

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993

BTL
Between THE Lines™

'Idol' Kimberley Locke: Aiding In The Fight

Will Supreme Court Resolve Marriage Debate?

How HIV Stigma Is Damaging The Gay Community

**WORLD
AIDS
DAY**



What is STRIBILD?

STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. It combines 4 medicines into 1 pill to be taken once a day with food. STRIBILD is a complete single-tablet regimen and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.

STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses you must keep taking STRIBILD. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects:

- **Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual (not normal) muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold especially in your arms and legs, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and fatty (steatosis). Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice), dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored bowel movements (stools), loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and stop taking STRIBILD, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking STRIBILD without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health. STRIBILD is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take STRIBILD?

Do not take STRIBILD if you:

- **Take a medicine that contains:** alfuzosin, dihydroergotamine, ergotamine, methylergonovine, cisapride, lovastatin, simvastatin, pimozide, sildenafil when used for lung problems (Revatio®), triazolam, oral midazolam, rifampin or the herb St. John’s wort.
- **For a list of brand names for these medicines,** please see the Brief Summary on the following pages.
- **Take any other medicines to treat HIV-1 infection,** or the medicine adefovir (Hepsera®).

What are the other possible side effects of STRIBILD?

Serious side effects of STRIBILD may also include:

- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do regular blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with STRIBILD. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking STRIBILD.
- **Bone problems,** including bone pain or bones getting soft or thin, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV-1 medicines.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking STRIBILD.

The most common side effects of STRIBILD include nausea and diarrhea. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don’t go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. STRIBILD may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how STRIBILD works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Do not start any new medicines while taking STRIBILD without first talking with your healthcare provider.
- **If you take hormone-based birth control** (pills, patches, rings, shots, etc).
- **If you take antacids.** Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take STRIBILD.
- **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if STRIBILD can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking STRIBILD.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breast-feed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk. Also, some medicines in STRIBILD can pass into breast milk, and it is not known if this can harm the baby.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information with **important warnings** on the following pages.



STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used as a complete single-tablet regimen to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.

I started my personal revolution

Talk to your healthcare provider about starting treatment.

STRIBILD is a complete HIV-1 treatment in **1 pill**, once a day.

Ask if it's right for you.

STRIBILD[®] 

elvitegravir 150mg/ cobicistat 150mg/ emtricitabine 200mg/ tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300mg tablets

 GILEAD

Patient Information

STRIBILD® (STRY-bild) (elvitegravir 150 mg/cobicistat 150 mg/emtricitabine 200 mg/ tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg) tablets

Brief summary of full Prescribing Information. For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information, including Patient Information.

What is STRIBILD?

- **STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before.** STRIBILD is a complete regimen and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.
- **STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** You must stay on continuous HIV-1 therapy to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.
- **Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.** Do not share or reuse needles, injection equipment, or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them. Do not have sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects, including:

1. **Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take STRIBILD or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**

- feel very weak or tired
- have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
- have trouble breathing
- have stomach pain with nausea or vomiting
- feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
- feel dizzy or lightheaded
- have a fast or irregular heartbeat

2. **Severe liver problems.** Severe liver problems can happen in people who take STRIBILD. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:**

- your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
- dark “tea-colored” urine
- light-colored bowel movements (stools)
- loss of appetite for several days or longer
- nausea
- stomach pain

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time.

3. **Worsening of Hepatitis B infection.** If you have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and take STRIBILD, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking STRIBILD. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.

- Do not run out of STRIBILD. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your STRIBILD is all gone

- Do not stop taking STRIBILD without first talking to your healthcare provider
- If you stop taking STRIBILD, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking STRIBILD

Who should not take STRIBILD?

Do not take STRIBILD if you also take a medicine that contains:

- adefovir (Hepsera®)
- alfuzosin hydrochloride (Uroxatral®)
- cisapride (Propulsid®, Propulsid Quicksolv®)
- ergot-containing medicines, including: dihydroergotamine mesylate (D.H.E. 45®, Migranal®), ergotamine tartrate (Cafergot®, Migergot®, Ergostat®, Medihaler Ergotamine®, Wigraine®, Wigrettes®), and methylergonovine maleate (Ergotrate®, Methergine®)
- lovastatin (Advicor®, Altoprev®, Mevacor®)
- oral midazolam
- pimozide (Orap®)
- rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, Rimactane®)
- sildenafil (Revatio®), when used for treating lung problems
- simvastatin (Simcor®, Vytorin®, Zocor®)
- triazolam (Halcion®)
- the herb St. John’s wort

Do not take STRIBILD if you also take any other HIV-1 medicines, including:

- Other medicines that contain tenofovir (Atripla®, Complera®, Viread®, Truvada®)
- Other medicines that contain emtricitabine, lamivudine, or ritonavir (Atripla®, Combivir®, Complera®, Emtriva®, EpiVir® or EpiVir-HBV®, Epzicom®, Kaletra®, Norvir®, Trizivir®, Truvada®)

STRIBILD is not for use in people who are less than 18 years old.

What are the possible side effects of STRIBILD?

STRIBILD may cause the following serious side effects:

- **See “What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?”**
- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before you start and while you are taking STRIBILD. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking STRIBILD if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take STRIBILD. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the middle of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system** (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having any new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.

The most common side effects of STRIBILD include:

- Nausea
- Diarrhea

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

- These are not all the possible side effects of STRIBILD. For more information, ask your healthcare provider.
- Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

Tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions, including:

- If you have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis B infection
- If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if STRIBILD can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking STRIBILD.
 - There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk with your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.
- If you are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take STRIBILD.
 - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
 - Two of the medicines in STRIBILD can pass to your baby in your breast milk. It is not known if the other medicines in STRIBILD can pass into your breast milk.
 - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements:

- STRIBILD may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how STRIBILD works.
- Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you take any of the following medicines:
 - Hormone-based birth control (pills, patches, rings, shots, etc)
 - Antacid medicines that contain aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take STRIBILD
 - Medicines to treat depression, organ transplant rejection, or high blood pressure
 - amiodarone (Cordarone®, Pacerone®)
 - atorvastatin (Lipitor®, Caduet®)
 - bepridil hydrochloride (Vascor®, Bepadin®)
 - bosentan (Tracleer®)
 - buspirone
 - carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Epitol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®)
 - clarithromycin (Biaxin®, Prevpac®)
 - clonazepam (Klonopin®)
 - clorazepate (Gen-xene®, Tranxene®)
 - colchicine (Colcrys®)
 - medicines that contain dexamethasone
 - diazepam (Valium®)

- digoxin (Lanoxin®)
- disopyramide (Norpace®)
- estazolam
- ethosuximide (Zarontin®)
- flecainide (Tambocor®)
- flurazepam
- fluticasone (Flovent®, Flonase®, Flovent® Diskus®, Flovent® HFA, Veramyst®)
- itraconazole (Sporanox®)
- ketoconazole (Nizoral®)
- lidocaine (Xylocaine®)
- mexiletine
- oxcarbazepine (Trileptal®)
- perphenazine
- phenobarbital (Luminal®)
- phenytoin (Dilantin®, Phenytek®)
- propafenone (Rythmol®)
- quinidine (Neudexta®)
- rifabutin (Mycobutin®)
- rifapentine (Priftin®)
- risperidone (Risperdal®, Risperdal Consta®)
- salmeterol (Serevent®) or salmeterol when taken in combination with fluticasone (Advair Diskus®, Advair HFA®)
- sildenafil (Viagra®), tadalafil (Cialis®) or vardenafil (Levitra®, Staxyn®), for the treatment of erectile dysfunction (ED). If you get dizzy or faint (low blood pressure), have vision changes or have an erection that last longer than 4 hours, call your healthcare provider or get medical help right away.
- tadalafil (Adcirca®), for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension
- telithromycin (Ketek®)
- thioridazine
- voriconazole (Vfend®)
- warfarin (Coumadin®, Jantoven®)
- zolpidem (Ambien®, Edlular®, Intermezzo®, Zolpimist®)

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine. Do not start any new medicines while you are taking STRIBILD without first talking with your healthcare provider.

Keep STRIBILD and all medicines out of reach of children.

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about STRIBILD. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can also ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about STRIBILD that is written for health professionals, or call 1-800-445-3235 or go to www.STRIBILD.com.

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COVER

Illustration: Rachel Harper



“ Even before ‘Hideaway,’ when I was doing other projects, the gay community was always the community that supported me as a brand new artist.”

– Kiesza, page 28



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GIFT GUIDE



Access The HoliGay Gift Guide And More Online

This holiday season, use BTL's Holiday Gift Guide to get the perfect gifts! Find out who's family at Pridesource.com via the Pride Source Yellow Pages.

ENTER TO WIN



Win Two Tickets To See Paula Poundstone

Enter to win two tickets to see Paula Poundstone, Dec. 13 at the Royal Oak Music Theatre. Enter only at www.pridesource.com/tickets_contest.html

COOL CITIES



Learn More About This Week's Cool City: Lansing

Access the online Cool City pages at Pridesource.com to learn about upcoming events, featured advertisers and community news.

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Amber's Journey

Freedom And Anxiety In Shadow Of Legislature Debate On Nondiscrimination

BY TODD HEYWOOD

LANSING – Amber is looking forward to the new year, but she is also fearful of what 2015 will bring her.

She plans to transition to living her life as she was meant – as a woman. But the ongoing debates at the state capital about adding gender identity to the state's civil rights law makes such a move terrifying.

"The big thing I am worried about is losing my job," the 23-year-old told BTL. "Say I lose my job, I might have to move back to my parents' house and my transition would be put on hold."

Between The Lines has agreed not to use Amber's last name or the exact location of her hometown in order to give her some protection and the ability to come out to people at her own pace.

Amber hails from conservative west Michigan. Her parents and three brothers are unaware that she is preparing to transition. They will learn of her life change through a letter crafted by Amber with the assistance of her therapist. That letter will be delivered after the holidays.

The revelation may not come as a surprise. Amber says she fought with her parents about her gender when she was a child.

"I really thought I was a female when I was 4 or 5 and I ended up getting into an argument with my parents," she says. "It ended with them saying I was male, and me crying."

She did what she could to fit herself to her gender assigned at birth – including playing football in high school. She studied criminal justice in college and has worked a series of warehouse type jobs usually associated with men.

"I was trying to prove to myself something," she says of her masculine choices in her teen years. "I never felt the same. I felt like an outcast."

When she was 18, she began dreaming of herself as a woman. Then the moment of revelation happened.

"I was trying to picture myself as a male



Amber plans to transition to living her life as she was meant – as a woman. But the ongoing debates at the state capital about adding gender identity to the state's civil rights law makes such a move terrifying.

like five years down the road, and I couldn't," she said.

She moved to Lansing in June and began the process of transitioning. That includes counseling. She has a letter to begin hormone therapy and has fixed her transition date in the beginning of 2015. Despite feeling more confident in her gender, and being excited to begin life fully as Amber, her apprehension grows as her transition date comes closer.

Lansing has a nondiscrimination law which includes gender identity and expression. The ordinance has been on the books since 2006, but it has never been tested. It has, however, been used in negotiations between Lansing Community College and Spring Arbor University as the community college prepared to open a university center, sharing publicly financed space with some of the state's private and public universities.

Spring Arbor had come under fire for firing Julie Nemecek when she transitioned; LCC also reminded all the potential university

partners that they must adhere to LCC policies, including nondiscrimination rules. Spring Arbor bowed out of the running for a partnership as a result.

Amber still has not discussed her transition with the bio-engineering company where she works. She is terrified that her new life will be cut short by an economic dagger in her back; she worries she will be fired for her transition.

Amber is more than a little aware of the economic struggles of many transgender women in America. She rattles off the statistics related to unemployment and underemployment as well as homelessness. She knows she faces a potentially hostile world.

Among her ten transgender friends, two are unemployed. Neither can find a job. The gender markers on their identifications out them as trans, leading to a bias in hiring, she says. Amending Elliott-Larsen might ease her fears. "It would make me feel more comfortable, it would ease a little bit of that

anxiety," she notes.

She says the current debate at the state level is "dehumanizing."

"It's crazy to me people would like to think it's OK to exclude a group of people from a nondiscrimination law," she said.

As for the lawmakers talking about transpeople, but not with them, she has a message.

"I'd talk to them about how many trans people are losing jobs," she said. "It's crazy we are already so discriminated against."

TAKE ACTION

Freedom Michigan

>> www.freedommichigan.org

Freedom Michigan is a coalition of business leaders, lawmakers, faith leaders, grassroots activists, members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community and concerned residents who have come together across party lines for one goal: To update the landmark Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act (ELCRA) to protect LGBT Michiganders from discrimination.

The state legislators are scheduled to vote on this right after Thanksgiving. Contact them and tell them to support a fully inclusive amendment.

Grand Rapids' The Network Sees Advocacy Facelift

BY AJ TRAGER

GRAND RAPIDS – As announced in mid-October, the Network, the LGBT community center in Grand Rapids, has undergone an ambitious restructuring.

The structure and progress of LGBT rights in the state has done everything but slow down. The DeBoer v Snyder case may see the Supreme Court of the United States and Michigan may have a bill pass this fall to include full, statewide LGBT protections. “Today, we have more rights than we have ever had, more acceptance and more allies, although many challenges remain, and it is clear these changes have not benefitted all LGBT people equally,” President of the Network, Mike Hemmingsen, wrote in a press release announcing changes to the Network.

As part of the restructuring of the center, some positions have been shifted. Mira Krishnan, who was hired on earlier this year as a board member, will become Chief Executive Director. Krishnan is a leader in autism diagnosis and treatment and brings non-profit administration and leadership, grant funding and strategic planning experience.

