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– James Felton Keith, CEO of the DRLGBTCC, pg. 14

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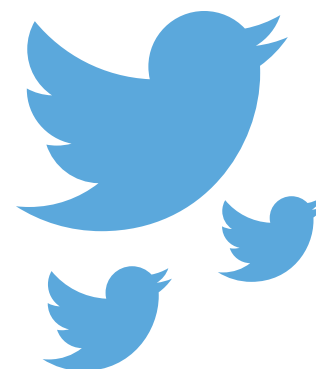
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With the announcement of the Caspar decision, Michigan now waits for the hearing in April before the Supreme Court of the United States as it joins with Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee to argue the constitutionality of allowing for same-sex marriage and the recognition of same-sex marriage.



The plaintiffs in the Caspar v Snyder case seen in April as they embark on their legal case with Michigan ACLU attorneys.

## Validation For 323 Mich. Same-Sex Couples Gov. Snyder Surprises Many By Not Appealing Ruling

BY AJ TRAGER

**LANSING** – Gov. Snyder issued a surprise statement last Wednesday, a day earlier than the 5 p.m., Feb. 5 deadline he had to order an appeal of the decision by a federal district judge that recognized the validity of the 323 same-sex couples married in three counties on March 22, 2014.

It was an appeal that many members of the LGBT community had expected Snyder would likely issue, including plaintiff couples from the Caspar v Snyder case. But the day before deadline, the Governor issued a statement that the marriages would in fact be legally recognized by the state.

“The judge has determined that same-sex couples were legally married on that day, and we will follow the law and extend state marriage benefits to those couples,” Snyder said in the statement and that the state offices would not pursue an appeal.

“I appreciate that the larger question will be addressed by the U.S. Supreme Court this year,” Snyder continued. “This is an issue that has been divisive across our country. Our nation’s highest court will decide this issue. I know there are strong feelings on both sides of this issue, and it’s vitally important for an expedient resolution that will allow people in Michigan, as well as other states, to move forward together on the other challenges we face.”

Arguments for the Caspar v Snyder case were heard in August 2014 before Judge Mark A. Goldsmith, nominated by President

Barack Obama in 2010 to represent the Eastern District of Michigan. The judge issued his decision on Jan. 15, saying the state must recognize those marriages performed on March 22, 2014 and gave Snyder 21 days to file his appeal. Goldsmith added that the state will have to recognize these marriages even if the U.S. Supreme Court upholds Michigan’s same-sex marriage ban later this year.

In the wake of the DeBoer v Snyder ruling issued by Federal Judge Bernard Friedman on March 21, 2014 declaring the state’s ban on same-sex marriage unconstitutional, courthouses from Oakland, Washtenaw and Ingham counties opened up their doors on a Saturday to legally marry over 300 same-sex couples before Friedman’s decision was stayed by the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals late the same day, preventing any more marriage licenses from being issued. This created legal limbo for loving couples unsure if their new state’s marriage rights would be recognized, effectively ignoring equal treatment under the law.

The 2004 voter approved Michigan Marriage Amendment (MMA), denying marriage rights to same-sex loving couples, was cited as the rationale for the state of Michigan not recognizing the same-sex marriages performed on March 22, 2014. In April 2014 eight couples, represented by the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan filed a lawsuit against the state arguing that because the couples are legally married, they are entitled to all of the protections of marriage and that those protections cannot

be taken away.

“We’re thankful that the state finally has made the wise choice to acknowledge the vows that these couples made and to recognize the love that these families share,” Jay Kaplan, staff attorney for the ACLU of Michigan’s LGBT Project said. “These marriages were performed at a time when marriage equality was legal. We’re elated that, with the recognition of their marriages, these couples no longer have to live under a dark cloud of confusion and uncertainty.”

State Rep. Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor) applauded the Governor’s decision saying, “I am glad that the governor has decided not to waste any more taxpayer money on a misguided crusade to discriminate against these 300 families. Michigan should be supporting families, not trying to tear them apart. That is why the governor’s decision is only a first step. He should stop defending Michigan’s marriage ban at the Supreme Court, before he puts our state on the wrong side of history.”

Lisa Brown, Oakland County clerk and Barb Byrum, Ingham County clerk, were two of the three county clerks who opened their doors to marry couples.

“I am so glad that we opened the Oakland County Clerk’s Office on that historic Saturday so that the more than 130 loving, committed couples married in Oakland County that day can have the protection guaranteed to every other married couple in Michigan,” Brown



“We’re thankful that the state finally has made the wise choice to acknowledge the vows that these couples made and to recognize the love that these families share. These marriages were performed at a time when marriage equality was legal. We’re elated that, with the recognition of their marriages, these couples no longer have to live under a dark cloud of confusion and uncertainty.”

- Jay Kaplan, staff attorney for the ACLU of Michigan’s LGBT Project

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# Ala Chief Justice Moore Tells Judges: Refuse Gay Marriage Licenses

BY KIM CHANDLER

**MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)**—Tori Sisson and Shante Wolfe camped in a blue and white tent outside the Montgomery County Courthouse during the early hours Monday, hugging and talking excitedly of getting married soon.

Despite an 11th-hour move from the state's chief justice

# Alabama Marriages Move Forward

BY AP AND BTL STAFF

**BIRMINGHAM, Ala.**—On Friday the U.S. Supreme Court did not grant a stay on a lower court's ruling that deemed unconstitutional Alabama's ban on marriage equality. It led anti-gay Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore to issue a 6-page letter to probate judges to not issue licenses to same-sex couples beginning Monday. That order went against two rulings from

clearly ignoring Moore's letter, at times tearfully, officiated a civil wedding ceremony for the two women, who said they had been a couple for seven years.

"By the authority vested in me as a circuit judge of the State of Alabama, I now pronounce Olanda and Dinah are married spouses, entitled to all rights and privileges, as well as all responsibilities, afforded and placed upon them by the State of Alabama,"

resolution expressing "moral outrage, intense grief and strong disagreement over court rulings that have set our culture in a direction against the biblical definition of marriage."

"We likewise call upon Alabama Baptists to pray for our state and nation and to stand strong in support of biblical marriage as the only form that should be legal in Alabama and throughout our nation," Rick Lance, executive director, Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, said in a statement Friday.

Pastor Franklin D. Raddish of South Carolina, who led a prayer vigil against same-sex marriage at the Alabama Capitol, urged southerners to refuse to recognize the marriages that he called "from the devil's hell."

Monroe County Probate Judge Greg Norris said he expects most probate judges to issue licenses, although at least one has said he will refuse until he gets greater clarity from the courts. However, several judges have said they will stop performing weddings altogether so they don't have to marry gay couples.

Elmore County Probate Judge John Enslin said he is complying with an order from Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore to not issue same-sex marriage licenses.

Enslin is one of several probate judges in the state who have said they will not perform marriage ceremonies, an optional service in probate court. Before Moore's order, Enslin said he would issue marriage licenses to all couples as he was required to do so by law.

Enslin, in a statement on Friday said, "I will never perform a so-called same-sex marriage. A federal court can put me in jail for life, and I will still never perform a so-called same-sex marriage. I hear people saying that I need to be on the right side of history. My reply to that is this: In the end, God is always on the right side of history. It was Sodom and Gomorrah that were on the wrong side of history."

Enslin's issued another statement Monday after Moore sent out his directives saying, "Chief Justice Roy Moore, in his capacity as Administrative Head of the Alabama Judicial System, Art. 149, Ala. Const., 1901, issued an Order yesterday, Sunday, February 8, 2015, at approximately 8:15 p.m. Said Order states, in pertinent part, "Effective immediately, no Probate



Tori Sisson, left, tears up and laughs as Shante Wolfe wipes away her tears during their marriage ceremony after being the first couple in the county to file their marriage license, Monday, Feb. 9, 2015, in Montgomery, Ala. Alabama began issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples Monday despite an 11th-hour attempt from the state's chief justice to block the weddings. Alabama is the 37th state to allow gays and lesbians to wed. AP Photo: Brynn Anderson

ordering judges to refuse to issue marriage licenses to gay couples, Sisson and Wolfe hoped to be the first in Alabama to get one Monday morning. A federal judge's order overturning the state's ban on gay marriage went into effect, making Alabama the 37th state to allow gays and lesbians to wed.

