbt-soccer-team-to-the-2014-gay-games>



ADAM BOUSKA

Douglas-Saugatuck Hosts Gay Prince

TRAVEL GUIDE

India's Prince Manvendra Singh Gohil will be traveling to Douglas-Saugatuck on Aug. 17 to discuss his new public awareness campaign, "Free Gay India."

The event, which takes place at The Kirby in Douglas, will be hosted by Chicago human rights attorney Jay Paul Deratany, an accomplished author, playwright, screenwriter and movie producer who wrote the GLAAD-nominated play "Haram Iran," based on the true story of the hanging of two Iranian teenagers who were alleged to be gay.

"I have followed Prince Manvendra's compelling story and the challenges he faced when he chose to come out about his sexual preferences in 2002," says Deratany. "I'm honored to welcome him to The Kirby. I'm thrilled that he chose our community to discuss the important work he is doing with his Free Gay India campaign."

In 2002, the Crown Prince challenged tradition by coming out to his parents who then tried to change him with therapies and religious leaders. The Maharaja and Queen threatened to out him publicly if he did not "become straight." He succumbed to the thought that if they were going to out him as a threat, he might as well out himself. He did so on the front page of a local newspaper on March 14, 2006. At that point, he was disowned by his family, burned in effigy and withstood calls to strip him of his title and make him an outcast.

The Hindu Prince is the 39th heir to a 650-year-old Indian dynasty and is the only openly gay prince in the world. In 2006, Manvendra received the UNAIDS Civil Society Award from the United Nations, and has also appeared twice on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" to share his story of struggle and how he ultimately found peace. After India recently re-criminalized homosexual acts, Prince Manvendra launched a global public awareness campaign (Free Gay India) to confront LGBT discrimination in his homeland and around the world.

A royal brunch and Q&A session will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 17 at The Kirby, 294 W. Center Street, Douglas. The Kirby is a historic mansion that Deratany recently purchased and renovated to create a boutique hotel and wine bar. Tickets are \$30. Space for the brunch and presentation is limited and required reservations can be made by emailing Mindy Trafman, general manager for The Kirby, at mindytrafman@gmail.com.



It's Good To Be Takei

Actor-Turned-Activist Talks Social Network Resurgence, Closeted Actors & Autographing Private Parts

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

George Takei knows the power of a cat meme. Because of all things, it's the pussy that gave him a platform and set the stage for something more than just pervy postings and silly jests: gay activism.

Now, the 77-year-old, the iconic Hikaru Sulu on "Star Trek" from 1966-1969, isn't only the voice of a generation – he's the voice of *generations*.

But how?

The actor, who swooshed out of the closet at the age of 68 to become a powerful LGBT advocate and social media magnate, reflects on all facets of his life during "To Be Takei," a documentary viewable on DIRECTV through

Aug. 6 and also in select theaters and VOD later this summer.

In the midst of traveling the Pride circuit, the cultural icon called in to chat about it being "high time" "Star Trek" cast a gay character (and why it hasn't happened yet), how closeted actors are still common and – oh myyy! – autographing his fans' private parts.

What's the message you've been bringing with you to these Pride festivals?

That we're making amazing progress, and that's because all of the people in the community are pulling at the same wagon. We have some special change agents, people like Stephen Snyder-Hill, the soldier that spoke at the Republican Debate in 2011, where he

asked whether any Republican candidate – when he or she becomes president, and also commander in chief of the military – would reinstate "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." It was a legitimate question, and yet the Republican people who gathered at that debate booed an American soldier ... on the battlefield ... dodging martyrs. It was a shocking thing. But because of people like him who have the courage to ask those questions and take principled stands, we're making the progress that we are.

You've been an integral part of that progress. For someone who wasn't out for most of his life, how surreal is it for you to be riding in a Pride parade at this point?

I lived most of my life closeted because I wanted my career. That was a heavy price to pay for it, because you're living with the constant tension of exposure – somebody could expose me and that's the end of my career.

It must've been my early 20s when Tab Hunter, who was a god of the box office at the time – blond, good looking, young – played the lead in almost every movie that was coming out. He was exposed as gay in one of the scandal sheets, and you never heard from him again. That puts the fear in you, and you're always living with your guard up. You don't know what or who might destroy your career, and so when you come out, you're completely relieved of that tension. You can

live fully as who you are.

I had an interesting experience: the State Department sent me on one big tour of South Korea and Japan, which culminated with U.S. ambassador to Japan, Caroline Kennedy, honoring me with a reception. As one of her guests, she had the first lady of Japan, the wife of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who told me that she had ridden in what she called a “Rainbow Pride Parade” in Tokyo this summer. Can you imagine the first lady of Japan riding in a Pride parade?

Changes are happening. Not only in the United States, but all over the world. It’s a very optimistic time, but we still have the Employment Non-Discrimination Act before us – you can be fired for no other reason than who you are. It’s the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” of the civilian population. So, it is an exciting time – a time to be optimistic, because we’re making progress – but we still have a long way to go.

Your primary reason for staying closeted was to avoid sabotaging your career. How common do you think it is these days for actors to keep their sexuality concealed for that same reason?

It’s still not uncommon. There are actors who have to be living that double life. I won’t name them, but you know, it’s a decision that they have to make. It’s a very personal decision. I don’t know the specifics, but with society changing, they are seeming to be more and more like outdated dinosaurs who maintain that kind of life.

Are you saying you know people in showbiz who are closeted? Friends of yours?

I do. You know, when I was doing “Star Trek” my colleagues knew, but they’re good people, they’re cool, and they did not expose me. (Laughs) Well, one of them ... the fact that I am who I am went right over his head. I’ll leave it to you to guess whom.

You’re a real tease, George.

(Laughs)

In the last 10 years, you’ve really become quite the accidental activist, and because your parents come up often in the documentary, I’m wondering what you think they would say about your role as an LGBT role model?

Well, they’re both gone now. My father had passed long ago, and it’s one of my regrets in life – that I never came out to him. But I know he would’ve supported me. (He said he would) accept and support and love his son going into the acting arena. I mean, he did tell me: “Look at TV, look at movies, look at the kind of roles that Asians have to play – tiny roles to begin with, and stereotype roles at that – is that what you wanna go into?” I told my father: “Daddy, I will change it.” He supported me in that. I think he knew deep down who I was; he was waiting for me to come out to him.