“We will recommit to lifting up those in our community who are struggling, recognizing that until all of us are safe, none of us are safe. We will continue to celebrate LGBT lives and loves. And we will take our rightful place as community stakeholders. We will reaffirm and increase our commitment as LGBT Grand Rapidians to making this a great city, to enhancing the stability and prosperity of our industry and our neighborhoods and to doing this for all people, gay and straight,” Krishnan said.

The Network will work towards solidifying groups for LGBT youth and transgender individuals, providing services for LGBT individuals with mental illness, fostering activities that nurture families and looking at areas of marginalization and how other factors affect LGBT people.

“It’s positive and exciting,” Volunteer Coordinator Larry DeShane said.

Krishnan wants the Network to host bigger and better Pride celebrations in Grand Rapids. Her and her team are comprising a calendar of events for the year that will be more aggressive, adding in stronger recognition for smaller communities like asexuals, demisexuals or a-romantics.

“We are continuing the idea that we need a different approach to get to where we are all included. If there is anything going on, we are involved; the LGBT community is involved,” Krishnan said.

“People ask me, ‘Are you crazy?’ As a trans person I am in a very unique position. Coming out as transgender, you can’t go back in the closet. ...It means I am free to be an advocate.”

- Chief Executive Director, Krishnan

Many LGBT community groups go through restructuring. Funding and board members are often shifted around and the mission statement changes in direction. Under Krishnan’s leadership, the Network has hired skilled young professionals to be leaders in the group and sought out people who had specific talents instead of following a traditionally board-motivated chain of command. The Network now has a clinician for support groups, an experienced event planner and non-profit professionals to handle media development.

A goal for the Network is to have enough staff to provide evening and holiday services to the community.

“It’s a work in process to develop evening help. And it’s easy to shut down on Christmas, but that’s when people need us the most,” Krishnan pointed out.

She feels the Grand Rapids LGBT community is still in the process of embracing visibility. Under her leadership, she plans on strengthening that.

“People ask me, ‘Are you crazy?’ As a trans person I am in a very unique position. Coming out as transgender, you can’t go back in the closet. If people know you, you are a known quantity. It means I am free to be an advocate. It’s a lot of work, but I don’t feel like, as an LGBT professional, that I can live without the LGBT community being represented well.”

“It is important for the Network. This is a visible commitment that this is about the entire LGBT community. We have lots of invested trans people; we launched a new membership program. It’s a new era. We do need to do more to have leadership and groups that represent the community, including racial diversity and including all the letters (of LGBT).”

Follow the Network as it changes and develops into a stronger community center, and get connected with LGBT events in west Michigan by checking out www.grlgbt.org

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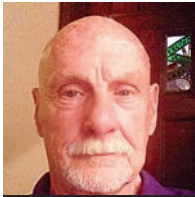


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Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

DRUMSTICK #1: If you're looking for a ploy to come out to your family this Thanksgiving, you might casually remark that according to "Biological Exuberance" by animal behavior specialist Dr. Bruce Bagemihl, the female domestic turkey often engages in same-sex courting and mounting activity before, during and after the holidays.

DRUMSTICK #2: Contrary to popular belief, the 102 Pilgrims who sailed on the Mayflower in 1620 did not eat Thanksgiving turkey or pumpkin pie. Flour for baking bread and pie crust was all used up during the three-months ocean crossing. Guinea hen – whose same-sex courting and mounting status is unavailable as BTL goes to press – was the main dinner staple.

LIGHT MEAT: Pilgrims were too straight laced to wear silver buckles, and they didn't land at Plymouth Rock. Thomas Faunce, a popular preacher, started that PR story in 1740. He claimed his father, who arrived in this country three years after the Mayflower first dropped anchor, pointed the site out to him as a kid.

According to Harvard historian spoilsport Edward Channing (no relation to "Hello Dolly" Carol), a ship could never have landed at Plymouth Rock, given the strong direction of the surrounding currents.

(Note: New England Pilgrims – America's original "love the sinner, hate the sin" do gooders – would be appalled if they had an inkling of the direction the current flows around P'Town these days. Especially at the Boat Dock!)

DARK MEAT: In 1647, Puritans – who, it turns out, actually enjoyed only missionary position sex – outlawed the preaching of wedding sermons. Marriage for brimstone Calvinists was not a sacrament but strictly a secular matter to be conducted by civil magistrates, and so it remained well into the 1700s.

Puritans quoted Martin Luther, who cautioned, "Marriage is a secular and outward thing, having to do with wife, children, house and home, and with other matters that belong to the realm of government, all of which have been completely subjected to reason." (AFA, please take note, and pass the turkey stuffing.)

BREAST: From 1702 until 1708 the governor of New York, Lord Cornbury, was a cross dresser. He appeared gowned at public ceremonies, wore elaborate hairdos, let his fingernails grow long. A favorite of Anne, Queen of England, he was a bit too, too much for the puritanical colonists who booted him – and his silver buckle – out of office.

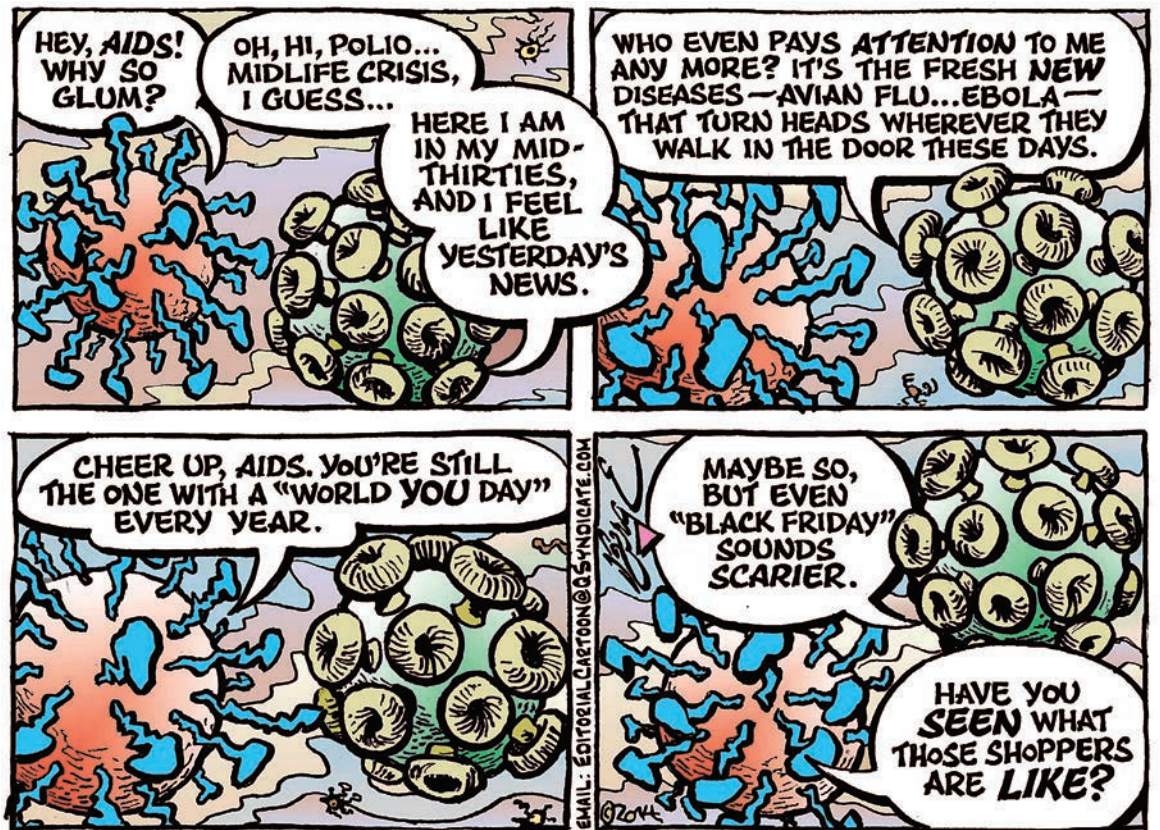
GIZZARD: Puritans were a mean spirited bunch. They didn't celebrate Christmas, and nobody dared work on Sunday for fear of being put in the stockade. Children's games were deemed unbiblical, and unmarried courting couples risked public beatings if they were discovered sitting alone or holding hands unchaperoned.

Children who disobeyed their parents in Colonial Connecticut got stoned (and not on pot), and those Massachusetts rakehells who were caught in adultery got the final head chop in the mid-1600s. Salem witch hunts came soon after.

PARSON'S NECK: In 1642, 17-years-old Thomas Granger was at various times seen cuddling up with "a mare, a cows, two goats, five sheep, two calves and a turkey." But not necessarily in that poking – er, pecking – order. For his post-pubescent bit of animal husbandry, he was hung – beg pardon: hanged – and each of the aforementioned amorous playmates was "kild" for making hey, nonny non with a minor.

Happy Holiday! Gobble your drumsticks to your heart's content, but please leave your domestic birdies behind the barn alone..

Charles@pridesource.com



Turning Remembrance Into Action

OPINION BY CARMEN GARCIA

In observation of Transgender Day of Remembrance, a service was held at Central United Methodist Church in Detroit last Friday evening. When the service concluded, I thanked Michelle Fox-Phillips for a wonderful service and she said, "And who is absent AGAIN? The media."

I thought about that for a while. The truth is: this was an easy event for area journalists to dismiss. There was the tree lighting event at Campus Martius. There were countless entertainment events taking place just steps away from Central United Methodist Church to cover. Those events offered holiday music and lights, hors d'oeuvres and photo ops of smiling faces. In a region that has such a deep need for healing, it's probably natural for the media to run toward "feel good" events.

Here's what the media missed: a well-planned and beautifully presented hour-long memorial service. The names of over 200 Trans* people, whose lives ended violently in the past 12 months, were read aloud as candles were lit – a candle to commemorate each life lost. Every speaker was eloquent, the music that filled the beautiful sanctuary was comforting and the

crowd was attentive and in quiet reflection. Prayers and poems were offered to help all of us navigate the pain of facing the brutal reality of so many precious lives lost – some of whom died nameless, all of whom suffered greatly.

It's gut-wrenching to hear name after name, feeling sad and wishing that we could turn the clock back and somehow prevent each death. There is also great sadness in knowing that this is not going to be the last such service. Next year, more candles will be lit as more names will be spoken aloud. More creative, loving members of our community will be lost. It's important to pause, reflect and remember. What do we do when the service is over?

The media also missed an opportunity to hear a call to action. More than one speaker reminded us that there is something very important each of us can do to support our Trans* brothers and sisters. We can let the members of the Michigan legislature know that we want them to support amending the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include protections for sexual orientation

AND gender identity and expression. Find your legislators at www.senate.mi.gov and www.house.mi.gov.

We can be forceful allies who push for a bill that doesn't continue to marginalize the members of our community who are Trans*. Having the opportunity to do something allows me to direct the anger and sadness that I felt for each person whose name I heard and each description of a nameless casualty of transphobia. Remembering is important. Turning remembrance into action honors the lives lost and also honors the efforts of each person on the committee which prepared the event and each presenter who thoughtfully led part of the service.

Moveon.org has a petition you can sign to help our Trans* friends and family: <http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/expand-michigans-civil>

If you want to do more, Affirmations, S.P.I.C.E., Equality Michigan and the ACLU of Michigan have prepared a toolkit for action. See it at www.miroundtable.org/RoundtableDownloads/Elliott-Larsen%20Toolkit.pdf.

Carmen Garcia joined Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit in 1990 and is an active member.

Transgender Services In Michigan

Transgender Michigan, founded in 1997, provides services to the transgender communities of Michigan including advocacy, support and education and creating coalitions to unify and empower transgender and gender non-conforming communities. The online calendar hosted on their site lists transgender activities and meet ups from around the state. BTL's calendar also documents various events for the group. The first Thursday of each month, TGMI hosts Perceptions – a support group hosted by Char held at Populace Coffee in Bay City.

www.transgendermichigan.org
855-345-8464
info@transgendermichigan.org

The Spectrum Center, the LGBT services office at the University of Michigan, offers Gender Explorers, a social group for transgender, transsexual, genderqueer, TG-questioning people and those who transgress gender binaries, held from 8-10 p.m. every second and fourth Monday in the Spectrum Center at the University of Michigan.

http://spectrumcenter.umich.edu
734-763-4186
spectrumcenter@umich.edu

Ruth Ellis Center offers Trans*Peace, a supportive and inclusive group for young transgender men and women, which meets from 7-8 p.m. every Monday.

www.ruthelliscenter.org
313-252-1950
info@ruthelliscenter.org

Transgender Women of Color (TWOC) group meets at 7 p.m. every third Thursday at Full Truth Fellowship in Detroit and is focused on embracing womanhood and developing sisterhood.