"It's about time," Wolfe, 21, said of gay marriage being allowed in the Deep South state.

Chief Justice Roy Moore sent his order to state probate judges Sunday night. He argued that judges are not bound by the ruling of a federal judge that the gay marriage ban is unconstitutional.

It was a dramatic return to defiance for Moore, who was removed as chief justice in 2003 for refusing to obey a federal court order to remove a washing machine-sized Ten Commandments from the state judicial building. Critics lashed out that Moore had

U.S. District Judge Ginny Granade that separately struck down legislation and a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage in the state.

On Monday morning the U.S. Supreme Court ignored a request from Alabama officials to extend the stay further and couples in Alabama began marrying immediately, making the state the 37th in the nation to do so.

In Jefferson County, Dinah McCaryer and Olanda Smith were the first women to emerge from the crowd of same-sex couples who filed in to seek marriage licenses.

Within minutes, Judge Michael G. Graffeo of Alabama Circuit Court,

Judge Graffeo said. "You can show your affection."

The ruling brings same sex marriage to the Deep South and to a state considered one of the Bible Belt's most socially conservative. While gay marriage is now legal in much of the U.S., over half of the 14 states still enforcing bans on gay marriage were located in the South, a swath of resistance stretching from roughly Texas to Kentucky.

Alabama voters in 2006 approved a constitutional ban on gay marriage by a 4-to-1 margin.

The Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions on Friday approved a

See Roy Moore, page 13

See Alabama Moves Forward, page 13



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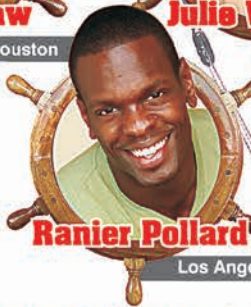
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# 'Little Bigger Than A Metronome Minute'



## Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

When Detroit-born, Cass Tech graduate Bernard Johnson died of pneumonia in January 1997 at age 60, the New York Times carried a quarter-page obit celebrating his life as "a Renaissance man in dance."

Little bigger than a metronome minute – at 5-foot 4 – he had been dancing since age 11. We became friends during our CT senior year and were part of an integrated circle of gay art and music students who gathered after class to "dish" and let our hair down at a Dunkin' Donut Shop in downtown Detroit.

(As art students we were free to roam the CT and adjoining Commerce building on all floors – freehand drawing in pencil and charcoal, and mastering the intricacies of one-and two-point perspective. During warm weather we sketched, watercolor painted and socialized in once-shady Cass Park, with stopoffs for hot dogs at a Coney Island stand near the Masonic Temple.)

**Bernard was amusing company; just a bit "swish" and campy. He carried his books like a well-bred debutante. But he was not to be trifled with, as a jock classmate who called him "Miss Thing" during bell change soon found out.**

Bernard Johnson majored in fashion design and was much envied for renderings of furs, fabrics, dresses and accessories. At the time, there were few CT male students majoring in fashion design.

Bernard was also known as an interpreter of ballet and modern dance. He was invited by our senior art design instructor Donald Thrall to perform for an all-school senior talent extravaganza. (I myself appeared – to modest acclaim as a stuffy banker – in that year's senior play.)

Bernard wore a discreetly brief costume, and his body was painted a shimmering gold. When he stepped stage center into the spotlight, there was an expectant hush among the 1000 students gathered in the balconied auditorium.

Bernard paused. Smiled commandingly. Snapped into stunning and full choreographic mastery. Radiance. Glitter. Performance plus.

His music was Lex Baxter's LP recording of "Le Sacre du Savage." Live bongo drummers drummed him through each flashing movement. His choreography was primitive, limber, elastic. Muscular! When he took well-deserved bows, sweating glitter from a mesmerizing and orgiastic cadence, everyone stood, whistled. Shouted. Applauded for minutes on end.

Though we didn't know it at the time, this was a preview performance for a long and successful career in dance, choreography, film, set and costume design, stretching over 40

See *Parting Glances*, page 9



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## Wedding Bells For Michigan Grow Louder

BTL EDITORIAL

This June the U.S. Supreme Court will finally decide whether to extend full marriage rights to same-sex couples nationwide, and it will be Michigan's DeBoer v. Snyder case that will help determine the outcome. Anticipation, excitement, worry and cautious optimism can be felt as we wait to hear whether the Justices will grant DeBoer and Rowse the right to marry, and with them millions of other couples across the country.

Momentum appears to be on our side. Since October, when the Supreme Court refused to hear appeals from rulings allowing same-sex marriages in five states, it has denied requests to stay orders requiring other states to let same-sex couples marry. Largely as a consequence of the court's inaction, the number of states with same-sex marriage expanded to 37 from 19, along with the District of Columbia, in just four months.

Last week, Michigan's Gov. Rick Snyder announced he would not challenge a federal judge's ruling that declared valid more than 300 same-sex marriages performed March 22, 2013, one day after Judge Friedman's historic ruling in DeBoer v. Snyder that struck down Michigan's marriage

ban. Also last week, the U.S. Supreme Court decided not to grant Alabama's request to extend a stay on same-sex marriages in that deep southern state.

In a dissent joined by Justice Antonin Scalia, conservative Justice Clarence Thomas acknowledged that the court's move to allow gay marriages to go ahead in Alabama "may well be seen as a signal of the court's intended resolution" as it considers cases from Michigan and three other states on whether same-sex marriage bans are permitted under the U.S. Constitution. The court's normal practice would have been to put the Alabama case on hold until it had decided the cases involving the same-sex marriage bans in Ohio, Tennessee, Kentucky and Michigan. One of the factors the court considers when deciding whether to put a hold on a lower-court ruling is the "likelihood of success" for the petitioners if the case were to be appealed.

LGBT rights attorneys were giddy on hearing the news.

Sarah Warbelow, Human Rights Campaign's legal director, said the justices' action on Alabama "has

**Sarah Warbelow, Human Rights Campaign's legal director, said the justices' action on Alabama "has telegraphed there is virtually zero risk that they will issue an anti-equality ruling this summer." The group also told same-sex couples in the 13 states, including Michigan, where same-sex marriage is still banned to "start your wedding plans now."**

telegraphed there is virtually zero risk that they will issue an anti-equality ruling this summer." The group also told same-sex couples in the 13 states, including Michigan, where same-sex marriage is still banned to "start your wedding plans now."

If the court in fact does what it looks like they are poised to do, marriage equality will become reality this June. DeBoer v. Snyder will go down in the annals of history with other hugely influential Supreme Court decisions such as Roe v. Wade and Loving v. Virginia.



## ► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 8

wonderfully creative years.

"I believe in the power of metaphysics," he once told me. "Be the best. Associate only with the best. These are the principles I was raised on."

Bernard was amusing company; just a bit "swish" and campy. He carried his books like a well-bred debutante. But he was not to be trifled with, as a jock classmate who called him "Miss Thing" during bell change soon found out.

Bernard – who had an impeccable sense of timing – knew just when, where and how to settle a score. In the midst of our watercolor class he confronted the offending dimwit: "If it's not too much trouble to put that brain you're sitting on in gear, I'd like words with you."

One by one he read the (presumably) macho guy's brass beads. We heard every delicious word. It took nerve, but Bernard was feisty and forthright. And verbally arch. "Child, you better not mess with me. Ever!"