When I came out to my mother, she had

some difficulties, but she knew who (my now-husband) Brad was. Brad was in my life already, and she thought of him as my friend, but when I came out to her, the situation was changed. She already knew Brad for who he was and that he was a nice guy, so it wasn’t really that difficult. As life would have it, Brad and I took care of her in the last years of her life. She moved in with us. He became more a son to her than my own brother.

Your career resurgence is really something to marvel at. You know your way around social media like no 77-year-olds I know.

(Laughs) You’ve got a stereotype in your mind about 77-year-olds! There are a lot of us who are very comfortable with social media. My generation is not as out of touch with technology as you youngsters seem to think.

(Laughs) I’m very aware of this stereotype; I’m basing this off my own experience with my father. Recently, he posted a message for someone else on my wall.

You talk about your father – I have a sister who finally got a cell phone, but she leaves it at home when she leaves! What’s the point? (Laughs) So it’s not just you and your father. In my own family, I have that to deal with.

What role has humor played in how you present politics and social commentary on LGBT issues?

It is key to building your audience. The reason why I got so actively involved with social media is, it’s been my mission in life to raise awareness of my childhood incarceration – imprisonment of Japanese-Americans simply because we happened to look like the people who bombed Pearl Harbor. So, I’ve been going on speaking tours to universities and doing corporate events, and we founded a museum called the Japanese American National Museum – we’re an affiliate of the Smithsonian – and we developed a musical based on the internment called “Allegiance.”

I thought I’d use social media (to promote it), but my base, when I started in 2010, was essentially made up of sci-fi geeks and nerds – my “Star Trek” audience – and I had to grow that. So, by trial and error I found that the humorous things, the funnies – or the cat memes – got the most likes and shares. Then I started concentrating more on that, and it started to explode.

It was really amazing how fast, and how big, your audience base can grow in social media. I discovered that humor was the key to growing the audience, and once the audience had grown to a certain size I started zinging them with social justice issues, LGBT issues and the internment of Japanese-Americans, as well as various other things ... like proper grammar!

Do you think we’ll ever see an out LGBT human on “Star Trek”?

I think now it’s high time. I did very

See George Takei, page 33

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Strong Choices Dominate 'Hamlet'

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

Whether they are aware of it or not, everyone knows "Hamlet." It is so much a part of our lexicon that people grow up hearing its words and phrases and memorize them even when ignorant of their origins.

It is because it is so well known and so enmeshed in our culture that it becomes critical in this play – even more so than in most others – that actors and directors make strong choices. These choices differentiate each production and keep it from being a bunch of famous quotes strung together.

The Michigan Shakespeare Festival's 20th anniversary production of "Hamlet" is bold in its choices. Artistic director Janice Blixt moves the famous Dane and his family's court into the modern era, and each actor has clear intentions and motivations in this most famous of Shakespearean tragedies. It is in the modern setting where Hamlet must determine how to avenge his father's death, a death he learns was murder committed by his uncle who then married his mother.

It all starts and ends with the Dane himself, the title character who is played by Shawn Pfautsch. Pfautsch is an emotional prince, ever caught up in one mood or the next, whether it is sorrow, anger, feigned madness or grief. There are few moments in which Pfautsch lets Hamlet have quiet or simpleness. He is a man caught up in complex emotions, and he doesn't hesitate to express them.

Where he is most effective is in his delivery of those all-too familiar lines. He makes each of the speeches his own, and he makes them seem comfortable tripping off the tongue of a man from this century. They are all internally consistent, part of the personality that Pfautsch creates for Hamlet.

But neither is the play simply a collection of speeches. This production of Hamlet is filled with characters who are intense in what they want and how they go about getting it. Even those characters who are caught up in events beyond their ability to affect are still committed to the attempt.

David Turrentine's Claudius and Janet Haley's Gertrude are a subdued couple, first as royals who are consolidating power and then as guilty spouses whose feelings toward the Danish prince split them in purpose. While together they are the controlled monarchs of a realm not long out of mourning, apart they show passion that arises out of fear – fear of being found out and fear for a son's life.

Alan Ball's choice for Polonius is an unusual one, as he is not the typical comic relief or clown of the play. Rather, he is a councilor who is earnest in his desire to serve a stable state. He loves his children and looks after their welfare in a way that does not seem at all absurd or over-bearing. His advice sounds wise coming from Ball's lips, and he brings the king and queen intelligence that is true if not the cause of

INFO

Hamlet

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Hamlet's madness like he thinks.

Edmund Alyn Jones as Rosencrantz and Topher Payne as Guildenstern are a doomed twosome who are nonetheless authentic in their desire to do service to both their monarchs and their school friend. That they cannot ultimately serve both is no fault of their own nor due to a lack of desire. With Pfautsch, the three establish well that they were once beloved friends, and we see that fall apart as the Wittenburg duo are forced to choose their loyalties.

Brandon St. Clair Saunders, whose voice resonates as Horatio, creates no such conflict in his character's loyalties. Horatio is first and foremost companion to Hamlet, and the two are trusted, devoted friends. Their closing scene is heartbreaking, and Saunders keenly shows that while Horatio may survive the play's bloody ending, he does not escape the tragedy.

Sam Hubbard is the impulsive Laertes, whose disposition is almost always a mirror opposite to Hamlet's. Like Hamlet, he has a father to avenge, a father who was murdered and for whom he wants justice. Even though he plots with Claudius, Laertes remains likeable, in part because Hubbard makes clear that his choices are motivated by honor, and that his actions are coming from the same place as the play's hero, Hamlet.

The Ophelia in this production is a serious, deep one who keenly feels the bonds that prevent her from making her own choices, whether it be with Hamlet, her father or the king and queen of Denmark. Lydia Hiller creates an Ophelia who is boxed in, for she has as much affection for her father as she does for Hamlet, and is torn between the two of them. The scenes between Pfautsch and Hiller are cold, as if they know they are predestined to be separated. There is little of affection and much of challenge and suppressed passion.

Helping to create each moment in this tragedy is Kate Hopgood's original music composition and sound design. It plays as a complex sound track that underlines each shift in mood and important choice.