Contact Salina: 313-931-2975
Contact Tiffany: 313-526-3737

Eastern Michigan University holds EMU Trans* & Gender Queer Group which meets from 12:30-1:30 p.m. every Wednesday in the EMU Student Center, Room 354 and is open to all students from EMU and Washtenaw Community College.

www.emich.edu/lgbtrc
734-487-4149
lgbtrc@emich.edu

Affirmations offers an array of services for the transgender community. Transgender Life Support is hosted from 7-9 p.m. every Tuesday, offering an open conversation for trans identified individuals and allies. From 6:30-9:30 p.m. on every other Thursday are Gender Hormone Counseling Sessions hosted by Pharmacist Darnell Jones, who conducts one-on-one counseling sessions and assists in the specific health concerns and needs of the transgender population. Sessions are either by appointment or walk-in and are free of charge. Jones is an RPH with 30 years professional experience and has spent the last one and a half years focusing on trans health.

www.goaffirmations.org
Phone: 248-398-7105
info@GoAffirmations.org

The Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center (KGLRC) is focused in on providing trans services to West Michigan. TransCend provides group support meetings, mentoring, informational resources, educational resources and advocacy for Southwest Michigan and meets at 6:30 p.m. every second Wednesday of the month and at 4:30 p.m. every fourth Saturday of the month.

www.kglrc.org
269-349-4234

The Network in Grand Rapids provides west Michigan with Own Your Gender, a social group for transgender, non-gender binary or gender non-conforming individuals to engage in conversation and collaboration. The group meets from 7-10 p.m. every second and fourth Saturday.

www.grlgbt.org
616-458-3511

TransYouth Family Allies partners with educators, service providers and communities to develop supportive environments where gender can be exposed and respected and provides educational programs for healthcare providers, media experiences and transitioning youth. They partner with schools, help with coping, problem solving and personal and safety skills for gender variant trans youth and for allies supporting trans youth and their families. TransYouth provides a brochure, online support forums and speakers.

www.imatyfa.org
888-462-8932
E-mail: info@imatyfa.org

Transitions, a gender variant support group is held from 7-9 p.m. every Friday evening and from 2-4 p.m. every Sunday. It is an open support group, free of charge, providing participants a safe, equal and inclusive non-judgmental atmosphere to discuss and harvest resources and information on all topics that affect the transgender and gender variant communities. The group is held at Rockafellow Psychological Services, Suite 210, 1055 E. South Blvd, Suite 210, Rochester Hills.

586-838-0825



Find these and hundreds of Michigan nonprofit resources online at www.pridesource.com/yellowpages, along with hundreds of LGBT friendly businesses.

Creep of the Week Racism

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Oh, hey guys. I was just surfing the Interwebs looking for anti-gay idiots I can write snarky comments about. But then I read that Darren Wilson – you know, the cop that shot 18-year-old Mike Brown in Ferguson, Missouri back in August? – will not be indicted. In other words, he won't face any criminal charges for killing an unarmed black kid in the middle of a fucking street in front of witnesses. Because justice.

You know what? This is why we can't have nice things like marriage equality and anti-discrimination protections for LGB and T people. Because we live in a country where it is still basically fine and dandy to shoot to kill black children. You don't even have to be a police officer! Just ask George Zimmerman. He's a free man after shooting and killing 17-year-old Trayvon Martin who was armed with a pack of Skittles and an iced tea. We really haven't made much progress since 1955 when 14-year-old Emmett Till was beaten, shot and then tied to a cotton gin fan and sunk in the Tallahatchie River all for supposedly whistling at a white woman.

There are people who bristle at the idea that LGBT people are fighting for civil rights, as if the only civil rights struggle that can legitimately exist is for African-Americans. I reject this distinction and think it is foolish. Civil rights are civil rights, whether you're fighting racism or you're fighting heterosexism. It all comes down to respect. If you're treating somebody like they're less than you, whether it's because they're gay or because they're black, that's a problem. And, of course, if you're an LGBT African-American you're all the more marginalized and discriminated against.

But I get it. I can guess why support for LGBT equality often doesn't poll well with heterosexual African Americans. I mean, racism isn't exactly over in America, no matter what Ann Coulter says, and if you're being oppressed from every fucking angle because of the color of your skin, I can see how whether two ladies or two dudes can marry might not be your primary concern right now.

It's a mistake, however, to see these fights as mutually exclusive. They

aren't. Nor is there a queue for social justice where LGBT folks have to wait in line until racism is defeated before there can be marriage equality, for example.

I would argue, however, that most white LGBT folks, no strangers to discrimination, are not doing enough to combat racism in America. I say this because most white Americans aren't doing enough, and to be white is to have privilege unavailable to people of color, even if you're LGBT. And too often white people are oblivious to this privilege, and this obliviousness

“...most white Americans aren't doing enough, and to be white is to have privilege unavailable to people of color, even if you're LGBT. And too often white people are oblivious to this privilege.”

means that we only notice overt racism, like when someone uses the “N-word,” yet are blind to the institutional racism that plagues this country. It prevents us from seeing how totally fucked up things are for African-Americans.

It is impossible to live in America and not be touched by racism. This country is steeped in it. It is on you. You're either benefiting from it or being hurt by it (or both, for some). To not challenge racism is to be complicit in it. To not challenge racism is to be racist.

White Americans benefit from racism every day yet get defensive at the very idea that they could be racist. They say things like, “I'm not racist, I voted for Obama” or, “I'm not racist, but...” (you can fill that in with whatever you want. It's probably racist). Ignorance is no excuse. But ignorance also isn't incurable.

So, yeah. I'm feeling sick and sad and frustrated. And I know full well that some will dismiss this as “white guilt.” But in a country with dead black boys lying on our streets and sidewalks, feeling a little guilt is literally the least white people can do.



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Will U.S. Supreme Court Resolve Same-Sex Marriage Debate?

Current State Numbers And Legal Predictions

BY LISA KEEN

Trying to keep up with the number of states now issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples has been tricky business the past few weeks. The number of new states coming “on line” with marriage equality changing almost every day – sometimes back and forth.

Just last week, for instance, Arizona’s attorney general, who said in October he would not appeal a district court decision striking the state’s ban, filed a notice of appeal with the 9th Circuit saying he would. One week earlier, the U.S. Supreme Court granted a stay on a court order for same-sex marriage in Kansas on Monday and then lifted that stay on Wednesday.

Just last week, the U.S. Supreme Court refused South Carolina’s request to stay a lower court order requiring it to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples even though the state, like Kansas, is still appealing that lower court decision to the federal appeals court. And in both of these states, the relevant circuit court has already ruled for same-sex marriage.

Just last week, a federal judge in Montana ruled that state’s ban is unconstitutional and, though the state attorney general said he would appeal to the 9th Circuit (which has already declared such bans unconstitutional), he has decided not to block same-sex couples from obtaining marriage licenses now.

Most calculations put the number of states now allowing same-sex couples to marry at 35, plus the District of Columbia. This reporter calculates 36 (counting Missouri where couples can marry in St. Louis), with a caveat.

The caveat is that eight of the 36 states (Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, North Carolina and South Carolina) still have appeals seeking to preserve the bans alive.

And, of course, litigation is also still alive in the 14 states where same-sex couples cannot yet obtain marriage licenses. (Those 14 states are Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Tennessee and Texas.)

The numbers will almost certainly

change again, even before the U.S. Supreme Court makes a ruling on the constitutionality of such bans. Many expect that ruling will lead to marriage equality in all 50 states. Some state political leaders – including opponents of same-sex marriage – have bluntly predicted that outcome.

But Harvard law professor Laurence Tribe says he wouldn’t give odds much over 60-40 that the Supreme Court will overturn the 6th Circuit decision.

Harvard law professor Laurence Tribe says he wouldn’t give odds much over 60-40 that the Supreme Court will overturn the 6th Circuit decision.

That decision, written by Republican appointee Judge Jeffery Sutton, relied heavily on an argument that the right of people in a democracy to vote their own laws trumps the right guaranteed by that democracy’s constitution that all citizens have equal protection of the law.

“Is this a matter that the National Constitution commits to resolution by the federal courts or leaves to the less expedient, but usually reliable, work of the state democratic processes?” asked Sutton. His opinion, joined by his Republican colleague on the three-judge panel, predicted the Supreme Court might well affirm the democratic process used by voters to uphold an old, traditional definition of marriage (one man-one woman) in the same way that, earlier this year, the Supreme Court upheld the right of a town board meeting to carry on its “tradition” to open with a prayer (*Town of Greece v Galloway*). And he pointed to the Supreme Court’s repeatedly expressed “reluctanc(e) to upset this traditional practice” of presidential recess appointments (*NLRB v Canning*), at least a tradition that limited when those appointments could be made.

What Sutton had trouble reconciling, however, was the Supreme Court’s decision in *Romer v Evans*, where, in 1997, it struck down a Colorado voter-

approved initiative banning laws that prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation. Sutton contended that, in *Romer*, the Supreme Court was motivated by the “novelty” of Colorado’s ban and its “targeting of a single group for disfavored treatment under it.” Although he acknowledged that the state bans against marriage for same-sex couples were passed in recent years (most between 2004 and 2006), he argued that they codified a “long-

existing, widely held social norm already reflected in state law.”

Evan Wolfson, head of the national Freedom to Marry group and a lawyer who has been working on marriage equality litigation since 1993, said he thinks the Supreme Court will resolve the conflict between the circuits in favor of equal protection.

Tribe expresses some concern that some justices may experience “internal ambivalence about just how rapidly the Court should move when the nation is already moving in the same direction with considerable speed.”

The New York Times this week made note of the fact that the number of states still banning same-sex marriage is roughly equivalent now to the number of states still banning interracial marriage in 1967 when the Supreme Court struck down bans against interracial marriage. Ditto for when it struck down laws, in 1954, providing for segregated public schools.

Appeals from five of 14 states with intact bans against same-sex marriage have been filed already with the U.S. Supreme Court. Lambda Legal Defense and others filed appeals of a 6th Circuit panel’s decision upholding such bans in four states (Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio

See Marriage Debate?, next page

► Marriage Debate?

Continued from p. 12

and Tennessee). And last Friday, Lambda took the somewhat unusual action of asking the Supreme Court to review a decision by a U.S. district court judge who ruled that Louisiana's ban was constitutional. (The Louisiana case, *Robicheaux v George*, is currently awaiting argument in the 5th Circuit in January.)

"We are asking for the Supreme Court's review now while it is considering the 6th Circuit decision because together these cases present the full gamut of aberrant arguments supporting these discriminatory bans," explained Lambda Senior Counsel Kenneth Upton Jr. "... The longer same-sex couples are forced to live in a country divided by where their families are respected and where they aren't, the more apparent the injustice will become – and that clarity will come at a price for thousands of families."

Reason For Optimism

Lambda has reasons for optimism at the U.S. Supreme Court. First, the Supreme Court was under no particular deadline or need to rush when it announced on its first day of the 2014-15 session that it would not take appeals from states seeking to preserve their bans. That act alone quickly increased the number of states with marriage equality from 19 to 28

and hoisted the other eight into compliance, albeit under protest.

But most importantly, the denial of those appeals on Oct. 6 signaled that at least six of the nine justices (it takes four to accept a case) did not believe those states had an appeal worthy of consideration.

Then, on Nov. 12 and Nov. 20, Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas publicly indicated they disagreed with the other justices in denying requests from Kansas and South Carolina to stay orders to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

These two facts don't guarantee the outcome of the 6th Circuit or any other appeal will be a 7 to 2 victory for the right of same-sex couples to marry. As any veteran Supreme Court watcher would warn and Tribe stated, "It's tough to be sure in advance of how the discussion within the Court will go."

“The longer same-sex couples are forced to live in a country divided by where their families are respected and where they aren't, the more apparent the injustice will become – and that clarity will come at a price for thousands of families.”

- Lambda Senior Counsel Kenneth Upton Jr.

As Lyle Denniston at scotusblog.com pointed out, both Kansas and South Carolina tried to pitch their cases as different from the rest of the states in the 10th and 4th Circuits, respectively – circuits which have ruled the bans unconstitutional.

But all eyes are on the U.S. Supreme Court to resolve the conflict – whether they be states (like Louisiana) in circuits that still allow bans on same-sex marriage or states (like Kansas and South Carolina) in circuits that don't.

The Kansas Supreme Court echoed that expectation Nov. 17 when it ruled that the state should comply with the federal district court decision and noted that the U.S. Supreme Court had denied the Kansas stay just six days after the 6th Circuit panel decision created a "conflict" among the circuit courts on the matter of state bans.

"Once the underlying federal constitutional

questions are finally resolved," stated the Kansas Supreme Court, "this court will be in a position to determine whether (a stay of the federal district court decision)... is appropriate."

So, the waiting game continues.

There is no indication yet when the Supreme Court justices will discuss whether to take the appeals from the 6th Circuit and/or Louisiana. The next scheduled conferences are Friday, Dec. 5 and 12. In the meantime, the 14 states that ban same-sex marriage and the eight others that still want to do so appear as determined in their efforts as civil rights attorneys are to eradicate those bans.

MI MARRIAGE CASE

Follow Michigan Marriage Case

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The Michigan Marriage Challenge, a non-profit 501©(3), is asking for financial support in the DeBoer v Snyder case. To get involved or donate money to help the DeBoer legal team get to SCOTUS, visit www.michiganmarriagechallenge.com.



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A Doctor's Journey Working With HIV/AIDS Over 30 Years

Gulick Says Stigma To Testing And Access To Care Persists

BY TODD HEYWOOD

LANSING – Dr. Peter Gulick was extremely uncomfortable as the Lansing City Council unanimously approved a resolution Monday night declaring Dec. 1 “Dr. Peter G. Gulick Appreciation Day” in the city. While he has toiled on the front lines against HIV since it was first reported, the public accolades for his commitments remain difficult to hear.

Randy Hannan, chief of staff to Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero, noted that Gulick preferred to stay behind the scenes.

“But that’s not what we do here,” he said. “We want to highlight people who are doing things to improve this community.”

And no one can argue that Gulick has not had a significant impact on the Lansing community throughout the last 30 years. But his fight against the HIV epidemic was not his first choice.

Gulick was not looking at a career in infectious disease in the very early 80s. He wanted to be a medical oncologist.

He even put in a year at a hospital in Buffalo working on cancer, but family issues brought him home to Cleveland. Because he was late in applying, he was unable to get into oncology at the preeminent Cleveland Clinic, but he did get a fellowship in infectious disease.

“I just kind of did infectious disease, and I fell into treating HIV,” he says. “That wasn’t something – obviously – I planned, because it wasn’t even a recognized disease yet.”