His accolades are many: fantasy costume designs, many Broadway musical performances; teaching at the University of California at Irvine; induction into the Black Film Makers Hall of Fame; friendships with Josephine Baker, Judy Garland, Lena Horne, Harry Belafonte, Alvin Ailey, Aretha Franklin; international tours; two command performances for King Hussan II of Morocco.

For us CT art students – straight, gay, questioning – Bernard Johnson, though short of stature, was someone we all looked up to. Be the best he said; he was that, and so much more.

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## FLINT

## Exhibit To Feature Transgender Stories

“Pioneering Voices: Portraits of Transgender People,” a traveling art exhibit including photographs and interviews with trans people of all ages, their partners and their children, is coming to Metro Detroit.

Through first-person accounts and positive images, the exhibit seeks to challenge damaging myths and stereotypes about trans people and to educate the public on trans identities and their experiences.

Pioneering Voices celebrates a range of views, opinions and experiences that are unique and empowering and, at the most basic level, combats transphobia by breaking silence and making the “invisible” visible. All members of the public are encouraged to affirm and appreciate diversity, by being witness to the process of dismantling the destructive power of prejudice and intolerance.

The photo exhibit will showcase 15 framed photos and accompanying text panels and was created by Jack Pierson, an intern of Family Diversity Projects at Smith College.

The exhibit will be on display for the month of February at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint located at 2474 S. Ballenger Highway. A reception and dramatic readings will take place at 7 p.m. on Feb. 19 and is free and open to the public. Contact Cheryl Craig, church administrator, for availability at 810-232-4023.

## WASHTENAW COUNTY

## ‘Home Sweet Home’ To Benefit Homeless LGBTQ Youth In Washtenaw County

Who doesn’t love wine, chocolate and cheese? Ozone House will host the 2nd annual “Home Sweet Home” at Vinology on Feb. 18 to support LGBTQ youth. Tickets are \$75 and available online. Proceeds go directly to the Kicked Out Fund which subsidizes the LGBTQ support group Pridezone; helps provide shelter to homeless youth and contributes to the 24/7 Crisis Line.

LGBTQ youth make up to 40 percent of all homeless youth, meaning thousands of LGBTQ teens are living on the streets. Despite the progress which has been made in recent years in the area of equality, there is much more to be done. Bullying, family rejection and homelessness are still real threats to the health and well-being of LGBTQ young people, including those in Washtenaw County.

Visit [www.OzoneHouse.org](http://www.OzoneHouse.org) for tickets. Ozone House offers a support group, PrideZone, for youth ages 13-20 who identify as LGBTQ. PrideZone is a safe place to socialize, build community, and access support services. Wednesdays 6-8 p.m. at the Ozone Drop-In Center, 102 N. Hamilton in Ypsilanti. Email [pridezone@ozonehouse.org](mailto:pridezone@ozonehouse.org) or call 734-662-2222.

## 6th Circuit Upholds Jury Findings In Shirvell Case

BY TODD HEYWOOD

The U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Feb. 2 that a federal jury correctly found former Michigan Assistant Attorney General Andrew Shirvell liable for defamation, invasion of privacy, intentional infliction of emotional distress and stalking for his relentless campaign against an openly gay student leader at the University of Michigan. The Courts did offer a small glimmer of hope to Shirvell, reducing the monetary damages levied against him from \$4.5 million to \$3.5 million.

“Shirvell’s conduct here was highly reprehensible,” the three judge panel wrote in its decision. “It involved an ongoing pattern of intentional misconduct. While Shirvell claimed that

his conduct was political in nature, it was in fact highly personal. It was instigated by, and largely focused on, Armstrong’s sexual orientation. Although Shirvell claimed that his only goal was to persuade Armstrong to resign his position, Shirvell’s conduct was grossly excessive, reaching far beyond Armstrong’s leadership and agenda and striking at the core of his personal life. It

resulted in— and was calculated to result in—distress and intimidation, not just for Armstrong, but also for his family and friends.”

Shirvell made headlines in 2010 when it was discovered he was an Assistant



Former Michigan Assistant Attorney General Andrew Shirvell seen stalking Chris Armstrong. BTL File Photo 2010

Attorney General for Michigan and was running an online blog criticizing Armstrong. Armstrong was the openly gay leader of the University of Michigan student body. In addition to blogging on Armstrong, accusing him of all kinds of inappropriate activities, Shirvell also followed the young leader to numerous places, and even stalked out Armstrong’s home. When Between The

Lines wrote about Shirvell’s identity, it resulted in a series of national stories and blistering hot criticisms.

This ruling came weeks after a Michigan Court of Appeals ruled that Shirvell was fired for cause by then Attorney General Mike Cox, a Republican. The Michigan Court of Appeals ruling blocked Shirvell from collecting unemployment benefits.

The federal Appeals Court – which, in November, upheld Michigan’s ban on marriage for same-sex couples – also upheld sanctions levied against Shirvell by the court related to his conduct against Armstrong’s attorney, Deborah Gordon. After being fired by Cox, Shirvell accused Gordon of interfering with the Attorney General’s internal investigation of Shirvell. Gordon countered that Shirvell had filed a lawsuit claim against her which contained “outright, knowing falsehoods.”

The Court, under court rules, dismissed Shirvell’s case, and imposed non-monetary sanctions on him. He appealed to the federal appeals court arguing the court could not impose court rules on him. Gordon filed a complaint alleging that his appeal was “without merit” and violated court rules once again. The appeals court upheld the sanctions and ruled that Shirvell’s appeal was without merit as Gordon alleged.

## Syphilis In The News

BY TODD HEYWOOD

In 2013, the CDC reported that U.S. cases of syphilis had increased 10 percent. Three quarters of those cases were among men who have sex with men (MSM) -- which directly accounted for the significant increase in new cases of the old disease.

In two news items this week, syphilis is making headlines again.

In Columbus, Ohio, the health department has declared the region is fighting an outbreak of the sexually transmitted disease. How many cases have been identified is unclear from City of Columbus Health Department postings, but the agency has taken to social media to increase testing. In December of last year, the agency released several versions of social media messages for the public to use – including suggested Twitter language and social media placards specific to MSM communities and one specific to heterosexual communities.

Meanwhile, in Seattle, health officials are warning about a rare strain of the disease which is leaving those infected blinded. The Seattle Times reports the rare strain has

been identified in six people in the region, two of whom have been blinded.

“The King County cases are all men, including three who report having sex with other men, the group most affected by syphilis in the region. Three are HIV-positive; people with HIV are often infected with syphilis, too,” the newspaper reports. “All of the patients reported problems including a loss of vision, blurring, having a blue tinge to their vision and seeing ‘floaters’ and flashing lights. Three of the patients were hospitalized to receive intravenous penicillin treatment; one patient refused care.”

No cases of ocular syphilis have been noted in Michigan, but syphilis remains an issue, particularly for MSM, MDCH says.

Jennifer Smith, a spokesperson for the Michigan Department of Community Health, says in 2013 there were 498 cases of primary and secondary syphilis identified in Michigan, and 347 of those cases were in MSM. Among the men who have sex with

men, 178 were co-infected with HIV. Co-infection with HIV and syphilis increases the risk of transmission of the virus by 2.5 times, studies have determined. This is because the immune system launches a response at the location of the syphilis invasion, which in turn causes an opening in the skin. As a result, the syphilis infection location is a target for HIV to infect. As the immune system also floods the area with responsive immune cells when a person is infected with syphilis, it also increases the likelihood a person with HIV will shed the virus from the location, infecting their partner.

Transmission of syphilis can be prevented or reduced by using a condom -- but because the disease is spread by skin to skin contact, it is possible to become infected with the bacteria, even while using a condom as the prophylactic only covers the penis. That’s because the disease sores can appear anywhere the disease has taken hold, and direct skin exposure can occur.