The final fight scene, designed by fight director David Blixt, is a complex and intense one. Laertes and Hamlet are two well-matched fighters, and they are fierce and quick in their battle.

For more Shakespeare, visit www.pridesource.com.

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<http://markschauer.com>

Mark Totten for Michigan Attorney General
www.marktotten.com

Gary Peters for U.S. Senate
www.petersformichigan.com

Note that BTL endorsements for other statewide races will happen after the state political conventions held the weekend of Aug. 23 - 24.

BTL Strongly Endorses the following openly gay candidates in Aug. 5 primary:

Garnet Lewis is running in the 32nd District which includes Saginaw, Zilwaukee, Tittabawassee Township, Frankenmuth and Swartz Creek. Check out the campaign website www.garnetlewis.com

Jon Hoadley is running for State Representative in the 60th District which includes Kalamazoo and Kalamazoo Township. Check out the campaign website www.jonhoadley.com

Jeremy Moss is running for State Representative in the 35th District which includes Southfield and Lathrup Village. Check out the campaign website www.jeremyforsouthfield.com

Rudy Serra is running for State Representative for the 27th District which is made up of several South Oakland County communities including Hazel Park, Ferndale, and Berkley. Check out the campaign website <http://rudyserra.ngpvanhost.com>

Important Dates & Resources

Tuesday, Aug. 5 – Primary Election

Monday, Oct. 6 – Last day to register for Nov. 4 General Election

Tuesday, Nov. 4 – General Election

Check here for your current status as a registered voter in Michigan <https://webapps.sos.state.mi.us/mivote>

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BTL LGBT & Progressive Voter Guide

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Visit Pride Source Votes 2014 online as the election season moves forward for news and developments on candidates that will move the state forward toward full equality for LGBT citizens.

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Hear Me Out

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Jason Mraz, Weird Al Yankovic



JASON MRAZ **YES!**

Jason Mraz, 'Yes!'

Here to make you feel better about your life is Jason Mraz, the Oprah of white-boy balladry. He's got your "remedy," and it's called "Yes!," an album of life-affirming mantras expressed simply by song name: "Rise," "You Can Rely On Me," "Shine," and on and on. It's true, Mraz is Mraz-ing us with his lovey-dovies, which is just what he's been doing since he dropped the reggae and wordplay. When "Lucky" and "I'm Yours" sent him and his fedora into superstardom, he wasn't about to go back to his scrappy hipster ways (though didn't you just love him then?). Because if anyone can sell you the warm and fuzzies, it's the "geek in pink" – the same hopeless romantic who gives them to you when you're slow dancing at a wedding. "Love Someone" fits that sensitive-guy-with-a-guitar role, but so does most of the album: "Best Friend" is another ode to a confidante, "3 Things" is self-help in list form and "Out of My Hands" imparts a let-it-go moral. What's most telling about his career at this juncture is that he's covering a Boyz II Men song (his a cappella take on "It's Hard to Say Goodbye to Yesterday" is actually quite lovely). For maximum

swoon effect, the adult-contemporary fluff of "Yes!" – recorded with girl group Raining Jane – is full of honeyed acoustics and sentiments as subtle as one of those inspirational chain emails you get from your grandma. *Grade: C+*

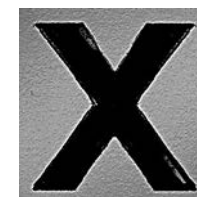


Weird Al Yankovic, 'Mandatory Fun'

Four decades of using Top 40 to mock the zeitgeist and Weird Al Yankovic still knows how to make a funny. Sticking it to digital-age satirists (yeah, YouTubers, you didn't brilliantly bridge "Blurred Lines" and "Schoolhouse Rock!" so there), the purveyor of pop-music parody returns with his 14th collection, a standout in a career known for lampooning cultural obsessions. According to Weird Al, nowadays those are leftovers ("Foil," his take on Lorde's "Royals"), American woes ("First World Problems") and the ever-increasing persecution from the grammar police ("Word Crimes"). Wisecracking that, "Your prose is dopey / Think you should only /

Write in emoji," Yankovic's attack on Webster wrongdoers isn't just clever repartee – it's also a dorky little ditty so well-written (and yes, grammatically correct), you'll be thinking "dangling participles" even when it's Robin Thicke singing about "blurred lines." Iggy Azalea's "Fancy" becomes a boastful plug for a skilled repairman ("I got 99 problems but a switch ain't one"), and on "Tacky," his rewrite of Pharrell's "Happy," he hilariously rags on faux pas. A nine-minute comedy epic performed like an Elton John piano jam, "Jackson Park Express" is that romantic flash-forward you have with yourself about somebody you haven't actually met. Ridiculous inner dialogues that turn from cute to sick – yeah, no, but when it's Weird Al's fantasy, that's something we can all agree is "mandatory fun." *Grade: B+*

Also Out



Ed Sheeran, 'X'

Even if Ed Sheeran strips the "coffeehouse" sound from his venturesome Rick Rubin-produced sophomore LP, he's not stupid – Sheeran's still the boy you can bring home to mom. At least for now. Because even though the folk-pop bloke keeps it low key on those Starbucks ballads (see: "One," "Tenerife Sea" and "Photograph"), Taylor Swift's part-time scribe pseudo raps on "The Man" and, on the Justin Timberlake-inspired "Sing," gets down like he's ready to take his coffee to the club.



First Aid Kit, 'Stay Gold'

Harmonies so tightly woven not even air could pass through – that's why there's so much love for Swedish sister duo Johanna and Klara Söderberg, known collectively as First Aid Kit. That emotional intimacy was unmistakable on their last album, "The Lion's Roar," but less so here on their follow-up, a bigger-sounding outing that emphasizes the psychedelia of their pretty, '70s-centric folk-pop to solid-but-inferior effect.

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The End Of An Era At Robert Kidd Gallery

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

The renowned Robert Kidd Gallery will close its doors this summer. The Birmingham institution, founded by Ray Frost Fleming and Robert Louis Kidd, established “a vibrant institution that has long been a distinguished leader in the world of contemporary art.”