In fact, Gulick now has the largest patient caseload in Michigan. He serves over 800 people living with HIV at three separate clinics in the state. One, located in Lansing; a second in Saginaw. His third is located in tiny Harrison, the county seat for Clare County and a town of just over 2,000 people. The Harrison Clinic is the only rural HIV clinic in Michigan. Getting there has been a journey for Gulick – both scientific and personally.

The 80s

In the very early 80s, HIV had not even been discovered. All the medical experts knew was that young men were dying from a host of bizarre infections. They discovered those men’s immune systems were, for all practical purposes, decimated. When Gulick began treating these mostly young men, the disease was still called Gay Related Immune Deficiency Syndrome (GRIDS). Well into the 90s, the disease was devastating. There were no treatments for the virus – even after it was identified in 1984 – just prophylaxis for the bizarre diseases that took advantage of the



Lansing Councilmember Wood looks on as Dr. Peter Gulick addresses the audience after a resolution declared Dec. 1 “Dr. Peter G. Gulick Appreciation Day” in the city. BTL photo Todd Heywood.

defenseless bodies of those infected. Mortality was significant, Gulick recalls.

“Back then, when someone came in with a diagnosis of AIDS, you knew they were going to be dead in two years. You didn’t know what would kill them, but you knew they would be dead,” he said.

His colleagues knew how dispiriting the infection was. His interns would joke that Gulick was doing his rounds on “the morgue.”

He distinctly recalls how that attitude impacted one patient, many years ago.

He visited the patient who had posted a sign in his room declaring that, unless visitors were going to smile, they were unwelcome. The patient informed Gulick he would no longer allow his two interns to treat him. Apparently they had not smiled.

“He said, ‘I know I’m dying, and I don’t need somebody to come in here and make me feel that way,’” Gulick recalls the patient telling him. “And you know what, he was right.”

Gulick chastised the two interns – both incredibly gifted and well trained doctors – reminding them that until they could deal with patients, they would fail at medicine. The interns, he recalls were shocked by this revelation.

The mounting death toll hit Gulick he says. “In retrospect, yes I was dealing with PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder),” the doctor said.

“Prior to HAART (Highly Active Antiretroviral Treatment, the first generation of multi-drug treatments that were effective in treating HIV) or ART (Antiretroviral treatment, as the treatments are known today), I was almost at the point where I needed some help psychologically,” he said. “It was hard to go home every night and say, ‘Well, we lost another two people, or three people.’ My wife could see the change in me. I mean, I would not talk too much. I had trouble sleeping. I was just in a real depressive mood.”

Welcome 1995

But then, in 1995, the discovery of protease inhibitors, a new class of anti-HIV drugs, changed everything. Used in combination with earlier classes of drugs, the so-called cocktail had a miraculous impact on patients. T-cells rose, viral loads dropped, people who were at death’s door became well. Historically this is known as the Lazarus Period in HIV. And that new treatment changed Gulick as well.

“For me, it was like taking something that could make you high,” he says of his elation at having a weapon in his arsenal that was able to beat back the virus. “(The drugs) changed people’s lives.”

Despite those drugs being a complicated treatment protocol requiring, sometimes, dozens of pills a day taken on strict time frames, and the drugs carrying significant



side effects, Gulick and his patients pushed through.

He said at times he mislead some patients to keep them taking the complicated and toxic regimes. “I didn’t know it at the time, but I told them the drug companies were working on new drugs. I did it to keep their hopes up – keep a little light in the distance,” he said.

And he was right. Now, those toxic and complicated multi-pill treatments are mostly gone. In their place, once-a-day pills that were just as effective but with less side effects became available. In fact, while prior to these treatments life expectancy for a person diagnosed with AIDS was two years or less, today a person with an AIDS diagnosis is expected to live at least 40 years. A person diagnosed with HIV is expected to live a completely normal life span.

The infectious disease doctor says the treatment has gotten so good that he now spends a lot of time worrying about patients’ aging issues – things like heart disease, one of America’s number one killers.

Gulick also witnessed what he called the “good news, bad news” of the new treatment.

“The good news, ‘Good, you’re on medicines that are going to save your life,’” he said. “The bad news was, most of these people had given up everything. They’d sold their houses, their life insurance. They had nothing left because they were preparing to die.”

Through his career, Gulick has also developed a deep sense of respect for the gay community. This, despite never having had contact with gay people prior to starting his career treating HIV.

He said it was watching the gay patients and their partners fight the disease together that helped him the most.

“Many times their families had totally given up on them, didn’t want to talk to them, just abandoned them. But yet what I found was that their partner stayed at the bedside. Stayed with their loved one, just through the worst of it and didn’t give up on it,” he said. “They were just a support for the partner and for me as a doctor because it was so hard for me to treat young individuals that were dying and that I

See One Doctor, page 18



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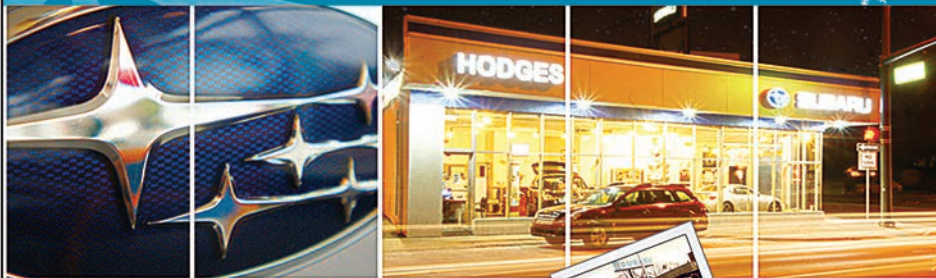
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Tainted Love: How HIV Stigma Is Damaging The Gay Community

BY LAWRENCE FERBER

Stigma: a mark of disgrace associated with a particular circumstance, quality or person.

Hearing the words “I’m HIV-positive” made Bryan* (names and some details have been changed) freeze.

A 23-year-old graphic designer, Bryan had met a guy at a Manhattan gay club, a svelte 25-year-old tourist, Zach, with whom he danced, drank and laughed. Around 1 a.m., just before heading to Zach’s hotel for more private activities together, Zach disclosed his positive HIV status. His viral load was undetectable, successfully suppressed with a drug regimen to the point it was low to no risk for transmission. He was clear of other STDs, and he packed an ample supply of condoms.

Bryan declined to go back with him, though, offering up a politely worded excuse rather than saying what he really thought: “I don’t sleep with HIV-positive guys.” Zach, however, had heard those words, or variations of the same, more than a few times since his diagnosis a couple of years ago, and he could see them clearly in Bryan’s green eyes. He felt like shit, judged, tainted, and while Zach wouldn’t lie and tell someone he was negative, he understood why so many others in his shoes have and do.

Bryan ended up getting lucky a couple of hours later at another bar with Alex, an architect-in-training from Chicago who said he was negative.

There’s a twist: Bryan, in fact, was positive, although he wouldn’t find out until six months later when he got tested for the first time in almost three years – something he put off because, in the back of his mind, he was concerned about a bareback encounter with someone he met on Grindr who deleted his profile the next day, disappearing as if in a poof of smoke.

“Stigma is really damaging on both ends,” says Matthew Rodriguez of comprehensive HIV/AIDS resource site, The Body. “For negative people, stigma can sometimes stop them from getting tested. If they feel they did anything that put them at risk, they may not want to get tested because the result may be devastating. I think it also stops people from interacting with those living with HIV as full

people. People just look at you as a status, as a virus. It can also stop people from going to the doctor or seeking treatment, because that’s admitting they have the virus.”

At best, HIV stigma can lead to an emotional sting, lost connections and deep blows to self-esteem, and at worst, life and career-threatening discrimination and dangerous, destructive behavior to others and oneself.

A recent study by Houston, Texas’ LIVE Consortium on the topic of HIV stigma within the gay/bisexual male community was published in the International Journal of Sexual Health (read it here: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4136678/>).



It concluded that, “because it is realistic to expect that in a climate in which HIV has become increasingly invisible and closeted and in which infections are on the rise (due to stigma), gay and bisexual men will be increasingly affected and infected by HIV.”

Numerous organizations and campaigns are addressing HIV stigma, from those created exclusively for that purpose, including the two-year-old The Stigma Project and HIV Equal, to online resources like The Body, Avert.org and HIV Plus, to hookup apps like MISTER. The latter, in collaboration with Michigan’s Mr. Friendly HIV non-profit, allows members to declare a commitment to “Live Stigma-Free” and date individuals of any HIV status on their profiles.

Despite these, stigma is only getting worse within the gay community, which LIVE’s disheartening study backs up. “I find often that stigma is self-imposed, out of underserved and unwarranted shame and guilt,” shares Olympic gold medalist swimmer Greg Louganis. HIV-positive since the 1980s, his life is chronicled in the new documentary, “Back On Board,”

currently making the rounds at festivals. “The biggest problem is it inhibits open communication, and we still in this society have a difficult problem talking about sex.”

Longtime AIDS activist Peter Staley, a subject of David France’s Oscar-nominated documentary “How To Survive A Plague,” describes stigma as, literally, a “viral divide between those who perceive themselves to be negative and those who are positive. There are a lot of negatives to living with HIV the rest of your life – having to keep your health insurance in order, meds, side effects – but the big one now is the stigma.”



“I think a large number of negative men, especially if younger, try to avoid HIV just by avoiding people with HIV,” he explains. “They think they’re protected by a kind of moral code where a positive guy would disclose. On the flipside, the positive guys are so threatened by that stigma that they keep their status a secret, and that perpetuates the false assumption by many negative guys there isn’t a lot of HIV in their world. They think it isn’t something playing out in their generation that much, even though it is.”

New Yorker Steven Colon, a 21-year-old videogame design student who was diagnosed with HIV this past summer, now knows this sobering reality firsthand. Prior to his seroconversion, discovered during routine HIV testing (preferring to bareback with some partners, he frequently kept tabs on his status), Colon only had sex with partners who identified as HIV-negative. Not due to stigma, he asserts, but by virtue of the fact that nobody ever informed him they were positive. After receiving his results, he contacted these partners, but none have come forward to say they were actually positive or have tested

positive since.

“It’s a little upsetting I don’t know who it is,” he admits.

Colon, who promotes a monthly superhero/spandex/lycra-themed party at NYC’s Pieces bar (called Skintight USA), found some immediate support amongst a couple of friends who, coincidentally, also tested positive at about the same time. Staley feels that a major failing with most anti-stigma campaigns play to the choir and fail to reach their target audiences, like gay millennials, whose new infection rates are, as illustrated by Colon’s social cluster, rising.

On the ACT UP NY Alumni Facebook

“Honestly, anyone can get HIV. The whole problem with stigma is (it perpetuates that) someone had to do something wrong to get HIV.”

-Matthew Rodriguez of comprehensive HIV/AIDS resource site, The Body

page last month, member Rebecca Reinhardt reported some flabbergasting, ill-informed comments and opinions she overheard at a West Hollywood happy hour for Ivy League 20-somethings. Pearls of overheard misinformation included: condoms are useless since they always break and you have only a two percent chance of getting HIV from unprotected sex anyway, and PrEP, if even aware of it, entails a waste of money since it’s just for sex addicts anyway.

“I’m not wagging my finger at these guys,” Staley interjects. “This generation of young gay men is not worse than mine. They’re just living in different times. When I was twenty, I also perceived risk very differently and was very dismissive of things that happened earlier in history and didn’t think applied to me.”

One exception when it comes to prevalence of stigma and misinformation seems to be San Francisco, where many early PrEP adopters live. Even those who argue that PrEP encourages reckless behavior that can cause upticks in other STD infections, like Hepatitis

See Tainted Love, page 18

Study Finds Significant Racial Disparities For HIV Infection Among Black And White MSM

BY TODD HEYWOOD

A study published in the journal *The Lancet HIV* reports that there is a significant disparity in HIV prevalence between black and white men who have sex with men. The study was published on Nov. 18 and found a startling 32 percent prevalence rate for black men who have sex with men, compared with only eight percent for white men who have sex with men.

The study also found a significant disparity along the continuum of care for HIV-positive persons. While 51 percent of white MSM are retained in care, the study found only 33 percent of black MSM were retained. Achieving viral suppression saw even greater disparities: just over one third of white MSM had achieved viral suppression compared with just 16 percent of black MSM. Viral suppression, or an undetectable viral load, indicates antiretroviral medication is controlling the activity of HIV and preventing a clinical decline in health. Studies have also indicated that viral suppression is an effective preventative measure in relation to HIV transmission as well.

The Michigan Department of Community Health says it is drilling down on state level data to drive program changes to address such disparities. "We are taking a closer look at the treatment cascade items along race/ethnicity, gender, HIV risk factor and age criteria for Ryan White eligible clients to assess health disparities, and this will be the focus of our upcoming RFP in early summer 2015," says newly appointed MDCH Public Information Officer Jennifer Smith.

The department is also in the process of finalizing a new round of grants of "care coordination" for state AIDS Service Organizations.

"Ryan White federal funding, including funds utilizing ADAP rebate funding, must be directed toward people living with HIV who are eligible for Ryan White services," Smith says. "In addition, this funding must demonstrate that clients are indeed becoming healthier and their viral load is suppressed. It is no longer enough for agencies receiving Ryan White or ADAP rebate funding to warmly hand off a client to a provider, or simply make a referral to care. It is the responsibility



of any agency receiving Ryan White funding to ensure that clients have improved health outcomes."

The new study confirms what MDCH has found in its own data analysis of Michigan HIV cases, Smith says.

"First let me say that that I find the information presented in the article distressing but not wholly surprising. We have known about disparate rates of HIV among black MSM for quite some time. Similarly, we have had research for at least the last seven years that indicates that black MSM have similar or less risky behaviors than white MSM, use condoms more consistently and generally have greater knowledge about HIV than white MSM. These things we have known for a while, and in this respect, Michigan and particularly Detroit (the epicenter of the epidemic) are no different," says Hank Milbourne, chief program officer at AIDS Partnership Michigan.