## ► Caspar

Continued from p. 4

said. "It's a shame that it took nearly a year for their marriages to be legally recognized by the state. The important thing is to not give up the fight."

Many of the over 300 couples had been together for over 20 years when they finally had the chance to legally marry in the state that they call home. For some a shotgun wedding at the strike of a judge's javelin is not what many would have in mind for their big day. But for couples waiting years to legally affirm their love, it was the chance of a lifetime.

"I knew I was doing the right thing," Byrum said. "Many of the couples I married that day had been together for decades. They had waited long enough."

James Ryder and Frank Colasonti Jr. were the first couple married in Oakland County and are one of the eight plaintiff couples. Without being legally married access to a shared pension, joint health care and state hospital rights, the couple was extremely concerned with how their finances and investments were going to pan out once they reached retirement age.

"It was pure Michigan politics, this was the third strike and he was out on this issue," Colasonti said. "We'd like to think it was a simple matter of justice to grant us this recognition."

"I really figured it was going to end up back at SCOTUS to be honest with you," Ryder said. "I didn't have a lot of faith in the 6th Circuit Court, I mean it would've gone back to them first but I didn't have a lot of faith that they are going to rule on the right side of history."

"But Jim and I are just floating on air," Colasonti added. "It's almost as if we were remarried. We had the same feeling we had when we got married last year and it feels like that all over again. We are very appreciative of the ACLU for taking us as one of the plaintiffs in the case. They did a great job presenting the case."

Former president of the Michigan chapter of the American Family Association and newly elected member of the state house Gary Glenn, R-Midland, was one of the authors of the 2004 Michigan Marriage Amendment. Now in a position to create and influence state law, Glenn is expected to work against any efforts made in favor of LGBT rights and inclusions and continue his crusade supporting the harm toward LGBT families.

"I think it's a sad commentary on the state of the modern judiciary when something that is the subject of law is illegal one day, then for 12 hours it's supposedly legal, then it's illegal again," Glenn said. "I think that kind of confusion breeds disrespect for the law."

Glenn said he believes Michigan voters, not judges, should be allowed to decide if same-sex marriage is a good idea or not. He said he supports the will of the 2.7 million voters who, back in 2004, decided that marriage in

Michigan should be defined only as a union between one woman and one man.

House Rep. Jeremy Moss, D-Southfield, who joined the State House this term along Jon Hoadley (D-Kalamazoo) as one of two openly gay members of the state legislature. Moss, who was very active in his role as a Southfield City Commissioner before taking elected office in Lansing, was present for the marriage of two friends who were among the over 300 married.

"Their long-term commitment to one another is no different than any other marriage recognized by the state. I'm pleased that Gov. Rick Snyder has decided not to challenge Judge Mark A. Goldsmith's ruling, which validates their marriage in the eyes of the state," Moss said. "Gov. Snyder and Attorney General Bill Schuette, however, should not have challenged Judge Bernard Friedman's initial ruling striking down Michigan's ban on marriage equality. I'm hopeful that this long legal battle will soon end and the U.S. Supreme Court will allow gay and lesbian couples to live their lives with the same protections as heterosexual couples."

With the announcement of the Caspar decision, Michigan now waits for the hearing in April before the Supreme Court of the United States as it joins with Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee to argue the constitutionality of allowing for same-sex marriage and the recognition of same-sex marriage.

"It is odd the way they announced it," Keith Orr, one of the plaintiffs in the case said. "It almost makes him sound like he is taking credit for it. Snyder, we are suing you – and we just won, you lost." Orr said adding, "One of the great things about it (Goldsmith's ruling) is the state now has to cope with marriage equality even if it is a small number. Whether it is the Secretary of State or their Human Resources folks, all those departments now have to deal with marriage equality; which hopefully come the end of June, SCOTUS tells them they have to do that for everybody."

## CELEBRATE 1 YEAR

### 5th Annual BTL Wedding Expo March 21

In celebration of the one year anniversary declaring Michigan's anti-gay marriage amendment unconstitutional, admission to this year's event is free.

Attendees are encouraged to donate to the National Marriage Challenge supporting the Michigan case before the US Supreme Court. Just register online for free tickets.

A complimentary brunch, cake, fashion show and child play area, along with workshops, will be part of the festivities at the Southfield Civic Center from noon till 4 p.m. on Saturday March 21.

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## Creep of the Week Linda Harvey

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

After years of arguing that being gay is not a choice and that gay people can't magically become straight via a wish and a prayer, I now have to admit that I was wrong. On Feb. 1, 2015 I found the strength and will to finally become a heterosexual woman.



Linda Harvey

It happened while I was watching Katy Perry's Super Bowl halftime performance. Perry riding a giant Trojan tiger through a massive lighted labia and then singing "I Kissed a Girl" with a lesbian named Lenny Kravitz made a very compelling argument for lesbianism. As Perry crooned, "I kissed a girl and I liked it," I turned straight just so I could turn gay again.

And no doubt I was not the only one if Linda Harvey, author of "*Maybe He's Not Gay: Another View on Homosexuality*," is to be believed.

"(This) song demonstrates where sexual license eventually takes a willing culture, and heterosexuals who experiment with – and like – homosexual behavior is one natural progression," Harvey argues in a Feb. 5 BarbWire column. "Katy did us a favor, actually, by illustrating that yes, indeed, people who don't claim to be 'born that way' will be experimenting and some will stick with the new preferences they develop."

**"Katy (Perry) did us a favor, actually, by illustrating that yes, indeed, people who don't claim to be 'born that way' will be experimenting and some will stick with the new preferences they develop."**

Yes, it is a known fact that heterosexuals get try-curious whenever they are reminded that homosexuality exists. One day a dude who digs chicks finds himself in a supermarket checkout staring at Elton John and David Furnish holding their baby boy on the cover of Us Weekly, and before you know it he's cramming dicks in his previously heterosexual mouth and never thinks about vaginas the same way again. It's a cautionary tale.

Curse Katy Perry for giving away key parts of the Homosexual Agenda!

And, of course, there's a double standard in pop music when it comes to songs about kissing.

"There would be a predictable reaction if a well-known homosexual woman crooned that she had 'kissed a boy and liked it' and she 'hopes her girlfriend don't mind it,'" Harvey laments. "If such a song even saw the light of day, it would be instantly labeled bigotry, hate and right-wing extremism. After all, one is never allowed to experiment in that direction. Satan and his mouthpieces will make sure such a notion never gains traction."

Too true. No homosexual has ever "experimented" by kissing or sexing or even marrying a person of the opposite sex. Nope. Not allowed. Section II Article VI of the Homosexual Agenda (a.k.a. "Satan's Mouthpiece") forbids it because such experimenting would lead gays and lesbians to be "cured" and would never be seen as a desperate attempt to be straight in a society that discourages gays and lesbians from ever finding real love.

Oh, Harvey also believes that Perry is possessed by Satan.

"Dark Horse is not about love or even a hot hook-up. It seems to be invitation to demonic possession," Harvey claims. "Many will recall her Grammy performance from 2014 where she pole-danced on a witch's broom ... with lyrics selling sex and 'magic' from which there will be 'no going back.'"

Boo.

Something tells me that where Harvey comes from, Satan wears Cherry ChapStick.

# Justice Thomas Objects To Court's Signal On Gay Marriage

BY MARK SHERMAN

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court is inappropriately signaling it intends to clear the way for gay marriage across the nation, Justice Clarence Thomas complained Monday in a stinging dissent to the court's refusal to block the start of same-sex marriages in Alabama.

Bitterly objecting to Monday's action, Thomas provided a rare insider's perspective on the widely held view that the court's embrace of gay marriage is a done deal.

Thomas filed a dissenting opinion after his colleagues rejected Alabama's plea to put a hold on same-sex marriages in the state until the Supreme Court resolves the issue nationwide in a few months.