According to Benjamin Kiehl, director of the gallery for nearly a decade, the gallery’s closing comes at the decision of the administrators of the Ray Fleming estate. “Fleming has been dead for two-and-a-half years,” Kiehl notes. “The gallery closing is how the asset settled in his trust. He had no children, and the asset needed to be dealt with, and as a result, the business is closing.”

Kiehl goes on to say, “The gallery is an asset that will be greatly missed. Robert Kidd Gallery had been around longer than so many other art galleries that have closed throughout the years. It’s the ending of an era.”

The possibility of the gallery’s continuation is not off the table, though Fleming’s estate will have no part in the future. “The administration hopes to deal with the gallery’s transition by the end of the summer,” Kiehl states. “For now, we have no set closing date.”

Opened in 1976, the two graduates of the Cranbrook Academy of Art created a 5,000-square-foot space featuring room for exhibitions, on-site inventory facilities and expansive viewer-accessible artwork archives. The two-level gallery was an original member of the Detroit Art Dealers Association as well as a direct representative for the estates of Milton Avery, Harry

Bertoia, Hans Hofmann and Marshall Fredericks. Robert Kidd Gallery also offered services for the acquisition and de-accessioning of artwork by modern and contemporary artists such as Richard Diebenkorn, Franz Kline, Alexander Calder, Deborah Butterfield and Hans Hofmann.

During its four-decade run, the gallery served as one of the finest collections of available artwork in the Midwest. From abstract to realist paintings to sculpture and drawings, diverse works of art have filled the halls of the gallery. Many notable artists that have had works exhibited include John Chamberlain, Sam Gilliam, Larry Rivers and Helen Rankenthaler.

Recent exhibits included the new paintings of Stephen Duren, the oil artworks of Robert Schefman and “Deep Thaw: An Emergence of New and Recent Acquisitions” that ran in the spring. Currently, a gallery exhibition featuring a survey of the gallery’s extensive inventory will be held until Aug. 2.

“We appreciate your many years of patronage and friendship and invite all to visit the gallery on Townsend Street during this time” is the fond farewell offered on the site following the news of its closing.

The gallery will continue to exhibit and offer artwork through the summer.

Robert Kidd Gallery is located at 107 Townsend St., Birmingham. Regular gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday or by appointment. For more information, visit www.robertkiddgallery.com or call 248-642-3909.

For more information on Birmingham businesses and LGBT events, check out BTL’s Cool Cities pages at www.pridesource.com.

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Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, July 31

\$6 at 6 a.m. 6 a.m. Cash only or class passes. Tickets: \$6. Namaste Yoga, 309 S. Troy St., **Royal Oak**. 248-339-9642. Namaste-yoga.net

Advanced Music, Dance and Theatre Workshops 10 a.m. Must audition to be considered. Ages 15-22. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, 750 E. Shaw Lane, **East Lansing**. 800-WHARTON. Whartoncenter.com

Should We Get Married? 7 p.m. A Free Seminar on the Legal and Tax Consequences of Same-Sex Marriages in Michigan. RSVP: Einheuser Legal, 3179 Livernois Road, #301, **Troy**. 248-398-4665. Einheuserlegal.com

BenDeLaCreme Dinner and Performance 9:30 p.m. Only 60 dinner reservations per seating will be accepted. Murray and Peter, 22726 Woodward, **Ferndale**. 248-268-2840.

Friday, Aug. 1

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

Saturday, Aug. 2

Outpouring 1 p.m. Every first Saturday. Affirming Love Ministries, **Ypsilanti**. Affirmingloveministries.webs.com

Fundraiser for Detroit Drive 9 p.m. Fundraiser to help send LGBT soccer team Detroit Drive to the Cleveland Gay

Games. Detroit Drive, 928 McNichols Road W. **Detroit**. 313-863-3934.

W. E. T. Detroit Monthly Party 10 p.m. Party for Queer Women. First Saturday of the month. Different theme for each event. Cover: \$5. W. E. T. Detroit, 2906 Cass Ave., **Detroit**. Facebook.com/W. E. T. Detroit

Sunday, Aug. 3

Grosse Ile - Another Favorite Island Ride 10 a.m. Meet up at Grosse Ile High School. Lunch at Bishop's Cottage. Get Out Bike. **Grosse Ile**. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

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

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

Tuesday, Aug. 5

Because We Are Worth It (Sex Addicts Anonymous LGBTQ Meeting) 6:30 p.m. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. jimtoycenter.org

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

Should We Get Married? 7 p.m. A Free Seminar on the Legal and Tax Consequences of Same-Sex Marriages in Michigan. RSVP: Einheuser Legal, 31000 Telegraph, #200, **Franklin**. 248-398-4665. Einheuserlegal.com

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

Wednesday, Aug. 6

LGBT Summer Film Series Different film each date. Affirmations & GOAL, 200 N. Main St., **Royal Oak**. 248-414-1000. Facebook.com/murrayandpeterpresent

Stepping Stones Through Grief Support Group 9:30 a.m. Registration required. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 1-800-832-1155. Goaffirmations.org

HIV Testing 6 p.m. Free. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. http://goaffirmations.org/events/event_details.asp?id=430531

Toastmasters Meeting 6 p.m. Do you have fear of public speaking? Well never fear Toastmasters is here! Come join us and learn to how to get over that fear. Kick - The Agency for LGBT African Americans, 41 Burroughs St. Ste. 109, **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. rma411@gmail.com

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

Como's Patio 7 p.m. GOAL, 22812 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. [Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT](http://meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT)

Thursday, Aug. 7

Raising the Steaks: Dining Out at Logan's Roadhouse 4 p.m. Support Affirmations by dining out at any of seven locations in metro-Detroit every First Thursday. Affirmations, **Various**. Goaffirmations.org

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

First Thursdays 6 p.m. Mixer. LGBTQ Networking Group, **Kalamazoo**. Kglrc.org

Family & Friends 7 p.m. Topics vary from month to month. This is a gathering of people who have family or friends who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or who are questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity. Join us as we offer support, share our experiences, and learn about the issues impacting the LGBTQ and allied community. The Jewish Gay Network of Michigan (JGN), 6600 W. Maple Road, **West Bloomfield**. 248-432-5661. Jgnmi.org

Red Robot 7 p.m. Ageplay group. Every first Thursday. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. Jimtoycenter.org

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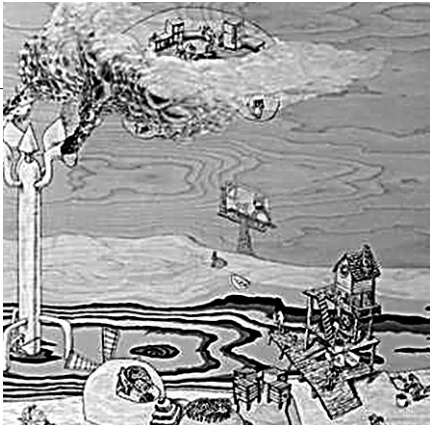
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D'AMATO'S



Editor's Pick

The Detroit Artists Market (DAM) will host their August exhibition, "If You Build It, They Will Come." More than 175 Metro Detroit artists have each selected five wood pieces to incorporate into the featured unique and collectible works of art. The exhibit will be shown until Aug. 29.