"What we (the HIV community, HIV researchers, etc.) haven't done a very good job at is telling these things to the community in ways that they can understand nor have we done a very good job of letting them know that it is because of the higher prevalence of HIV among black MSM that they are more likely to encounter and have sex with someone who is positive and probably doesn't know their status," he continued. "We haven't made it known nearly wide enough that the margin of error for them is much smaller and their chances of acquiring HIV and other STDs is greater."

Knowing this information, Milbourne says, led the organization to change many of its policies. The organization has changed

See Disparities, page 18

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► Tainted Love

Continued from p. 16

C, are at least having open communication. “San Francisco is the shining example of where, if you put stigma on a locality ranking scale, you’ll find the least stigma of anywhere in the country,” Staley says. “They also have a very low HIV infection rate because guys there talk and think about HIV and have a much more reasoned risk analysis. There will be a negative guy sleeping with positive guys, but asking about their viral load and making certain decisions and positions determined by that. That sophistication is lost on many young gay men outside San Francisco and New York City. I want to figure out the best way to reach them, and it’s likely going to come from (within) their generation, not mine.”

Activist Jack Mackenroth, who was open about his HIV-positive status while a contestant on Project Runway, agrees that it’s difficult to get people who don’t think (or want to think) that HIV directly affects them engaged. He feels that once PrEP use grows more widespread, medical treatments advance and positive people become more visible, HIV stigma will dissipate. Yet, with stigma winning the battle today, is it possible to take this destructive force and, like with the Terminator model T-800, reprogram and somehow wield it for constructive,

prevention-forward purposes? To replace fear and loathing with understanding and empathy, and to ultimately humanize HIV-positive individuals? Perhaps – and in a handful of sizes.

“It would be useful to set someone down and say, ‘Imagine you are positive,’” Mackenroth muses. “You want to know what it feels like – wear a T-shirt saying you are positive all day long. You will feel that that’s like.”

That’s exactly what founder Kevin Maloney’s Rise Up To HIV is doing with its “No Shame About Being HIV+” T-shirts. Members of NYU’s First Year Queers & Allies leadership program wear these to experience reactions from those who would perceive their shirt as a status announcement. It’s a start, and an experiment that more schools and colleges should look into.

“I’ve worn it and gotten mixed responses,” says The Body’s Rodriguez. “Honestly, anyone can get HIV. The whole problem with stigma is (it perpetuates that) someone had to do something wrong to get HIV. But we know from science that, with gay men, two-thirds of infections happen within the context of relationships. I applaud people who don’t let status stand in the way of having a sexual relationship. It’s usually not the positive and on treatment guys one should be second-guessing. It should be the ones who don’t know. The only ones who know their status for sure are positive.”

► Disparities

Continued from p. 17

its messaging for HIV testing frequency – Milbourne says they now recommend testing every three months – as well as discussions about the prevalence pool of HIV, particularly for black MSM. In addition, for those who do test positive, they are immediately connected to care – even before there is a confirmatory antibody test done.

But getting better at addressing the HIV epidemic in Michigan in general and Detroit specifically is going to require attention to more complicated issues – not just the virus, but structural issues which impede access to testing, prevention options and even care.

“Retaining persons in care is a challenge unless there is also collateral work and resources dedicated that impacts the other contextual factors in a person’s life, i.e. employment, livable wage, stable housing, transportation etc.,” Milbourne says.

For Curtis Lipscomb, the study shows that HIV education programming has to be scaled up “right now,” and LGBT organizations have a significant role to play. “We have seen the dominate issue of marriage equality front and center in our movement. Although marriage is important to the stability of households, it is one of many issues we must organize around – such as poverty, housing and employment,” Lipscomb says. “The LGBT organizations must challenge significant racial disparities in HIV. To read that the prevalence will likely persist for decades due to an alarmingly high concentration of HIV in black gay men frightens me. It suggests a further disappearance of my population and the return of the 80s scare of homosexual men

– a time when someone died daily and despair took over emotional wellbeing.”

“If black, gay and bi men continue to die disproportionately, matrimony will mean nothing. This impacts all of us,” Lipscomb continues. “How can we move together if one of our segmented community is disengaged? Marriage will then only become a luxury ‘for those that can afford it.’”

Milbourne agrees there needs to be a shift in focus, particularly from funding entities like MDCH. “Unfortunately, our work with high risk negative MSM (black or white) is not funded and is thus limited,” he says.

“If black, gay and bi men continue to die disproportionately, matrimony will mean nothing.”

– KICK Executive Director Curtis Lipscomb



“Additionally, we are just now beginning to figure how to incorporate the talk about PrEP (a once-a-day pill shown to be at least 92 percent effective in preventing an HIV-negative person from being infected) into our HIV testing encounters, because we realize we must, even though there is no standardized guidance from MDCH to do so. This is one of the prevention efforts mentioned by Greg Millett in his statement about scaling up prevention measures to HIV-negative black MSM. That requires resources to do. But this type of education must not be limited to HIV testing encounters but needs a more widely disseminated education campaign. Currently, the majority of our HIV prevention and care resources, as well as funding, are directed towards HIV positive persons.”

► Doctor’s Journey

Continued from p. 14

could do nothing about.”

He said the commitment of those gay couples was something he had never witnessed. He said with other diseases, including cancer, he witnessed partners abandoning their loved ones. But not so with HIV.

And while the way we treat HIV has changed in the past three decades, he says some things remain the same. There remains a stigma to testing and access to care. One thing he has noticed is that the much ballyhooed crisis in treatment adherence, particularly among black men who have sex with men, is simply not true for his clinics.

The young black MSMs in his clinics in

Saginaw are the most adherent, he says.

“I take the time to talk to them about why they need to take this drug, what it does,” he says. “I explain how it will make them healthier and prevent them from transmitting the virus to others. That works.”

He noted that the advent of PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis, a once-a-day-pill to prevent HIV) is also changing the landscape of HIV.

Gulick told the Lansing City Council on Monday night that he has hope that there will be a cure in his lifetime and during his career. It was not a false hope, he said. There are treatments in the pipeline being referred to as a cure – although he would not elaborate on those drugs.



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Kimberley Locke

Aiding In The Fight

'American Idol' Finalist Debuts Company's First Charity Event In Detroit For World AIDS Day

BY JEROME STUART NICHOLS

After finishing in third place on "American Idol" in 2003, Kimberley Locke could have taken her newfound notoriety anywhere she desired. Of course she took it to the recording studio, but she didn't stop there. She became an HIV/AIDS activist. Eleven years later, her direction and dedication are unchanged.

For World AIDS Day 2014, Locke is bringing her passion, awe-inspiring singing chops and a few fellow "Idol" alums to the Detroit Opera House at 7 p.m. Dec. 1.

It's certainly not the first time she's given back. Even before "Idol," generosity was always a part of Locke's life. She credits her mother for teaching her the importance of charity.

"My mom was always one of those people that, if somebody in the community needed something, they knew that they could call her and she would make it happen," Locke remembers.

After "Idol," though, Locke found herself with a new level of exposure and a platform that could potentially change lives. When youth HIV organization Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation invited her to perform at a carnival for children and families affected by

HIV, she jumped at the chance.

"They're kids," she begins. "They don't understand HIV, but they are judged because of it. Empowering them in a safe place where they feel like they can talk about it without having to hide or be afraid, that's what's most important."

From there, her passion grew, and so did her involvement. She traveled with EGPAF to South Africa, and in 2010 was elected to the board of directors for youth outreach non-profit One Heartland. "One of the most exciting things at One Heartland was to see us have to change our mission statement," she says proudly. "It started out purely focusing on mother-to-child HIV transmission – that's preventable now. I think that's nothing short of a miracle."

Now, she's putting her own entertainment company – I Am Entertainment – to work, producing charitable shows for worthy causes.

The first of those shows is the World AIDS Day Detroit concert, with performances from "American Idol" contestants including herself, Malaya Watson, Keri Lynn Roche, Ben Briley, Melinda Doolittle and Devin Velez. HIV activist Jeanne White-Ginder will also make a special appearance after speaking at another WADD event earlier in the day.

Often a person's passion for a particular cause stems from a personal connection. Until Locke got involved with HIV/AIDS charity work, she actually had very little experience with the disease. Regardless, she still felt the need to lend her star power.

"People feel like if they don't have a direct connection to it, then there's nothing that they can do, but that's not true," she says. "People need to know that any of us could



See Kimberley Locke, page 24



WORLD AIDS DAY EVENT CALENDAR

COMPILED BY
SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

Dec. 1

All day. **NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt and "Orphan Tower."** Quilt and beaded dolls representing AIDS victims and orphans. Michigan State University Museum, 409 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. 517-355-2370. <http://museum.msu.edu>

8 a.m. **The Fourth Annual World AIDS Day Detroit Mayors Breakfast**

with special guest Jeanne White-Grinder, mother of Ryan White. Tickets: \$75. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. 313-757-1733. www.wadbreakfast.eventbrite.com

9 a.m. **World AIDS Day Testing Tour.** Walgreens, 2170 Washtenaw Ave., Ypsilanti. 734-961-1083. www.hivaidresource.org

10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. **AIDS Quilt Public Viewing and Facing AIDS Open**

See AIDS Day Events,
page 22

Photo Shoot. Detroit Opera House Main Stage, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. www.worldaidsdayus.org

11:30 a.m. **The Ryan White Story and Youth Symposium** with keynote speaker, Jeanne White-Grinder. Detroit Opera House Main Stage, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. www.worldaidsdayus.org

12 p.m. **World AIDS Day Testing Tour** Harmony House Motel, 615 E. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. 734-961-1083. www.hivaidresource.org

1 p.m. **World AIDS Day Observance.**

Lansing Area AIDS Network. The Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-394-3560.

3 p.m. **World AIDS Day Testing Tour.** Safe Sex Store (S3), 1209 S. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 734-961-1083. www.hivaidresource.org

4 p.m. **Free STI & Rapid HIV Testing.** St. John's Providence Park Hospital, Assarian Cancer Center. Newland Medical, Suite 2 South, 47601 Grand River, Novi. 248-941-5598. www.oakgov.com/health

Evening. **Fall Into The Red: World**

Mr. LA Leather 2014 To Promote PrEP In Michigan

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Mr. LA Leather 2014, Eric Paul Leue, is swinging through Michigan to discuss pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) as an HIV intervention. He will participate in panel discussions in Grand Rapids on Dec. 6, Lansing on Dec. 7 and Ferndale on Dec. 8.

The Grand Rapids event will be held from 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at Diversions, 10 Fountain St. NW. The Lansing event will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Esquire Club, 1250 Turner St., and the Ferndale event will begin at 7 p.m. at Affirmations Community Center, 290 W. Nine Mile. PrEP is a once-a-day pill proven to be at least 92 percent effective in preventing HIV infection in HIV-negative people. It was approved by the FDA for prevention uses in 2012, and in 2014, the CDC released clinical guidance on prescribing PrEP. The clinical guidance put an estimated 500,000 men who have sex with men in a position to need access to the drug.

Earlier this year, the Michigan Department of Community Health announced that Medicaid patients could access PrEP through the state funded program. Other states, namely New York and Washington, have made access to the drug a cornerstone of evolving HIV prevention strategies. Illinois announced



Monday that it was preparing to launch a program to create access to the drug as well. While MDCH has not created a specific PrEP policy, the department is hosting two trainings for HIV testing counselors in December to train them how to integrate PrEP messaging into general HIV prevention messages.

“Since February 2014, Affirmations has co-convened the PrEP Working Group, which works to increase understanding of and access to PrEP

within the Detroit metro area,” said Lydia Ahlum Hanson, health and wellness manager at Affirmations. “Operating from a sex positive and harm reduction perspective, this working group views PrEP as a way to reduce HIV transmission and expand prevention opinions.”

“There’s a lot of questions and misinformation surrounding PrEP that prevents people from making the most informed choices to reduce risk of transmission,” says Kevin Geirman, prevention manager for Red Project in Grand Rapids. “In PrEP, we have a valuable new tool in the risk reduction arsenal and it’s important that those who are interested in it know its limitations and how to access it.”

“The one thing I hear repeatedly is ‘fear,’ not just HIV negative guys being afraid of getting HIV, but also people living with HIV being afraid of their partners getting infected by the virus,” says Leue. “We have fought HIV stigma since it first started. PrEP is a responsible safer sex choice, and I believe if we want to make a real change in this epidemic, then people have the right to know about it. Facts, not morality.”

The three Michigan panels are part of a nine-city national tour.

► AIDS Day Events

Continued from p. 21

AIDS Day. Social Hall Theatre at Ferndale First United Methodist, 22331 Woodward Ave. www.fallitr.com.

6 p.m. **Free HIV Testing** until 9 p.m. for men who have sex with men (MSM) and transwomen. Affirmations and MAC. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org.

7 p.m. **World AIDS Day Detroit Benefit Concert** featuring American Idols. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. www.worldaidsdayus.org.

7 p.m. **People Who Care About People with HIV/AIDS** Interfaith Service. Spirit of Hope Church, 1519 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Detroit. spiritofhopedetroit@gmail.com

Dec. 3

6 p.m. **Free HIV Testing** until 9 p.m. for men who have sex with men (MSM) and transwomen. Affirmations and MAC. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org.

6 p.m. **Free, rapid HIV testing** until 8 p.m. Results ready in 15 minutes. The Diversity Psychological Services Building, 1310 Turner St., Lansing. 517-394-3719, ext. 30.

Dec. 4

2 p.m. Free HIV testing until 8 p.m.

Call to make an appointment; walk-ins also welcome. S3: Safe Sex Store and HARC. 1209 S. University, Ann Arbor. 734-741-1434. www.s3safesexstore.com.