He criticized his fellow justices for looking "the other way as yet another federal district judge casts aside state laws," rather than following the customary course of leaving those laws in place until the court answers an important constitutional question.

"This acquiescence may well be seen as a signal of the court's intended resolution of that question," Thomas wrote in an opinion that was joined by Justice Antonin Scalia. "This is not the proper way" for the court to carry out its role under the Constitution, he wrote, "and, it is indecorous for this court to pretend that it is."

The opinion was remarkable less for the legal result it suggested than for its open criticism of fellow justices.

After all, many legal commentators have predicted not only the case's outcome this spring (in favor of same-sex marriage), but the vote (5-4) and the author of the majority opinion (Justice Anthony Kennedy).

The number of states in which gay and lesbian couples can marry has nearly doubled since October, from 19 to 37, largely as a result of terse Supreme Court orders that allowed lower court rulings to become final and rejected state efforts to keep marriage bans in place pending appeals.

"If you read the tea leaves the Supreme Court is leaving, the bans on same-sex marriage can't be permitted. They're unconstitutional," said

University of California-Berkeley law professor Jesse Choper.

Alabama became the 37th state in which same-sex couples can marry, following U.S. District Judge Callie Granade's ruling in January that struck down as unconstitutional the state's statutory and constitutional bans.

Granade had put her order on hold until Monday to let the state prepare for the change, and State Attorney General Luther Strange had asked for the delay to be extended for at least a few months.

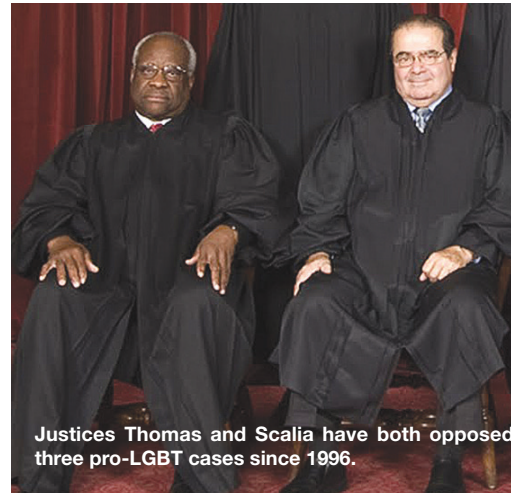
Monday morning, probate judges

the same issue the court already has agreed to decide. And when federal courts declare state laws unconstitutional, "our ordinary practice," Thomas wrote, is to prevent those rulings from taking effect while they are being appealed.

But since October, the justices have repeatedly turned away state requests to keep same-sex marriages from taking place until appeals are resolved.

Alabama's plea was the first since the court stepped into the issue last month to take up a decision by the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to uphold laws in Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee that define marriage as the union of a man and a woman.

The court has been silent about the reasons for its actions in the gay marriage cases. It similarly offered no explanation for orders in a series of challenges to state voter ID and registration laws in the fall, or for a decision to allow an execution in Oklahoma to proceed eight days before



Justices Thomas and Scalia have both opposed three pro-LGBT cases since 1996.

**“If you read the tea leaves the Supreme Court is leaving, the bans on same-sex marriage can't be permitted. They're unconstitutional.”**

– University of California-Berkeley law professor Jesse Choper.

in Alabama began issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples, some of whom had been lined up for hours.

"It's about time," said Shante Wolfe, 21, as she left the courthouse in Montgomery with wife Tori Sisson. They had camped out in a blue and white tent to be the first in the county given a license.

The Supreme Court often freezes lawsuits in place when they raise

deciding to hear a challenge to the controversial sedative the state uses in lethal injection executions.

"Part of what gives us all a sense of finality and a sense of acceptance about decisions is knowing that the court has thought about it," said University of Chicago law professor Will Baude, a former law clerk to Chief Justice John Roberts. Baude

See Justice Thomas, next page

www.PrideSource.com



## ► Roy Moore

Continued from p. 6

no authority to tell county probate judges to enforce a law that a federal judge already ruled unconstitutional. He's been one of the state's most outspoken critics of gay marriage; in 2002 he called homosexuality an "evil" in a custody ruling.

"This is a pathetic, last-ditch attempt at judicial fiat by an Alabama Supreme Court justice—a man who should respect the rule of law rather than advance his personal beliefs," said Sarah Warbelow, legal director of the Human Rights Campaign.

Warbelow urged probate judges to issue the licenses in compliance with ruling of U.S. District Judge Callie Granade.

On Jan. 23, Granade ruled that the state's statutory and constitutional bans on gay marriage were unconstitutional but put her order on hold until Feb. 9 to let the state prepare for the change.

Moore said Granade had no authority to order the change and that Alabama courts could do as their judges saw fit until the U.S. Supreme Court ruled. Last week, Moore sent a letter urging probate judges to reject the licenses. The head of the judges' association on Friday predicted most would issue the licenses. Moore upped the ante Sunday night

by sending the directive.

"Effective immediately, no probate judge of the state of Alabama nor any agent or employee of any Alabama probate judge shall issue or recognize a marriage license that is inconsistent with (the Alabama Constitution)," Moore, who serves as head of the court system, wrote in the letter sent Sunday night.

Granade has said while judges were not a party in the lawsuit, they have a legal duty under the U.S. Constitution to issue the licenses.

It was unclear what, if any, enforcement provision Moore has. Probate judges are elected just as the chief justice is. Moore's letter to the probate judges said Gov. Robert Bentley can take action against elected officials who fail to follow the law. Jennifer Ardis, a spokeswoman for Bentley, said she did not know about Moore's letter and did not have an immediate comment Sunday evening.

Outside the Jefferson County Courthouse in Birmingham, about half a dozen same-sex couples waited outside early Monday.

Jessie and Cooper Odell brought their son with them to witness their marriage. Jessie, 42, said he was surprised by the speed with which Alabama's ban on same-sex marriage fell.

"I knew it was coming, but not this fast with our history on civil rights," he said.

## ► Alabama Moves Forward

Continued from p. 6

Judge of the State of Alabama nor any agent or employee of any Alabama Probate Judge shall issue or recognize a marriage license that is inconsistent with Article 1, Section 36.03, of the Alabama Constitution or SS 30-1-19, Ala. Code 1975." Therefore, by order of Chief Justice Roy Moore, the Elmore County Probate Office will not be issuing same sex marriage licenses until and unless ordered to do so by a higher authority or the chief justices' order is rescinded. Additionally, the current office policy of not conducting marriage ceremonies remains in force."

Moore's previous efforts at stopping marriage equality sought ethics charges and

demands for his termination from groups including the Southern Poverty Law Center and the Human Rights Campaign. HRC legal director Sarah Warbelow had this to say about his latest actions:

"This is a pathetic, last-ditch attempt at judicial fiat by an Alabama Supreme Court justice - a man who should respect the rule of law rather than advance his personal beliefs. Absent further action by the U.S. Supreme Court, the federal ruling striking down Alabama's marriage ban ought to be fully enforced, and couples that have been waiting decades to access equal marriage under the law should not have to wait a single day longer. All probate judges should issue licenses and Chief Justice Roy Moore ought to be sanctioned."

## ► Justice Thomas

Continued from p. 12

uses the term "shadow docket" to refer to unexplained orders. "For the public at large, that can over time harm the court's legitimacy."

Thomas has previously made known his support for keeping the same-sex marriage prohibitions in place until the court issues its decision. Although he did not note it in October, he later said he had voted at that time to take up gay marriage when the court rejected appeals from five states seeking to preserve same-sex marriage bans.

Thomas and Scalia also have been in dissent from the three major pro-gay rights decisions at the Supreme Court since 1996, all written

by Kennedy. When the court struck down part of the anti-gay marriage federal Defense of Marriage Act in 2013, Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito also dissented.