All artwork displayed will be available for purchase, with all items priced \$250 or less. Works of art include pieces from ceramicists, filmmakers, glass blowers, printmakers, painters, illustrators and more.

The exhibit opens Friday, Aug. 1 with an opening reception from 6 to 9 p.m. DAM is located at 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call 313-832-8540 or visit www.detroitartistsmarket.org for more info.

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

Royal Oak Music Theatre "The Cult". Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. Aug. 7. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "Creativity Revealed" Free. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. May 7 - Aug. 5. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

The Acorn Theater "Cracker". The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. Aug. 1. 269-756-3879. Acorntheater.com

The Ark "Liz Larin with special guest Antigone Rising" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 3. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "We Banjo 3" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 5. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Kruger Brothers" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 1. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Magic Bag "Live the Who" The Who Tribute. Tickets: \$10. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Aug. 1. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

The Scarab Club "Danny and the Darleens" Tickets: \$8. The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. 8 p.m. July 31. 313-831-1250. Scarabclub.org

THEATER

Civic/Community Theater

A Midsummer Night's Dream \$5-15. The Brass Tacks Ensemble at A2CT Studio Theater, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. Through Aug. 2. 734-971-2228. www.a2ct.org

A Midsummer Night's Dream \$5-15. The Brass Tacks Ensemble at Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Aug. 7 - 9. 734-763-4186. www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Rabbit Hole \$8-10. August Theatre Company at Congregational Church of Birmingham, 1000 Cranbrook Road, Bloomfield Hills. July 31 - Aug. 1. www.indiegogo.com/projects/august-theatre-company-presents-rabbit-hole

The Little Mermaid \$5-7. All-of-us Express Children's Theatre at East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. Through Aug. 2. 517-333-2580, ext. 0. www.all-of-us.org

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The Wiz \$12-15. Peanut Gallery Players at Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. July 31 - Aug. 2. 248-885-5129. www.peanutgalleryplayers.org

Professional

...poems we tell ourselves... \$10 at the door; \$5 more if staying for second performance in a different space. Satori Circus at Tangent Gallery / Hastings Street Ballroom, 715 E. Milwaukee St., Detroit. Aug. 1 - 2. 313-873-2955. www.tangentgallery.com

A Midsummer Night's Dream Free. Shakespeare in Detroit at Grand Circus Park (right outside Comerica Park), Detroit. 7 p.m. Aug. 6. www.shakespeareindetroit.com

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

Alone Together \$28-32. Tibbits Summer Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. Aug. 7 - 16. 517-278-6029. www.tibbits.org

Can't Sit Still \$7. Tibbits Popcorn Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. Aug. 8 - 9. 517-278-6029. www.tibbits.org

Carousel \$15-32. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Through Aug. 10. 734-268-6200. www.theencoretheatre.org

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

Cymbeline \$31-40. Michigan Shakespeare Festival at Baughman Theatre at Potter Center on the campus of Jackson College, 2111 Emmons Road, Jackson. Through Aug. 16. 517-796-8600. www.michiganshakespearefestival.com

Deathtrap Mason Street Warehouse, Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. Through Aug. 10. 269-857-2399. www.sc4a.org

Detroit Improv Festival Go Comedy! and multiple other locations throughout Metro Detroit, 261 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Aug. 3 - 9. 248-327-0575. detroitimprovfestival.org

Disney's High School Musical \$8-15. Thunder Bay Theatre, 400 N. Second Avenue, Alpena. Through Aug. 17. 989-354-2267. www.thunderbaytheatre.com

Ernie \$20-25. City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Through Aug. 7. 313-471-6611. www.olympiaentertainment.com

First Thursday Improv Nights \$10. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr.,

Three Oaks. Aug. 7. 269-756-3879. www.acorntheater.com

Forever Plaid \$35-41. The Dio - Dining and Entertainment, 135 E. Main St., Pinckney. July 31 - Sep. 7. 517-672-6009. www.diotheatre.com

Guys and Dolls \$28-32. Tibbits Summer Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. Through Aug. 2. 517-278-6029. www.tibbits.org

Hamlet \$20. Water Works Theatre Company at Starr Jaycee Park, 1301 West 13 Mile Rd., Royal Oak. July 31 - Aug. 10. www.shakespeareroyaloak.com

Hamlet, Prince of Denmark \$31-40. Michigan Shakespeare Festival at Baughman Theatre at Potter Center on the campus of Jackson College, 2111 Emmons Road, Jackson. Through Aug. 17. 517-796-8600. www.michiganshakespearefestival.com

Hot Mikado \$15-30. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through Aug. 9. 616-395-7890. www.hope.edu/hsrt

Hughie \$25. Three Oaks Theater Festival at Lakeside Inn, 15251 Lakeshore Road, Lakeside. Aug. 1 - 2. 866-811-4111. www.threeoaksfestival.com

Kolobok \$5-10. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. Aug. 2 - 17. 313-961-7777. www.puppetart.org

Romeo and Juliet \$5-10. UnCovered Theatre Company at Rochester College, 800 West Avon Road, Rochester Hills. Through Aug. 23. 248-218-2046. uncoveredtheatre.wix.com/uncovered

So Long Until Tomorrow \$0-10. The AKT Theatre Project at James R. DeSana Center for Arts and Culture, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. Through Aug. 9. 734-258-8370. www.akttheatre.com