5:30 p.m. Free HIV testing until 8 p.m. Everyone welcome. Call the Michigan HIV/STI hotline for more information at 1-800-872-2437. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. www.goaffirmations.org

6 p.m. Free, rapid HIV testing until 8 p.m. The Diversity Psychological Services Building, 1310 Turner St., Lansing. 517-394-3719, ext. 30.

Dec. 5

1 p.m. HIV antibody testing until 3 p.m. Walk-ins and scheduled appointments welcome. Free for currently enrolled University of Michigan students; \$20 for others. Wolverine Wellness, Suite 2110, Second Floor of University Health Service, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. 734-763-1320. www.uhs.umich.edu/hivtesting.

6 p.m. Getting to Zero - Free and Anonymous HIV Testing. Rooms 115 & 116, Dominican Hall, Siena Heights College, 1247 Siena Heights Dr., Adrian. 734-961-1083. www.hivaidsresource.org.

Dec. 6

1 p.m. Free HIV testing until 4 p.m. Everyone welcome. Call the Michigan HIV/STI hotline for more information at 1-800-872-2437. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. www.goaffirmations.org

See AIDS Day Events, page 25



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As the dark shadow of the HIV/AIDS crisis continues to loom—locally, statewide, and nationally—

...we gather to share our concerns about employment and economic opportunities; access to healthcare services and our health outcomes, including HIV/AIDS and other health disparities; and our contact with the criminal justice system and law enforcement.

As we march into the future,

...we must recognize all intersections, classes, identities, and abilities. Identifying solutions through solidarity that benefit the communities that we serve.

We come together as a small group of black men to bring awareness to the living problems that we face daily.

We call our cities organizations, leaders, and stakeholders to be intentional in acquiring knowledge, seeking out consult for understanding of our community, and protecting our right to work. Together we can cultivate our well-being and this shared landscape.


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Chris Shannon


Antonio Johnson-Seals


David A. Nelson, Jr.


Hank Millbourne


Nathan Strickland


Victor Harrell


Ramón Harris


Patrick Garth


Curtis Lipscomb



► Kimberley Locke

Continued from p. 21

have a person in our lives who are affected by this virus.”

By using her celebrity to encourage a dialogue regarding the virus, she hopes to spur the conversations that will make a real difference.

“There are celebrities who can lend their name to a cause and make an impact, but the most important conversation, I believe, is on that interpersonal level – that we remind one another of the risk,” Locke says.

Locke hopes to proliferate that message to everyone, including, she says, heterosexual black women, like herself, who are one of the most at-risk groups.

“The reality is, in some shape, form or fashion we all engage in risky behavior,” she says. “Let’s be honest: Some people aren’t getting tested, and some people aren’t being as honest as they should be. You should be on high alert. No one is worth risking yourself

INFO

World AIDS Day Detroit Concert with American Idols

7 p.m. Dec. 1 (Doors at 6 p.m.)
Detroit Opera House
1526 Broadway St., Detroit
worldaidsdayus.org

for in that way. Wearing a condom is an extra step that will prevent you from changing your life forever.”

While she’s optimistic about what she’ll be able to do, Locke knows that just getting the conversation started will be tough.

“Because there’s been so much progress made, people are talking about it less. They’re like, ‘Oh, people are living,’ whereas 20 years ago people didn’t stand a chance. That’s why it’s so important to continue the conversation. The virus hasn’t gone anywhere.”

► AIDS Day Events

Continued from p. 22

Dec. 7

6 p.m. New Vision Ministries HIV 2.0: Promise Kept? Church of the Good Shepherd, 2145 Independence Blvd., Ann Arbor. nvisionministries@gmail.com. www.hivaidresource.org

Dec. 8

6 p.m. Free HIV Testing until 9 p.m. for men who have sex with men (MSM) and transwomen. Affirmations and MAC. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org.

Dec. 9

5 p.m. Free STD and HIV Testing. Oakland County Health Division provides free testing for STIs and HIV by registered nurses. Everyone welcome. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale.

Dec. 10

6 p.m. Free HIV Testing until 9 p.m. for men who have sex with men (MSM) and transwomen. Affirmations and MAC. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org.

6 p.m. Free, rapid HIV testing until 8 p.m. Results ready in 15 minutes. The Diversity Psychological Services Building, 1310 Turner St., Lansing. 517-394-3719, ext. 30.

Dec. 11

2 p.m. Free HIV testing until 8 p.m. Call to make an appointment; walk-ins also welcome. S3: Safe Sex Store and HARC. 1209 S. University, Ann Arbor. 734-741-1434. www.s3safesexstore.com.

5:30 p.m. Free HIV testing until 8 p.m. Everyone

welcome. Call the Michigan HIV/STI hotline for more information at 1-800-872-2437. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. www.goaffirmations.org

6 p.m. Free, rapid HIV testing until 8 p.m. Results ready in 15 minutes. The Diversity Psychological Services Building, 1310 Turner St., Lansing. 517-394-3719, ext. 30.

Dec. 12

1 p.m. HIV antibody testing until 3 p.m. Walk-ins and scheduled appointments welcome. Free for currently enrolled University of Michigan students; \$20 for others. Wolverine Wellness, Suite 2110, Second Floor of University Health Service, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. 734-763-1320. www.uhs.umich.edu/hivtesting.

Dec. 13

1 p.m. Free HIV testing until 4 p.m. Everyone welcome. Call the Michigan HIV/STI hotline for more information at 1-800-872-2437. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. www.goaffirmations.org

Dec. 17

1 p.m. \$0-20. HIV/AIDS Research Colloquium. Equality Research Center McKenny Hall - Guild Room, Eastern Michigan University, 124 Quirk, Ypsilanti. 734-487-3032. www.emich.edu/equality.

6 p.m. Free HIV Testing until 9 p.m. for men who have sex with men (MSM) and transwomen. Affirmations and MAC. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org.

6 p.m. Free, rapid HIV testing until 8 p.m. Results ready in 15 minutes. The Diversity Psychological Services Building, 1310 Turner St., Lansing. 517-394-3719, ext. 30.

Dec. 18

2 p.m. Free HIV testing until 8 p.m. Call to make



Jeanne White-Grinder with her son, Ryan White.

an appointment; walk-ins also welcome. S3: Safe Sex Store and HARC. 1209 S. University, Ann Arbor. 734-741-1434. www.s3safesexstore.com.

5:30 p.m. Free HIV testing until 8 p.m. Everyone welcome. Call the Michigan HIV/STI hotline for more information at 1-800-872-2437. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. www.goaffirmations.org

6 p.m. Free, rapid HIV testing until 8 p.m. Results ready in 15 minutes. The Diversity Psychological Services Building, 1310 Turner St., Lansing. 517-394-3719, ext. 30

Featured

A special highlight of the World AIDS Day events presented by World AIDS Day Detroit this Dec. 1 is the visit Jeanne White-Grinder, mother of Ryan White, will pay to Detroit. Ryan White (1971-1990) famously contracted AIDS after receiving a contaminated blood treatment for his hemophilia. White was expelled from school because of the rampant ignorance about HIV/AIDS at the time and, as a result, became a poster child for raising awareness of the disease during the late 1980s. White's mother, White-Grinder, founded the national nonprofit Ryan White Foundation in 1993, which raised millions of dollars in donations until it closed in 2000. More information on her work can be found at www.ryanwhite.com.

White-Grinder will be the special guest of the Fourth Annual World AIDS Day Detroit Mayors Breakfast at 8 a.m. Tickets for the event are \$75. The breakfast will be at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. For more information, call 313-757-1733 or visit www.wadbreakfast.eventbrite.com.

Also, at 11:30 a.m. at the Detroit Opera House, White-Grinder will be the keynote speaker for the Ryan White Story and Youth Symposium. For more information on this event, check out www.worldaidsdayus.org.



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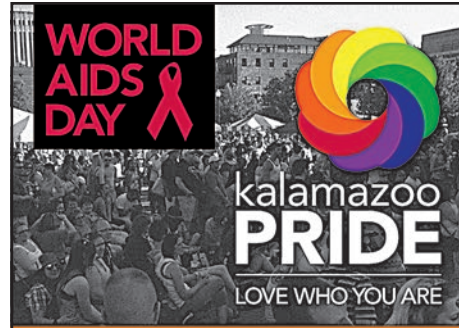
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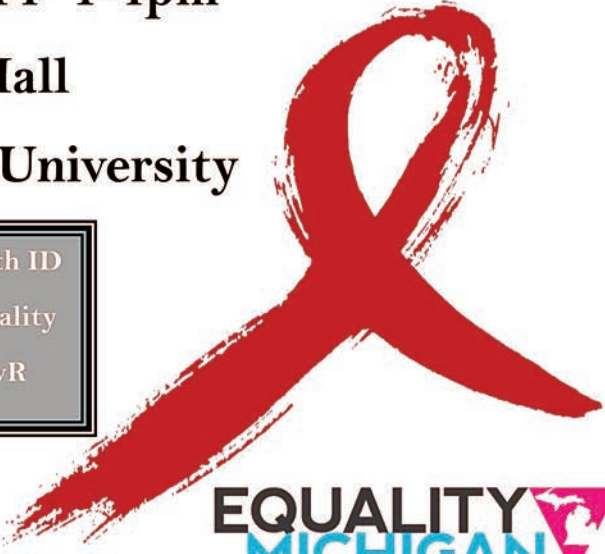
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Photo: Renee Cox

NO HIDING FROM KIESZA

Pop's Newest Queen Talks Gay Roots, How Babs Taught Her To Sing & Her Hit Song 'Hideaway'

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Even before making the streets of New York City her own private dance floor for "Hideaway," Kiesza was courting the queers. The lead single off the 25-year-old's major-label debut, "Sound of a Woman,"

has certainly boosted her appeal within the community – who could resist the sports bra and suspenders look? – but the gays and this former sniper-in-training for the Canadian Army actually go way back.

On her way to the airport, Kiesza called to chat about pretend-marrying her gay best

friend, how Barbra Streisand taught her to sing and her request for the drag queens.

Have you been feeling the gay love yet?

I've been feeling it before any other love actually. Even before "Hideaway," when I was doing other projects, the gay community

was always the community that supported me as a brand new artist. I always felt supported by the gay community before anyone else, so it's a really special community to me.

When did you know the gay community was in love with you?

I would actually meet the people who were coming to my shows and it showed me who my audience was, and I had a very strong gay following, which is amazing. They're so enthusiastic, and they come dressed in clothes that emulate my own style. They're always going the extra mile.

You know you've made it when guys are doing you in drag.

(Laughs) Yeah, I saw some people doing "Hideaway" in drag, which is amazing. I wanna go to a drag show and see someone performing "Hideaway" live!

What was your introduction to the gay community?

My best friend since I was 14 is gay, so my whole teen experience was the gay bars. I mean, when we were obviously old enough. (Laughs) We used to pretend we were married and go out. Through him, I was introduced to the gay community at a very young age.

In school I had a lot of gay friends as well; now that I think about it I really had a lot! I've always been immersed in the community and really supportive of it, and also, I always felt really supported by the community. Even before (I moved to) New York, when I was in Canada and was a folk musician, I had a whole gay following with my folk music. No matter where I went, it was always the gay community that discovered me first.

I feel like they gravitated toward me. I feel like the gay community is really open-minded and really supportive of new artists and new music and new ideas and just really forward-thinking. As a new artist, because of that mentality, I was just embraced much sooner. The integrity of that community is unbelievable.

Because of your mom, you grew up on big voices like Barbra Streisand, Aretha Franklin, Etta James, and then later Mariah Carey and Whitney Houston. How did listening to them affect your vocal technique?

Without realizing it, I learned a lot about my voice by singing along with them. I didn't actually learn to sing the way I sing now until I started going to music college and really finding my voice as a songwriter, but I was always singing along (to them) growing up, and I definitely developed my voice that way.

"Hideaway" is obviously influenced by '90s music; how about the rest of "Sound of a Woman"?

Very influenced. Once I wrote "Hideaway," I had this vision of the whole album being reminiscent of this era. I love the early '90s, and not just the dance music. I like the R&B. I love all the ballads. I love the hip-hop. I just wanted to pay homage to an era that I love so much, but also take it and make it current.

That was the idea – to have that nostalgia in the music, but also have it be very fresh and new at the same time.

Speaking of the '90s: 'N Sync or Backstreet Boys?

I was a Backstreet Boys girl.

Britney or Christina?

Christina.

Whitney or Mariah?

Whitney. I mean, Mariah's an amazing singer, but I was definitely more blown away by Whitney. There's one song on the album that a few people heard her influence on. Next time we talk I wanna see if you can pick it out.

"Full House" or "Saved by the Bell"?

That's a hard one! I feel like I was a bit more of a "Full House" kid. Actually, I was very much a "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" kid! I was all about that show.

Destiny's Child or TLC?

Let's go with TLC. I listened to Destiny's Child a lot, but TLC had a lot of fashion influence on me.

Growing up, who were some of your favorite Canadian musicians?

I was a big fan of David Foster growing up because I was really into songwriting. I actually was more focused on songwriting first, and I was really inspired by all his writing on all of those Toni Braxton songs. Vocally, Celine – and you know also who I really loved growing up? Sarah McLachlan.

You've written some songs for Kylie Minogue and also Rihanna, for whom you penned a yet-to-be-released tune that's said to have a very particular message. What would that message be?

I don't wanna give away the song, but it reflects the way that people look at the world and the way that people mirror themselves off of other people and live through other people's eyes.

Which songs on your album do you think have the most powerful message?