Michael Dorf, a former Kennedy law clerk who teaches at Cornell University, said the absence of Roberts and Alito from Thomas' dissent Monday suggests those justices could be part of a broader majority in favor of same-sex marriage this year, with Roberts the more likely candidate.

Other than that, Dorf said, the justices' order allowing same-sex marriage to begin in Alabama, "is further evidence that the court intends to reverse the 6th circuit and find a constitutional right to same-sex marriage."

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## Establishing LGBT Relationships: A Look Into The Regional Detroit LGBT Chamber Of Commerce

BY AJ TRAGER

**DETROIT** – Two months into the New Year, the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce (DRLGBTCC) has set the pace for establishing relationships and connecting LGBT contacts for Metro Detroit.

The chamber has been recognized as a non-profit since October 2013 and has expanded its board membership to nine as of October 2014, covering Genesee, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Saint Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne counties. Over the past year the chamber has worked to cement relationships with corporate leaders at GM, Comerica, Chrysler, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Merrill Lynch, Pride Source and the City of Detroit Police Department.

Detroit was designed to house 2.5 million people but currently houses 650,000, with much of the population residing in metro suburbs. CEO of the DRLGBTCC, James Felton Keith, says that gap provides a good opportunity to help scale the southeast Michigan community and how it will cater to the growth of the area while working within the confines of an LGBT-repressive state government.

Currently, with 24 different member partner groups, the DRLGBTCC engages membership and chamber partnership through the executive leadership of company employee resource groups (ERGs). Individuals within the ERGs are establishing robust supplier diversity relationships and workplace equality policies. The chamber wants to find more ways to get suppliers goods and services contracts with these companies.

“Establishing good policy at your ERG or having your ERG advocate to the human resource department with good policy for how to get on board more LGBT businesses or how to identify LGBT business, benefits all of us as we trickle down, even if we are in hospitality or consulting, it creates an ecosystem,” Keith said.

Designed as an early kick-off celebration for Black History Month, the chamber sponsored a town hall meeting Feb. 4 at Wayne State University to discuss the intersections of marriage equality, LGBT unity within the church and the energy in Michigan surrounding a push for LGBT inclusions, are contributing to the current momentum of LGBT activism.

Town Hall speakers included Rev. Roland



CEO of DRLGBTCC James Felton Keith introducing the chamber board members to over 120 attendees at the first Michigan Membership Mixer meeting of the 2015 year. The event was sponsored by General Motors and held at the GM Innovation Center. BTL Photo: AJ Trager

Stringfellow, pastor at MCC Detroit; Peter Hammer, director of the Damon J. Keith Center at WSU; Jay Kaplan, attorney at the ACLU of Michigan LGBT Project; Dana Nessel, attorney for the DeBoer-Rowse family in *DeBoer v Snyder* (now headed to the Supreme Court of the United States); and Michelle Elizabeth Brown, formerly of the Human Rights Campaign.

Discussion was chaired by Keith, who began the evening with a look at the new documentary “For Faith, For Love, Forever,” which explores the debate on same-sex marriage in the African-American community and its inclusion in the black church. Stringfellow was interviewed and appears in the documentary speaking about his work with the project “Umoja.” The project seeks to understand the experiences of and educate straight black people of faith with the LGBT community in their places of religious practice.

“I can’t immediately start talking about marriage, I have to address marriage equality from a scriptural standpoint. Many within the African-American community would

use scriptural arguments to separate folks,” said Stringfellow. “What really is vitally important are the relationships and the kinship that you have with one another. And if you look at scripture, scripture upholds that and says ‘that is what we need to uphold, more so than being dogmatic and legalistic about these particular sacred texts.’”

Kaplan spoke about the “slippery-slope” of the proposed bill in the State Senate, the Michigan Religious Restoration Act, and how it undercuts “non-religious” situations and bends the line between personal ideals and the agenda of a business entity. Nessel took an in-depth look at statewide statistics on how LGBT protections in the state are lacking, the statewide adoption code and how an in-favor ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court could alter access to joint parent adoption for LGBT couples in Michigan.

“If you look at business, inclusion leads. Jay used to call me up and say ‘We need to get up there and talk about the economics of discrimination and show that all of the Fortune 500 companies with non-discrimination provisions, that offer



Attendees of the M3 mixer had a chance to meet one another and network how companies in the state can better serve their LGBT employees. Companies like Microsoft, Apple, General Motors and the Detroit Police Dept. gathered over wine and hors d'oeuvres provided by La FERIA Detroit, the chamber's newest restaurant member.



domestic partner benefits notice that they are good for business.’ The thing I want to stress here is the different nature of truth claims,” Hammer said.

Truth claims for LGBT rights function differently in the brain, Hammer says, and operate a different part of the mind when based on what is good for business versus when they are based upon religion. These varying points of argument have different sets of authority and persuasiveness and don’t interact the same way because they provide different truth claims, Hammer explained.

“It’s hypocritical of the Governor in saying that he would run the state like a business,” Hammer said. “Because if he did, he would institute non-discrimination provisions, stop hounding every public employer who tried to provide domestic partnership benefits and would be in favor of marriage equality. And then we look at what the state did.”

Discussing LGBT issues within the range of politics or the church can be hard depending on who the audience is. In efforts to build more bridges between the LGBT community, the church and statewide governmental policies Hammer and Kaplan suggest changing the approach to avoid mucking up the messaging with bias.

“You have to have different messengers and different messages,” Kaplan said. “I think when you look at the media, they do showcase us (the LGBT community) as an affluent community but when you look at demographics there are higher levels of poverty in LGBT families than there are in heterosexual families. And a lot of that is reflective of the discriminatory policies and regulations in our state.”

“What you all do (the chamber) is what we would consider expensive,” Keith said addressing the town hall panel. “Because you have to network person by person and can’t reach a thousand people at once.”

The DRLGBTCC is in the last stages of partnering with the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, which provides a program that certifies LGBT owned businesses and suppliers of goods and services. Every member of the DRLGBTCC has an opportunity to apply for the program that will help to connect LGBT companies within the area.

“When you think about LGBT politics you should think about the ACLU of Michigan and Equality Michigan etc.,” Keith said. “We (the DRLGBTCC) will not launch social focused campaigns. If you’re thinking about LGBT social issues, you should think about the Ruth Ellis Center, Affirmations or KICK Detroit. Our focus is to be a good partner with the large and small corporations that exist in the southeast region, with some focus on Detroit, since it is the biggest city in the area, and needs the most support from a population standpoint.”

DRLGBTCC board members include: Pamela Alexander (Wayne State University), Kevin Heard (Michigan.Com), Ramon Harris (Chrysler LLC), Kevin Dombrow (Sheraton Hotels), Jan Stevenson (Pride Source / Between The Lines), Dr. Harley Etienne (University of Michigan), Ben Gellman (The Future Project), Mary Fuller (Microsoft) and Rev. Roland Stringfellow (Metropolitan Community Church).

*For more information on how to join the chamber visit the website at <http://www.detroitlgbtchamber.com>.*



Town hall meeting panelists presented how the state’s inaction on LGBT inclusions in non-discrimination laws harmed LGBT individuals in the state. Before discussion began, attendees watched the trailer to “For Faith, For Love, Forever” a documentary following how African-American people of faith approach the issue of marriage equality. BTL Photo: AJ Trager



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## New Study Reflects Harm On LGBT Employees Due To Lack Of Employment Protections

MICHIGAN – A new report from the Williams Institute at UCLA confirms that 184,000 LGBT workers in the state are vulnerable to employment discrimination absent explicit statewide legal protections. Adding sexual orientation and gender identity protections to the state's existing non-discrimination law, the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, would protect these workers and would not be costly or burdensome for the state to enforce.

Michigan currently has 33 municipalities with ordinances prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in public and private sector employment, but approximately 84 percent of the workforce is not covered by these laws.