Suds \$42 (show and meal); \$37 show only. Cornwell's Dinner Theatre, 18935 15 1/2 Mile Rd, Marshall. Through Aug. 16. 269-781-4293. www.turkeyville.com

The Big Bang \$15-25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. Through Aug. 17. 517-655-SHOW. www.williamstontheatre.org

The Doll People \$15. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at DeWitt Studio Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through Aug. 8. 616-395-7890. www.hope.edu/hsrt

The Importance of Being Earnest \$31-40. Michigan Shakespeare Festival at Baughman Theatre at Potter Center, Jackson College, 2111 Emmons Road, Jackson. Through Aug. 15. 517-796-8600. www.michiganshakespearefestival.com

The Kings of Unionville \$27-32; \$20 previews. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through Aug. 24. 248-347-0003. www.tippingpointtheatre.com

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

The Matchmaker \$15. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through Aug. 8. 616-395-7890. www.hope.edu/hsrt

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

The Two Gentlemen of Verona \$5-10. UnCovered Theatre Company at Rochester College, 800 West Avon Road, Rochester Hills. Through Aug. 24. 248-218-2046. uncoveredtheatre.wix.com/uncovered

The Wizard of Oz \$7. Tibbits Popcorn Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. Aug. 1 - 2. 517-278-6029. www.tibbits.org

The World Goes 'Round \$15. Great Escape Stage Company, 155 W. Michigan Ave., Marshall. Through Aug. 3. 269-781-2700. www.greatescapestagecompany.com

Whatever, Baby Jane \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through Aug. 4. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

[title of show] \$31-33. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Through Aug. 3. 269-343-2727. www.farmersalleytheatre.com

ART 'N' AROUND

Cranbrook Art Museum "Modern/Moderna: Amie Siegel and Terence Gower" Witness an exploration of Modernism through the examination of two contemporary artworks. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. July 1 - Aug. 31. 877-462-7262. Cranbrook.edu

Detroit Artists Market (DAM) "If You Build It, They Will Come" With this exciting open-call challenge, more than 175 Detroit area artists each selected five wood pieces to use in creating the unique and collectible works of art featured in this fun, end-of-summer exhibition. Detroit Artists Market, 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Aug. 1 - Aug. 29. 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

Downriver Council for the Arts "Hanging with a Friend" Artists collaborations. Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. July 25 - Aug. 28. 734-720-0671. Downriverarts.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

One 313 Workshops "Printmaking (Experimental Methods)" For ages 4+. Free. Number House, Heidelberg Project, 3632 Heidelberg St., Detroit. 12 p.m. Aug. 2. 313-974-6894. Heidelberg.org

River's Edge Gallery "River from the Underground" Brings two unlikely artists together: Johnny Bee Badanjek, from the world of rock, and Amy Chenier, originally from the world of sports and statement art. River's Edge Gallery, 3024 Biddle, Wyandotte. July 1 - Aug. 31. 734-246-9880. Artatthedge.com

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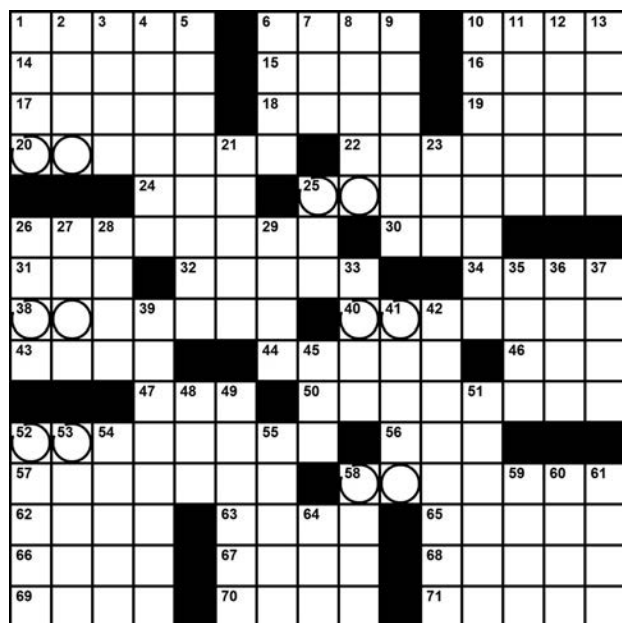
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Q Puzzle

I Hate Everyone... Starting With Me



Across

- 1 Gladiator's defense
- 6 "I Hate Everyone... Starting with Me" author Rivers
- 10 Puts the tongue between the cheeks
- 14 Port city north of Tel Aviv
- 15 River in Roehm's country
- 16 Auth. unknown
- 17 Circuit party, e.g.
- 18 ___ ex machina
- 19 Adriatic seaport
- 20 Composer Gian Carlo hated by Rivers?
- 22 In a stall

- 24 Bi plus one
- 25 Author Herman hated by Rivers?
- 26 Get ready for a Broadway show
- 30 Dusk, to Dickinson
- 31 Cells for women only
- 32 Cola choice
- 34 Muscle Marys pump it
- 38 Singer Etheridge hated by Rivers?
- 40 Singer Freddie hated by Rivers?
- 43 Mapa of "Switched at Birth"
- 44 '60s jacket style
- 46 Match a poker bet
- 47 Stalling sounds
- 50 Photo of a bare bottom?
- 52 Shakespearean character hated by Rivers?
- 56 Long in code
- 57 Aroused in bed
- 58 Songwriter Stephin hated by Rivers?
- 62 Big beer buy
- 63 Top of the head
- 65 Singing Mann
- 66 Katharine's Butch Cassidy role
- 67 "That was close!"
- 68 Nun influenced by St. Francis
- 69 Clothing closure
- 70 Years on end
- 71 Popular hero of Lorca's land

Down

- 1 Deep throat sound
- 2 Like a great review on Broadway
- 3 Deportment
- 4 Deserving attention
- 5 Dilapidated places
- 6 Knight protecting Princess Leia

- 7 "Stick that bull!"
- 8 Manhandle
- 9 Lesbian Herstory Archives co-founder Joan
- 10 Like Steven Greenberg
- 11 As a whole
- 12 Gourmet mushroom
- 13 Nastily derogatory
- 21 Rubbers on rims
- 23 Greeting to Maria
- 25 Month in Madrid
- 26 Caesar's city
- 27 Stunt man Knievel
- 28 In the pink
- 29 Nine inches
- 33 Point of view intro, at Gay.com
- 35 Come too quickly
- 36 Bite it
- 37 Nikita's no
- 39 Split stuff
- 41 Wash out
- 42 Emulate George Frenn
- 45 Alt-rock genre
- 48 Pirates' drink
- 49 Plain in Nureyev's country
- 51 Penetrating
- 52 Assaults with a spray
- 53 Tickle pink
- 54 Bob Marley, e.g.
- 55 "My Own Private ___"
- 58 Output from small pussies
- 59 Apple that isn't a fruit
- 60 Polo of "The Fosters"
- 61 Angry, with "off"
- 64 Caesar's X

Solution on pg. 34




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- 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
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Takei Tells Detroit: 'More Power To You!'