I feel like every song has its own message. My album is a love story. To open up and become vulnerable on my first "for real" debut album, I tapped into my own emotions and wrote about what I've been through. As a writer, I've been writing about all of these topics, but when it came to me, it was very personal. I wanted to open up and tell my own personal stories, so I would say "Sound of a Woman" is a very strong song. I'd say they're all very honest and vulnerable songs, but "Sound of a Woman" is a standing-up-for-myself-in-my-mind type of song. It's a song that could really inspire confidence in people.

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Variety Is The Spice Of 'Caroled!'

BY CAROLYN HAYES HARMER

Gather 'round, children, for a bit of Christmas candor. In short, the parallels are scant between the world-premiere musical revue "Christmas Caroled!" (conceived and written by Daniel C. Cooney and Dayle Ann Hunt) and the classic Charles Dickens holiday tale. By this reviewer's count, there's an unpleasant grump agitated by seasonal cheer, a magical jump back in time, and a guy named Tim.

Truly, the strengths of this Encore Musical Theatre Company production do not lie in adaptation. But rather, under Cooney's direction, what does stand out is its throwback Christmas extravaganza, complete with a stream of variety show quirks and infectiously smiling faces.

A swift prologue in a drab, anonymous room introduces a drab, anonymous man, Abner Z. Scruggs (William Stutts, Jr.), whose entire agenda is to get stinking drunk and forget that it's Christmas. Clumsily established as a world-class humbugger, he then experiences a seismic event that knocks him back into his past as part of a famous comedy duo, specifically a '60s-era Christmas TV special with him and partner Jack Jacobs (Pete Podolski) as hosts.

To call whatever lessons or reparations Abner has in store half-baked would be generous. Indeed, without cue or counsel, he jumps right back into the old routine, and — other than some ham-fisted asides about the family he ignored in favor of showbiz — the show just goes on.

Yet the sooner the viewer can put the framing device out of mind, the better. Because in this production, "A Christmas Carol" might have inspired the title, but the exquisite TV variety special is its exclamation point.

Everything in the on-camera world has the sparkle of spectacle to it, from transforming Daniel C. Walker's set into a pristine studio-fake living room, to adorning it with the tasteful perfection of Anne Donevan's set dressing and properties. Designer Sharon Larkey Urlick pulls out all the sartorial stops, outfitting 10 performers in daffy coordinated ensembles that would be well at home on "The Lawrence Welk Show." Although the lighting design (also by Walker) makes a cursory distinction between dramatic on-camera mood lighting and stripped back off-camera confrontation, the script offers frustratingly little in these moments



Jess Alexander is among the highlights of "Christmas Caroled!" Photo: The Encore Musical Theatre Company

REVIEW

Christmas Caroled!

The Encore Musical Theatre Company
3126 Broad St., Dexter
3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11
7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, 11, 18
8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19
3 & 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22, 29, Dec. 6,
13, 20
3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21
70 minutes; no intermission
\$15-32
734-268-6200
www.theencoretheatre.org

between takes (underusing Tim Brayman and Michael Szymanski, MD, as behind-the-scenes workhorse types), so the device stalls out instead.

But again, most of the focus remains on the primetime show being filmed, and the bulk of it is sensational, thanks in no small part to new arrangements and orchestrations by R. MacKenzie Lewis. More than two dozen familiar tunes, devotional and secular alike, are given innovative and complex treatments as Lewis toys gleefully with fugue and genre and keeps the harmonies modulating. With Chris Rayis as music director and conductor, the collective vocals are strong, and featured soloists Mahalia Greenway and Jess Alexander both deliver repeated showstoppers.

Cooney's direction lovingly embraces the sense of fun, hokey insanity that passed for television entertainment in a time before devastating cool and hyperbolic cynicism. The TV personas' heightened faux earnestness

proves just the right touch, casting silly proceedings into humorous relief, while also achieving tonal shifts that lead to a few surprisingly affecting moments. And although the performers are given little to work with in terms of text, their entertainment value is never in question.

As Jack, Podolski sports effortless rat-pack affability and a thousand-watt grin that eminently qualify him to lead the audience and Abner through his meandering journey. Greenway and Alexander are at home in the spotlight, but also blend with the cheerful ensemble (Sebastian Gerstner, Bryana Hall, Erika Jost, Colleen Kartheiser, Teola Lutsker, and Callen Snyder) in wholesome group numbers choreographed with vigor by Kristi Davis. The mercenary Stutts takes a rudderless protagonist and allows him to simply go with the grain instead of against it, enhancing the staged entertainment at the expense of an already-wobbly story arc.

Although there's little in terms of Scrooge-y satisfaction in "Christmas Caroled!," for most viewers, the production's massive Christmas catalogue and cheeky homage to TV variety specials of old can make up the difference. The show tosses aside its underdeveloped, perfunctory story in favor of a fully realized series of musical hits that keep on coming; the net result is a single-act performance that, at just over an hour, feels at once too long and too short. Yet anyone willing to overlook the weaknesses in the book can find melodic satisfaction on the other side, happy to see the forest for the white go-go boots and scarves gathered about the tree.

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BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

The LanSINGout Gay Men's Chorus will perform its winter concert, "Wishing You Peace and Joy: A Christmas Concert," on Dec. 6 and 7. Under artistic director Peter R. Morse and accompanied by David Wiseman, the concert will be performed in conjunction with the Lansing First Presbyterian Bell Choir and Organist as well as the Michigan State University student brass quintet. The concert will feature a wide variety of musical selections, from Handel and sacred music to modern spirituals and secular tunes. A Christmas Carol Singalong will follow the evening.

Morse says, "Since late August, the men have been hard at work preparing for our next major concert. This is one of the biggest efforts yet, as we're teaming with the First Presbyterian Church Bell Choir Organist and the MSU student brass ensemble. The men and I are dang excited and ready to present the show."

Since December 1988, the Lansing gay chorus has helped portray a positive image of the gay community while also serving as a safe space for gay men to meet. Originally the Greater Lansing Gay Men's Chorus,

the organization became the LanSINGout Gay Men's Chorus in 2011, reflecting the organization's growth, while also presenting the group's new mission statement of enriching the greater Lansing community through music and fellowship.

Examples of that fellowship to the community include years of participation in the Lansing AIDS Walk. The group even held a concert to benefit the Lansing Area AIDS Network (the network awarded the singing group in 2010 for their work). Other charities that have been supported by LanSINGout include Ele's Place in 2008, Lansing Food Bank in 2009 and the Lansing Community College Music Scholarship Fund in 2010 (all received a portion of concert proceeds from the chorus).

This emphasis on community involvement stems from a strategic planning process implemented years ago, when the chorus decided to widen its focus to more of Lansing. By entertaining a diverse audience and actively supporting area non-profits, the enrichment of the community is nurtured thanks to LanSINGout. Some further examples of this work includes singing Christmas carols in the atrium of Lansing City Hall, performing at Turner-

Dodge House and commemorating World AIDS Day with a special ceremony at the Hannah Center.

Currently 36 members make up the chorus, granting the group a diverse makeup of different voices and talents, with many of the members holding tenure of over 15 years. LanSINGout has only seen consistent increases in the musicianship of its members that ranges from the ability to perform Broadway musical selections to African professionals.

"I created a musically diverse concert to highlight the many wonderful ways we celebrate the Christmas holiday season," Morse notes. "I'm thrilled that this concert is an exciting collaboration between LanSINGout and the music program at Lansing First Presbyterian Church, our wonderful hosts and friends."

The LanSINGout Gay Men's Chorus winter performance will begin at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 and 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 7 at Lansing First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. Tickets range from \$12-20 and can be purchased online. For more information, email info@lansingout.org or visit www.lansingout.org.


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Puzzle solution on pg. 36

M	E	S	S	W	E	B	S	O	L	E				
U	P	T	O	M	I	M	E	D	A	P	O	P		
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J	U	L	I	U	S	C	A	E	S	A	R			
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The Frivolist



Ho, Ho, Homo: 9 Affordable Ways to Make the Yuletide Gayer

BY MIKEY ROX

All that money you've saved for the better part of a year so you can celebrate the holidays in style moves quickly when you're buying gifts left and right and planning your warm-weather escape as soon as the tree is tossed out onto the curbed. Since you've already got a sizable chunk of cash allocated, it's not a bad idea to find ways to save some coin this season while still fitting in a ton of festive fun. Take a look at these nine ways you can make the yuletide gayer without breaking the bank.

1. Host a holiday potluck dinner

Who doesn't like to go out for a fancy dinner around the holidays to indulge in life's tasty pleasures? I do, but I can't always afford a \$100-or-more restaurant or bar tab when Christmas is just around the corner. (It would be quite selfish to cheapen the gifts I planned to buy my friends and family because I wanted eat like a Trump.)

As an alternative, consider hosting a potluck where each of your guests will bring a dish for everyone to enjoy. You can make this a sit-down dinner or you can keep it informal by using the potluck idea to host a small cocktail party where everyone can chat, drink, and dig into the expansive buffet.

2. Attend an Ugly Christmas Sweater Party in town

Ugly Christmas sweater parties have become somewhat of a tradition over the past few years, and I can almost guarantee that there's one in your area. Check your local LGBT bar calendars online to see if any are on the schedule this season. If you come up short in that area, widen your search to include other establishments. If you settle on a place that isn't particularly gay, gather your gaggle for a guerrilla effort to make a night to remember. Find the ugliest Christmas sweaters imaginable at your local thrift shops or at UglyChristmasSweater.com.

3. Schedule an at-home holiday movie marathon

When the weather outside is frightful, a night on the couch is so delightful. Pick up a few snacks and drinks, and invite your besties over for a holiday movie marathon. Some of my favorites include classics like "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation"; the "Home Alone" series; "A Christmas Story"; and "Make the Yuletide Gay," the adorable coming-out-at-Christmas story by gay filmmaker Rob Williams. You may be able to find these movies – or whichever flicks suit your fancy – on streaming services to which you subscribe, or you can find them on the regular TV schedule and record them on your DVR in advance of the movie marathon.

4. Start a Secret Santa program among your friends

If you're strapped for cash this year, quell some of the anxiety by suggesting a Secret Santa gift exchange among

See Frivolist, page 38



Editor's Pick

Art comes in all mediums, be it clay or couture. The Flint Institute of Arts showcases this principle with its current exhibition, "The Art of Video Games." The unique exhibition, which runs until Jan. 18, 2015, showcases the roles that traditional art forms like painting, sculpture and music play in developing video games.

Over 40 years of video game history are presented at FIA. Art from Atari VCS to games on the PlayStation 3 will be showcased. Five

games, including "Super Mario Brothers" and "Pac-Man," are even available to play on huge screens.

The Flint Institute of Arts is located at 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. For more information on FIA or the exhibit, call 810-234-1695 or visit www.flintarts.org.

Happenings

Continued from p. 32

Professional

A Christmas Carol \$33-39. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. Dec. 6. 586-286-2222. www.macombcenter.com

A Christmas Carol \$19-42. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. Through Dec. 21. 248-377-3300. www.mbtheatre.com

All in the Timing \$10-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through Jan. 31. 313-577-2972. www.hilberry.com

And The World Goes 'Round \$34-36. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Dec. 5 - 28. 269-343-2727. www.farmersalleytheatre.com

Annappurna \$12-42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Dec. 20. 734-433-7673. www.purplerosetheatre.org

Anne of Green Gables \$20. What A Do Theatre, 4071 W. Dickman Road, Springfield. Dec. 5 - 20. 269-282-1953. www.whatado.org

Buzz \$17-20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through Dec. 28. 313-868-1347. www.detroitreptheatre.com

Christmas Caroled A world premiere. \$15-32. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Through Dec. 21. 734-268-6200. www.theencoretheatre.org

Cornwell's Christmas Carol \$42 with meal; \$37 show only. Cornwell's Dinner Theatre, 18935 15 1/2 Mile Rd, Marshall. Through Dec. 20. 800-228-4315. www.turkeyville.com

Elf the Musical \$41.25-81.25. Broadway Grand Rapids at DeVos Performance Hall, 303 Monroe Ave. NE, Grand Rapids. Nov. 28 - 30. 1-800-745-3000. www.broadwaygrandrapids.com

Gift of the Magi \$25-41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Nov. 28 - Dec. 21. 734-663-0681. www.pntheatre.org

Home for the Holidays \$35-41. The Dio - Dining and Entertainment, 135 E. Main St., Pinckney. Nov. 28 - Dec. 23. 517-672-6009. www.diotheatre.com

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

Invasion! \$10-20. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Nov. 28 - Dec.