Several instances of employment discrimination against LGBT people in Michigan have been documented; including reports from a CEO, a nursing assistant and a local government employee, the Williams Institute reports.

"A statewide law prohibiting employment discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity would bring new protections to thousands of workers without burdening courts and agencies," Christy Mallory, senior counsel for the study, said. "Most likely, the cost of handling complaints filed under the law could be absorbed into the existing enforcement system with no need for additional staff or resources."

Twenty-one Fortune 1000 companies based in Michigan prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. Twelve of those companies prohibit discrimination based on gender identity. The state prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in government employment by executive directive but those protections are not extended throughout employers in the state.

In a 2010 survey, 84 percent of trans people in the state reported experiencing discrimination and harassment at work, 34 percent reported losing a job, 23 percent reported being denied a promotion and 44 percent report not being chosen for the job, based on their gender identity and expression.

Fifty-five percent of LGBT people and LGBT allies in Michigan reported experiencing discrimination or harassment based on their sexual orientation and 19 percent reported experiencing discrimination or harassment based on their gender expression, according to a 2012 survey.

Public opinion polls have found that 80 percent of Michigan residents think that LGBT people experience a moderate amount to a lot of discrimination in the state. Sixty-five percent of respondents to a 2011 poll, said that they would favor the state legislature adding sexual orientation and gender identity to the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act.

Findings from the 2013 Michigan report conducted by the Michigan Civil Rights Commission are consistent with national data.

# Michigan Laws Contributing To Statewide Brain Drain



AJ TRAGER

MICHIGAN – Public opinion on LGBT rights in Michigan has shifted over the years and as grassroots groups

do more community outreach, members of the LGBT community are beginning to see a shift in public opinion and employment along with increased regional protections. But is the state progressing fast enough to entice and keep the efforts and employability of qualified LGBT college graduates?

In 2013 the Detroit Regional Chamber released a study called "Mobility and Employment, Michigan's Millennial Talent: Where Are They Going?" which reported that 40 percent of Michigan graduates leave the state. Sixty-six thousand college degrees were handed out in 2012, which means that Michigan lost the minds of more than 26,000 individuals who took their expertise to another state, a figure that business and education leaders say must be changed. Thirty-eight percent of those who left after graduation moved to more LGBT inclusive areas such as Chicago, New York or California, the study showed.

That same year the Michigan Civil Rights Commission published a report on LGBT inclusion in the state that found Michigan has an estimated 182,436 LGBT individuals contributing to the workforce. Of that number, 91 complaints per year are filed alleging that they were discriminated in the workplace based on their sexual orientation. And those are just the people who came forward, the report reads: "It is important to note that the number of complaints filed with state enforcement agencies is not an accurate depiction of the number of cases of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity/expression."

"What we realized with Gov. Snyder's Civil Rights Commission putting out a report, stating how it is costing Michigan millions of dollars every year to not have workplace protections, and when companies like Google say that it doesn't know how much it wants to grow the Ann Arbor operation if the state has these (anti-LGBT) policies, it is becoming a serious issue for us in the

state," Director of External Relations at Equality Michigan, Greg Varnum told BTL.

National spending power by the LGBT community is estimated at more than \$800 billion annually, a largely untapped demographic that companies are keen to reach. The economy is moving more towards tech companies and the advancement of information services, Varnum said. Tim Cook, the CEO of Apple, one of the largest tech companies in the world, came out recently as a gay man.

"All of these major corporations, Google, Apple, Microsoft, Dell - all contribute to pro-LGBT causes. And what kind of climate do you think these companies are looking for? Are they looking for a state where their employees are going to feel safe and protected, or do you think they're looking for a state (like Michigan) where they are going to have to go an extra mile to sell themselves to potential employees to have them stay in that state," Varnum asks.

"So it presents a very real economic threat to the state that we all need to be worried about because the types of economy and businesses we are trying to attract here are really turned off by this behavior," Varnum pressed.

In the 2013 Report on LGBT Inclusion Under Michigan Law, an anonymous source was quoted describing how workplace discrimination harmed their family's livelihood when the breadwinner was seen by his employer at a gay bar and was immediately terminated, with no means of fighting for his job, forcing the family to live on unemployment benefits for as long as the state would allow.

"The University of Michigan has already come forward and said that it is losing too many professors because of this, that it (the lack of LGBT protections) is hurting the University, and that it cannot educate the students the way it would like to because of this discriminatory law," Varnum said.

So what can Michigan do to fight the lack of inclusive protections, to keep people in the state? LGBT activist groups suggest focusing on the cities and making sure that each one adds sexual orientation and gender identity to their human rights ordinances, as well as continuing to work on eventually

passing pro-LGBT legislation statewide.

"Compared to ten years ago, LGBT rights are now a bipartisan issue," Varnum stressed.

A 2010 census shows that more than 278,000 LGBT people call Michigan their home, with four cities in the mitten added to a list of the top 25 cities in the nation with the highest number of gay and lesbian couples.

The Human Rights Campaign highlighted only 22 Michigan companies in the 2013 Corporate Equality Index report. Among those that were highlighted were the three major automotive companies Chrysler, General Motors and Ford Motor Company, who all received 100 percent for their work integrating workplace protections.

With the second installment of the report, many companies continue to improve their score, determined by how many employee protections and benefits are provided by the company. But others stayed stagnant below the half-way point, in part due to the lack of leadership within state government to include more LGBT protections.

"If you are an LGBT person living in this state, the idea that you can be fired simply because of who you are, and the fact that it does happen, is enough to get a lot of us motivated," Varnum said. "There are other ramifications that are talked about."

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), a federal law enforcement agency that enforces laws against workplace discrimination does not currently hold protections for gender identity and sexual orientation and only covers a very limited number of companies, determined by employee base and company size. Michigan does not currently have statewide laws preventing discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. Last fall efforts to amend the state law to include these protections in the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act attracted a broad based coalition working as the Michigan Competitive Workplace Initiative. In spite of overwhelming public support, Republican leadership failed to deliver on the hopes of businesses and activists alike. Early indications by then House Speaker Jase Bolger that a serious effort was underway were thwarted. In the end, a small group of far right politicians set efforts back.





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# Corporate Michigan Hunts For LGBTQ&A Career Seekers

## Largest Inclusive Career Fair Coming To Dearborn, March 5



**DEARBORN** – Corporate leaders increasingly recognize that a diverse workforce provides them with a competitive edge. These leaders and their corporate recruiters want LGBT people to join their talent pool. Connecting corporate recruiters with Michigan’s LGBT and ally job seekers is the primary goal of the LGBTQ Career Fair March 5 at the University of Michigan – Dearborn.

Over 35 major Michigan employers will seek LGBT and ally applicants from professional fields of finance, engineering, medicine, marketing, electronics, international relations and more. There will be recruiters on site from major employers including Ford, General Motors, Herman Miller, Blue Cross Blue

**O**ver 35 major Michigan employers will seek LGBT and ally applicants from professional fields of finance, engineering, medicine, marketing, electronics, international relations and more. Recruiters will be on site from major employers including Ford, General Motors, Herman Miller, Blue Cross Blue Shield, EY, Comerica Bank, DTE Energy, Quicken Loans, the CIA, ... Verizon, Visteon the University of Michigan and dozens more.

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All of the major Michigan

universities are supporting the LGBTQ&A Career Fair, some even sending buses of students - armed with their resumes. Anyone seeking a new job or exploring other employment options are welcome.

The LGBTQ Career Fair is from 1-4 p.m. on March 5 in the Fairlane

Center North building at University of Michigan-Dearborn’s campus, located at 19000 Hubbard Drive, Dearborn. The event is free and open to everyone.