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

George Takei isn't foreign to the alien kind. As Sulu on the original "Star Trek," he fended them off. Now, Takei's taking on a different kind of outsider – the Motor City – and he's glad to see a new generation of human inhabitants safeguarding it.

"Detroit is the urban basket case of America," Takei told me in our recent chat to promote his documentary, "To Be Takei." "There are people like you who really believe in the importance of not losing Woodward Avenue and its great public monuments. Like the Roman ruins, I see evidence of a once great city."

Dropping area lingo like "Michigander" (impressive, Sulu!) and even mentioning the Renaissance Center, the actor's no stranger to the city. In 2012, his inimitable speaking voice accompanied the Detroit Symphony Orchestra for "A Sci-Fi Spectacular."

Takei recalls his many visits to the Motor City, particularly time spent at the RenCen: "If they want to revitalize that area," he thought at the time, "they made the absolute wrong decision. Here's a beautiful complex, and then you put Fort Detroit around it – the utilities were built into a wall surrounding the complex – and so if the savages are on the

other side, you wanna be on the inside, and you can't get the ripple effect of revitalization. There should have been retail pedestrian life so that the investment being made in that Ren complex would ripple out to the rest of the city. But when you build a fortress wall around it, that's not gonna help at all.

"You know," he continues, reflecting on the city as a whole, "there have been so many wrong decisions made."

Though he's aware Detroit filed for bankruptcy in July 2013, the actor says he's hopeful the area can seek out new life. Takei is already observing change, and he specifically notes business entrepreneur Dan Gilbert, who's purchased downtown establishments in an effort to help the city live long and prosper.

"Trying to get young people to live in the city and bring 24-hour life to Detroit – I think it's fantastic," Takei says. "And you're one of them. Congratulations, and thank you to you. I'm hopeful and I appreciate people like you putting up the good fight there. I think now that you've reached nadir, it's gonna be all uphill. The real pioneers, the early pioneers who are starting to revive Detroit – more power to you!"

You hear that Detroit? The power of Sulu is within you.

► George Takei

Continued from p. 23

quietly bring up the subject to ("Star Trek" screenwriter) Gene Roddenberry when we were starting our movie series – our feature film series – and he said with television he had to walk a very tight rope. You know, we were dealing with issues at that time – the civil rights movement, the Vietnam War, the Cold War – and that episode where Kirk kissed Uhura, a white man kissing a black woman, that was blacked out in all of the Southern states: Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. Our ratings plummeted!

(Gene) said he knows that the LGBT issue is a civil rights issue, but he had to keep the show on the air as a television series, and if he pushed the envelope too far he wouldn't be able to address *any* of the issues. He'd be canceled. Same thing with feature films now: bigger budget, higher risk. And he had said he's predicting a 23rd century when the LGBT issue would not be an issue, but it is an issue of our times that we're dealing with metaphorically in terms of science fiction and he wants to deal with it and still be able to make movies. He had said he hopes for the time that he will be able to do it.

Alas, Gene passed. It was in '91 that he passed, and we're 20 years-plus from that time. We've advanced with unimagined speed, and I think now it is high time "Star Trek" deal with the issue of LGBT equality. Now there are "Star Trek" actors who are out. Zachary Quinto, who plays Spock in the reboot, came out, and I am out. With the two of us out, it is now safe for "Star Trek" to deal with LGBT equality.

Some fans have some very specific requests when they meet you. What's been the most bizarre fan request you've experienced?

(Laughs) This is not PG – and this isn't "The Howard Stern Show" – so I will be more circumspect about the bizarre requests that I get. I've been asked to autograph various body parts. And some are, um, *very* private parts. I'll let your imagination go there.

Did you follow through on these requests?

I did!

Did these requests involve the front or the back?

Both! (Laughs) And some have gotten a tattoo artist to trace my autograph on those body parts. One woman displayed hers to me at a convention ... in the flesh!

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Eastern Michigan University LGBT Resource Center	734-487-4149
Equality Michigan	313-537-7000
Flint Crisis Line	810-257-3740
HIV AIDS/Resource Center Toll-Free	866-HIV-TEST
Jim Toy Community Center	734-995-9867
Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center (KGLRC)	269-349-4234
Karibu House Community Center for LGBT Persons of Color	313-865-2170 ext. 3
Lansing Area AIDS Network	517-394-3719
Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC) Toll-Free	888-A-CONDOM
Oakland County Health Division Toll-Free	888-350-0990 ext. 85416
OutCenter	269-925-8330
PFLAG Ann Arbor	734-741-0659
PFLAG Detroit	248-656-2875
PFLAG Genesee County	810-496-8302
PFLAG Lansing	517-332-4550
PFLAG Tri-Cities Bay City/Saginaw/Midland	989-941-1458
Stonewall Bar Association (LGBT lawyers and allies)	313-578-6812
The LGBT Network of Western Michigan	616-458-3511
Transgender Michigan Help Line	517-420-1544
Unity Michigan	269-290-1427
Wellness AIDS Services	810-232-0888

Find these organizations and hundreds of LGBT-friendly businesses online at Pridesource.com/com/directory.html

All Hail The Drag Queen

How Your Favorite Girls Are Giving New Life To Detroit's Bar Scene



OPINION BY TONY LOWE

As a young gay man just starting to hit the scene, it was common to see a drag queen. Then, I had barely even heard of RuPaul, let alone known of her accolades. I had seen “To Wong Foo” only once and, at the time, was oblivious to big drag cameos from queens like Candis Cayne and CoCo Peru. I knew drag queens were a gay-club culture staple, but that was really the extent of it.