20. 313-365-4948. www.planetant.com

It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play \$5-20. The Theatre Company at University of Detroit Mercy at Grounds Coffehaus, 4001 W. McNichols Road, Detroit. Dec. 5 - 7. 313-993-3270. www.udmarts.com

Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol \$8-15. Thunder Bay Theatre, 400 N. Second Ave., Alpena. Nov. 28 - Dec. 14. 989-354-2267. www.thunderbaytheatre.com

Jake's Women \$18-20 in advance; \$2 extra at the door. Two Muses Theatre at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. Through Dec. 7. 248-850-9919. www.twomusetheatre.org

Mame \$20. Riverbank Theatre, 358 S. Water St., Marine City. Dec. 5 - 21. 810-278-1749. www.riverbanktheatre.com

Miracle on South Division Street \$15-35. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. Nov. 28 - Dec. 28. 517-655-SHOW. www.williamstontheatre.org

Pinocchio \$12-18. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Dec. 5 - 21. 810-237-1530. www.flintyouththeatre.org

Rapture, Blister, Burn \$15-20. Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley, Detroit. Through Dec. 7. 313-967-0999. www.matrixtheatre.org

Red \$15-20. Open Book Theatre Company at Penelope's Venue, 12219 Dix Toledo Road, Southgate. Dec. 5 - 13. 734-288-7753. www.openbooktc.com

Stupid Fucking Bird \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through Dec. 8. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

The Motherfucker with the Hat \$5-30. 4TheatrSake at Doubletree Hotel Fort-Shelby, Terrace Level, 525 W. Lafayette Blvd., Detroit. Through Nov. 29. 800-838-3006. www.drama4change.org

This Wonderful Life \$27. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Nov. 25 - Dec. 18. 734-663-0681. www.pntheatre.org

Turtle Island \$5-10. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. Through Nov. 30. 313-961-7777. www.puppetart.org

ART 'N' AROUND

Ann Arbor Art Center "50 Years Building Ideas for the Future: A Celebration of Local Architecture and Design". Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Nov. 21 - Dec. 7. 734-994-8004. AnnArborartcenter.org

Ann Arbor Art Center "Workshop: Silk Dyed Scarves with Michele Montour". Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Dec. 1 - Dec. 7. 734-994-8004. AnnArborartcenter.org

Cranbrook Art Museum "Iris Eichenberg: Bend". Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Nov. 23 - Jan. 25. 877-462-7262. Cranbrook.edu

Detroit Institute of Arts "Guest of Honor: Monet's Waterlily Pond, Green Harmony". Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 1 - Jan. 4. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

Flint Institute of Arts "The Art of Video Games". Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Oct. 25 - Jan. 18. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

James Pearson Duffy Department of Art and Art History "Menagerie, or Artwork Not About Love". Elaine L. Jacob Gallery, 480 W. Hancock, Detroit. Oct. 24 - Dec. 12. 313-577-2423. Wayne.edu

Janice Charach Gallery "Pictures of Resistance: The Wartime Photographs of Jewish Partisan Faye Schulman" This exhibition presents one partisan's wartime story. Joining the partisans was Faye Schulman's path to survival and her chance to avenge the deaths of her family members. Jewish Community Center of Metro Detroit, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield Township. Oct. 19 - Dec. 14. 248-661-1000. Jccdet.org

Michigan State University Museum "Michigan and the Civil War" Exhibit highlights Michigan connections in the Civil War. Michigan State University Museum, 409 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. Aug. 4 - Dec. 31. 517-355-7474. museum.msu.edu

MOCAD "The People's Biennial" It examines the work of artists and other creative individuals, who operate outside the conventional art world. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sep. 12 - Dec. 31. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

Neighborhood Service Organization "Through Our Eyes Gallery Opening" It is an emotional experience to see life through the eyes of the once homeless. Swords into Plowshares Gallery, 33 E. Adams St., Detroit. Nov. 20 - Dec. 13. 313-961-4890. www.Nso-mi.org

River's Edge Gallery "Virgo Rising" Patricia Izzo and Martine MacDonald. River's Edge Gallery, 3024 Biddle, Wyandotte. Nov. 22 - Dec. 31. 734-246-9880. Artattheedge.com

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "Art 'a Loan". Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. Nov. 18 - Dec. 7. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

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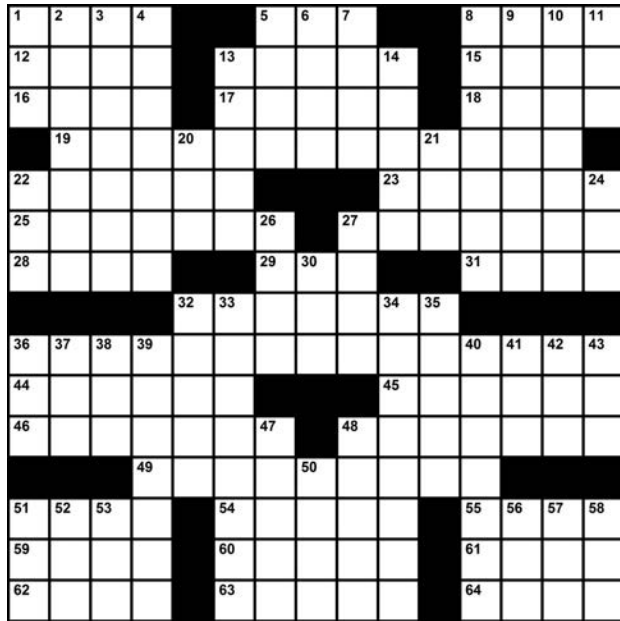
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Q Puzzle

Shakespeare In Drag



Across

- 1 Manhandle, with "with"
 5 Where to have cybersex
 8 Shoe bottom
 12 Engaged in
 13 Went without saying?
 15 Each
 16 Prepare for phone sex

- 17 Story on the stand
 18 Elizabeth of "Transamerica"
 19 If the Bard had written a play about ___ in the Roman senate ...
 22 (With 23-Across) ... what would ___ have said to a friend ...
 23 (See 22-Across)
 25 Flying toy
 27 "The Untouchables" Oscar winner

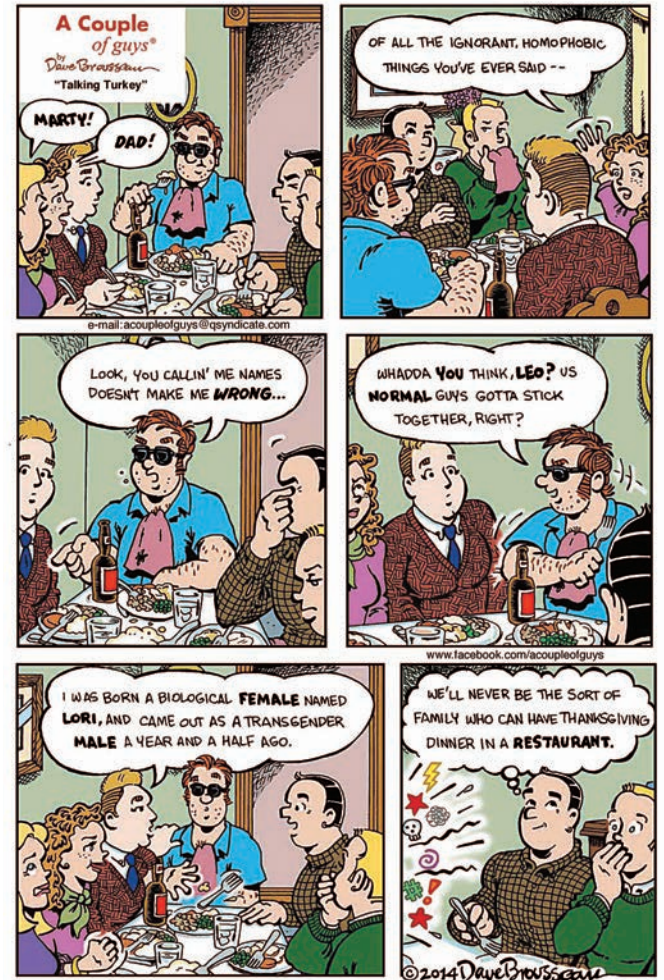
- 28 "Etta ___" (old comic strip)
 29 First in a Latin threesome
 31 ___-sex marriage
 32 Capital of Venezuela
 36 ... when he saw him wearing a ___?
 44 Still waiting to go out
 45 Art of Cukur
 46 Daily allowance
 48 Heisman Trophy winner Tony
 49 Answer to the riddle
 51 Michelangelo's painting and sculpture
 54 Mishima, for one
 55 Make a hole bigger
 59 Eagles, but not leather bars
 60 Went up
 61 Zipped
 62 Red planet
 63 Gets a butt-whuppin', maybe
 64 Prissy hissy

Down

- 1 Base for some wrestlers
 2 Frasier or Niles
 3 Like the Oscars, as sparkling celebs appear?
 4 Featured player
 5 Montgomery Clift's "___ River"
 6 Islamic leader
 7 Neuwirth of "Chicago"
 8 Homo ___
 9 Where to go with your first mate
 10 Reach of the law
 11 Clean air gov't grp.

- 13 Stroke with an upright stick
 14 Music of the the Village People
 20 Where to put your meat, in a deli
 21 ___ Francisco
 22 Stone film
 24 Seed spilled by some farmers
 26 Features of Disney's Dumbo
 27 Comedic actor James
 30 Where wrestlers lie together
 32 Like orange traffic markers
 33 Nevertheless
 34 Tales
 35 Drag queen's mini, e.g.
 36 Type of tent that may be erected
 37 Request to Sajak
 38 Country est. in 1948
 39 Cashes in, as coupons
 40 Butt plugs, e.g.
 41 Maiden name preceder
 42 Std. of a line through Auden's land
 43 Posed for Annie Leibovitz
 47 El Prado, for one
 48 Cover with cloth
 50 Antigay prejudice, e.g.
 51 It swallows plastic and spits cash
 52 "Breakfast on Pluto" actor Stephen
 53 Seaman
 56 Many, many moons
 57 Jackie O.'s second husband
 58 Came upon

Solution on pg. 34



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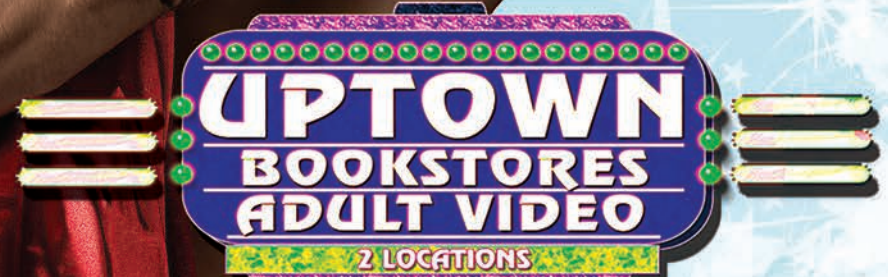
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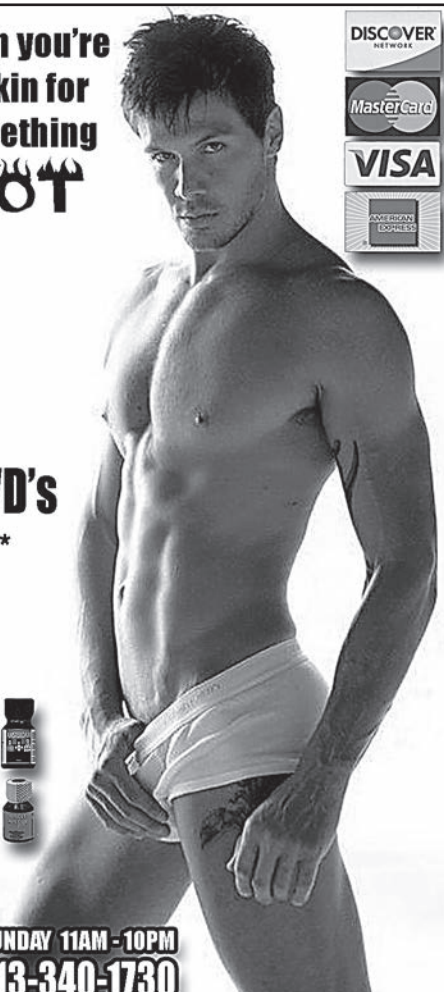
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► Frivolist

Continued from p. 34

your friends instead of a free-for-all that can quickly spiral your budget out of control. If you currently only exchange a gift or two with a couple friends, this might not be for you, but if you have a large group of comrades, it’s an easy-on-the-wallet avenue to explore.

5. Plan a gay-themed White Elephant party

There are different names for this type of party – aside from White Elephant, it’s also referred to as a “Yankee Swap” in various regions – but the concept is the same... and simple. Each participant brings one wrapped gift to the gathering – the price of which is usually capped at reasonable price, like \$20 or so – and the group decides in which order participants will select from the pile of gifts, generally by numbers randomly drawn from a hat. Once a gift is opened, it can be stolen by the next in line if they don’t particularly like their gift or, in most cases, just like any of the previous gifts better. This practice continues until the last person has opened the last gift, which ultimately gives that lucky duck the pick of the litter. Lots of fun and laughter at this inexpensive, home-based holiday event.

6. Bake holiday goodies for your neighbors and co-workers

Get into the spirit of the season by dusting off those cookie sheets, muffin tins and loaf pans. Turn up the holiday tunes and get cookin’ with

a few batches of your signature baked goods (I’m rather partial to Carolyn’s Chocolate Chip Cookies from Martha Stewart), package them in holiday-themed containers with nicely tied ribbons or bows, and deliver them with a note of holiday greetings.

7. See a special holiday performance at your local gay bar

Hundred to one there’ll be a jolly drag show taking place at your favorite gay hangout between now and New Year’s. But if that’s not on the calendar, see what else is happening that’ll help you jingle all the way. Maybe it’s an ugly Christmas sweater party like I mentioned before, but there also may be toy drives; holiday-themed go-go boy nights; or game-based events, like trivia or bingo.

8. Round up your group of friends and volunteer

Not everyone is as fortunate as we are, and those circumstances really start to take their toll on people around holiday time. That’s why it’s important to give some of your time and energy to show you care about your fellow Americans by volunteering. You could try to locate an LGBT establishment that needs a few helping hands this season, and there are plenty of other options in your community. The important part is that you and your friends are getting out there and giving back.

9. Snap up post-holiday clearance deals for next year

One of my all-time favorite parts of the holidays is the post-Christmas clearance deals on décor and other holiday paraphernalia. I generally wait until about five days after Christmas when Target has slashed prices from the starting discount of 50 to 75 percent, but it tends to be heavily picked through by that point. Nonetheless, you can still walk away with a bunch of incredible deals. Wait a little longer and the discounts delve into the 90 percent-off range at certain stores, and that’s just a no-brainer. The shelves will look like the apocalypse has started, but you’re literally paying a few cents for whatever’s left to enhance your holiday home in the future.

Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and blogger whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world. He lives in Manhattan with his husband and their cuddle-buddy furbaby. Connect with Mikey on Twitter @mikeyrox.

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