Going out to metro Detroit clubs, I realized something: DJs had their home bar, or their “night,” but drag performance was a mainstay. The girls that I saw regularly were some of the names we still see running around town – names like Sabin, Trixie Deluxxe, Natalie Cole, and, of course Nickki Stevens. Drag, though, was still very much an underground scene then, reserved for gay clubs and communities. Fame and recognition as a drag performer or entertainer came most often from doing pageants regionally and nationally, hosting or running popular nights or casts, or, for some, being a traveling performer.

As time went on so, too, did the evolution of mobile phone technology – much to the eventual outcry of gay

bar owners and promoters. With “smart phones” and the development of social apps, a new social environment for gay men was introduced. Meeting gay men was more convenient than ever, and the middle man – the bar – wasn’t the only way to mingle with our kind.

Then, in the midst of this social upheaval in Detroit and across the country, “RuPaul’s Drag Race” debuted on Logo. It was a smash, presenting a guilty-pleasure mix of gays, their girlfriends and aspiring stars – in drag or otherwise. As each season of “Drag Race” crowned a new queen, a phenomenon took hold of gay bars and nightclubs all over the U.S. These queens had become gay royalty, and the scene, to some extent, had been revived.

Viewing parties fill bars with fans that would normally be sitting at home watching their primetime shows, having a glass of wine and heading to bed. With a newfound patronage for RuPaul’s girls each season, there is undoubtedly a new and continuously growing fan base for drag like never before. People want to see them up close, performing on stage and snapping selfies with them. The hype surrounding these queens has mounted,

and so has the interest of nightclub owners in booking them.

Take Sharon Needles, for instance. After taking the Season 5 crown, the star who broke the proverbial glass ceiling of drag had her first performance

in Detroit. A fan favorite known for her ghoulish looks and non-conformist attitude, who stands for all the weird kids in the world, Sharon was attracting locals in droves. People had started waiting in line as early as 4 p.m. that afternoon in downtown Pontiac, where she’d later perform to a sea of

screaming ovations.

And not just from gay men.

The crowd that night crossed culture spectrums, attracting underdogs, emos, punk rockers, the gays, the straights – anyone that felt that Sharon had stood for them.

From Courtney Act and Adore Delano to Bianca Del Rio, this continues to be the case with each passing season of the “Drag Race,” as their various talents attract sellout crowds to bars, nightclubs, stages, theaters and Pride. For the bar scene as we know it, RuPaul and her girls are helping to keep gay nightlife alive.

Tony Lowe is a Detroit-area photographer and drag ambassador.

As each season of “Drag Race” crowned a new queen, a phenomenon took hold of gay bars and nightclubs all over the U.S. These queens had become gay royalty, and the scene, to some extent, had been revived.

Solution to puzzle from page 32

A	R	M	O	R	J	O	A	N	R	I	M	S
H	A	I	F	A	E	L	B	E	A	N	O	N
E	V	E	N	T	D	E	U	S	B	A	R	I
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T	R	I	M	E	L	V	I	L	L	E		
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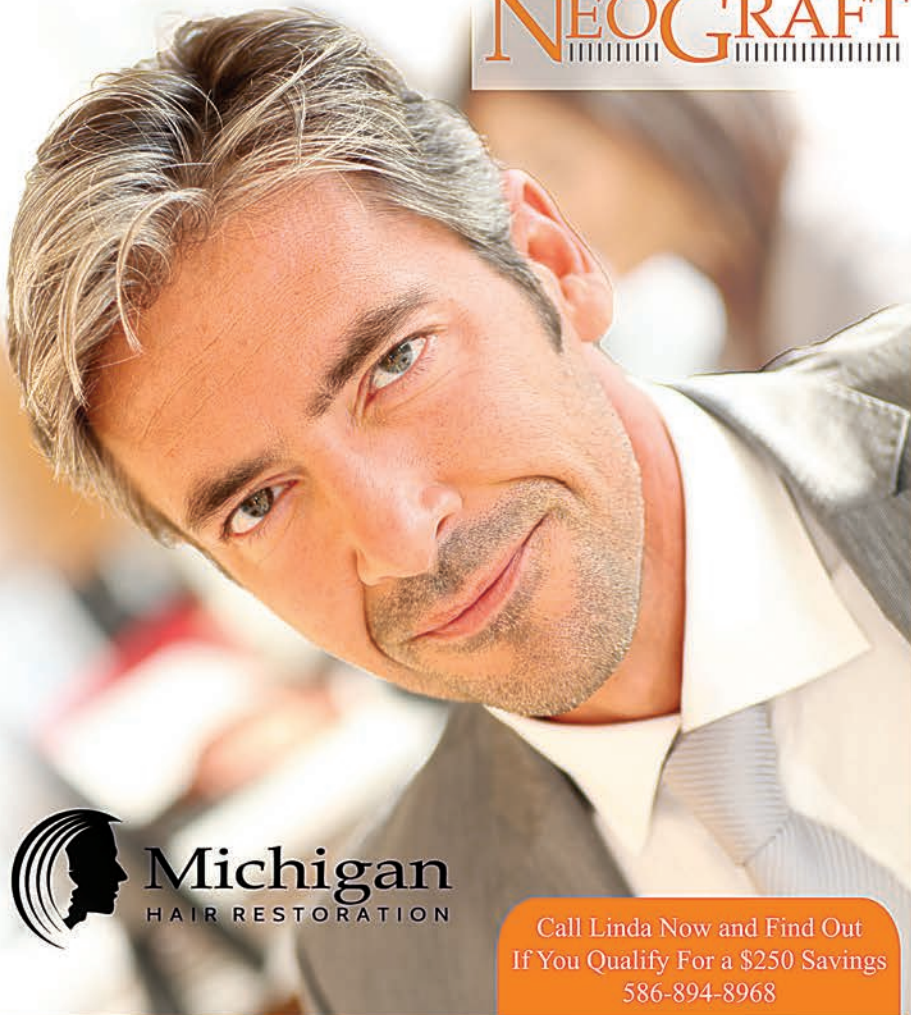
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