The Detroit Leadership Council of Out & Equal, the national organization committed to workplace equality for LGBT people, will meet immediately following the LGBTQ&A Career Fair. A key goal of this meeting is to identify corporate and human resource partnerships to scale up employee resource groups in local companies. All human resource professionals are welcome to attend.

The LGBT Career Fair is produced by Pride Source Media Group, the University of Michigan – Dearborn, Affirmations, the Regional Detroit LGBT Chamber of Commerce and

Out & Equal Detroit.

Those interested in attending the LGBT Career Fair are asked to pre-register at [http://umdearborn.edu/careerservices\\_lgbtqa](http://umdearborn.edu/careerservices_lgbtqa).

Services aimed at guiding students towards better interview skills and more succinct resumes are available for interested career seekers. Each session will cover the same material. The University of Michigan-Dearborn will hold the first two sessions at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Feb. 18 at the University Center. Affirmations will host the third session at 3 p.m. on Feb. 19.

Below is a list of employers currently signed up for the career fair. Check for additional employers as they are announced at [http://umdearborn.edu/careerservices\\_lgbtqa](http://umdearborn.edu/careerservices_lgbtqa).

Employer	Industry	Position	Major	HRC Index
American Cancer Society	Non-Profit	Various Positions, Full-time, Part-time, Temporary	All Majors	
The Auto Club Group	Travel	Paid Travel Positions, Full-time, Co-op/Internship	Marketing, Hospitality, CASL & COB Majors	
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan	Insurance	Various Positions, Co-op/Internship	Business, CIS, MIS	85/100
Campbell Marketing & Communications	Marketing Services	Various Positions, Full-time, Co-op/Internship	Marketing, Communications, Business	
Central Intelligence Agency	Government	Various Positions, Full-time, Co-op/Internship	All Majors	
Comerica	Banking	Various Positions, Full-time, Co-op/Internship	All Majors	100/100
Drug Enforcement Administration	Federal Drug Law Enforcement	Support Staff, Special Agent, Diversion Investigator, Full-time	All Majors	
DTE Energy	Energy Industry	Various Positions, Full-time, Part-time, Co-op/Internship	Engineering, IT, Business	35/100
Emerson ASCO Numatics	Manufacturing	Product Development Engineer, Manufacturing Engineer, Full-time, Co-op/Internship	Mechanical Engineering	
Enterprise Rent-A-Car	Sales/Management	Various Positions, Full-time, Part-time, Co-op/Internship	All Majors	65/100
EY	Accounting/ Professional Services	Various Positions, Full-time, Co-op/Internship	Accounting, Finance, Supply Chain Management	100/100
Ford Motor Company-Ford GLOBE	Automotive	Various Positions, Full-time, Part-time, Co-op/Internship	Engineering, IT, Business, Marketing	100/100
General Motors Company	Automotive	STEM, Entry Level Positions, Full-time, Co-op/Internship	Electrical Engineering, Computer Information Science, Computer Engineering	100/100
Herman Miller, Inc.	Furniture Manufacturing	Various Positions, Co-op/Internship	Business, Engineering, Computer Information Science	100/100
Kongsberg Automotive	Automotive	Various Positions, Full-time, Co-op/Internship	Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering	
Plante Moran	Accounting, Management Consulting, Wealth Management	Accountants, Management Consultants, Wealth Managers, Full-time, Co-op/Internship	Accounting, Finance, Econ, Law, IT, etc.	
Starwood Hotels featuring Sheraton & Westin Hotels	Hospitality/Hotel	Various Operations, Management, Sales, Full-time, Part-time, Co-op/Internship	Business, Health & Human Services	100/100
Thomson Reuters	Technology	Sales, Product Support, Co-op/Internship	All Business & Technology Related Majors	100/100
TRW Automotive	Automotive Supplies, Engineering, Electronics, Automotive	Various Positions, Full-time, Co-op/Internship	Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Systems Engineering, Software Engineering, Computer Engineering, All Other Engineering Majors	10/100
U.S. Department of State	U.S. Government - Foreign & Civil Service	Foreign Service Officer, FS Specialist, Civil Service, Fellowships, Co-op/Internship	All Majors	
University of Michigan Recruiting & Employment Services/Temp Staffing Services	Higher Education Institution	Admin/Office Support, Service Maintenance, Student Services, & Other Various Positions, Full-time, Part-time, Regular, Temporary	All Majors	5/5*
Verizon	Telecommunications	Retails Sales, Retail Leadership Development, Retail Intern , Full-time, Part-time, Co-op/Internship	All Majors	90/100
Visteon Corporation	Original Automotive Supplier	Various Positions, Full-time, Part-time, Co-op/Internship	Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Software Engineering	90/100

\*Campus Pride Index



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# LGBTQ&A CAREER FAIR

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**It is free to attend the LGBTQ&A  
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# 22 Qualifying Michigan Companies Of The HRC Corporate Equality Index



BY AJ TRAGER

**MICHIGAN** – Twenty-two corporations from around the state received ratings from the Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index for 2015. The latest report marks the 13th installment of the index with a record 366 business nationwide achieving top ratings of 100 percent.

Of the 22 qualifying Michigan companies, only a handful of them received 100 percent.

The country has come a long way since the first year of the index when it reported only 13 companies receiving a top score.

Any private-sector, for-profit employer with 500 or more full-time U.S. employees can request to participate as well as Fortune 1000 companies. The qualifying companies are judged based on four main objectives: does the company provide equal benefits for same-sex partners and spouses, does it end benefits discrimination for trans employees and dependents, does it demonstrate firm-wide organizational competency on LGBT issues and does it demonstrate firm-wide public commitment to the LGBT community.

Other factors that play into the rating system include: equal employment opportunity policies for sexual orientation and gender identity and expression, transgender-inclusive health insurance coverage, existence of an Employee Resource Group or a diversity council and if the company has an official or public anti-LGBT blemish on their recent records.

Eight Michigan based companies received a top rating on the 2015 CEI report. Chrysler, Dow Chemical, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Kellogg Co., and Whirlpool all received 100 percent ratings for at least two years in a row. Joining the top tier inclusive companies in the state this year was Steelcase Inc. from Grand Rapids.

Many companies in Michigan have a long way to go. BorgWarner Inc., from Auburn Hills, dropped 15 points from last year's index but many companies are continuing to improve their rating.

LEAR Corp. from Southfield improved its score from 15 in the 2014 report to a total of 75 points in the 2015 report. Stryker Corp. from Kalamazoo jumped 50 points to sit at 75 for the 2015 index, Grand Rapids based company Meijer jumped 50 points and now has a total of 75 and Visteon Corp of Van Buren raised its score by 10 points to rest at a total of 90.

Other companies that had no change in their HRC CEI score include: CMS Energy Services from Jackson, 35; Compuware Corp. from Detroit, 60; Con-Way Inc. from Ann Arbor, 30; DTE Energy from Detroit, 35; Howard and Howard Attorneys from Kalamazoo, 25; Masco Corp. from Taylor 15; and TRW Automotive Holdings, 10 and Valassis Communications, 65 both from Livonia.

## HRC CEI Scores

<b>BorgWarner Inc., Auburn Hills</b>	<b>15</b>
<i>dropped from 30</i>	
<b>Chrysler Group, Auburn Hills</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>CMS Energy Services, Jackson</b>	<b>35</b>
<i>from 35</i>	
<b>Compuware Corp, Detroit</b>	<b>60-60</b>
<b>Con-Way Inc., Ann Arbor</b>	<b>30-30</b>
<b>Dominos Pizza, Ann Arbor</b>	<b>35-35</b>
<b>Dow Chemical, Midland</b>	<b>100-100</b>
<b>DTE Energy, Detroit</b>	<b>35-35</b>
<b>Ford Motor, Dearborn</b>	<b>100-100</b>
<b>General Motors, Detroit</b>	<b>100-100</b>
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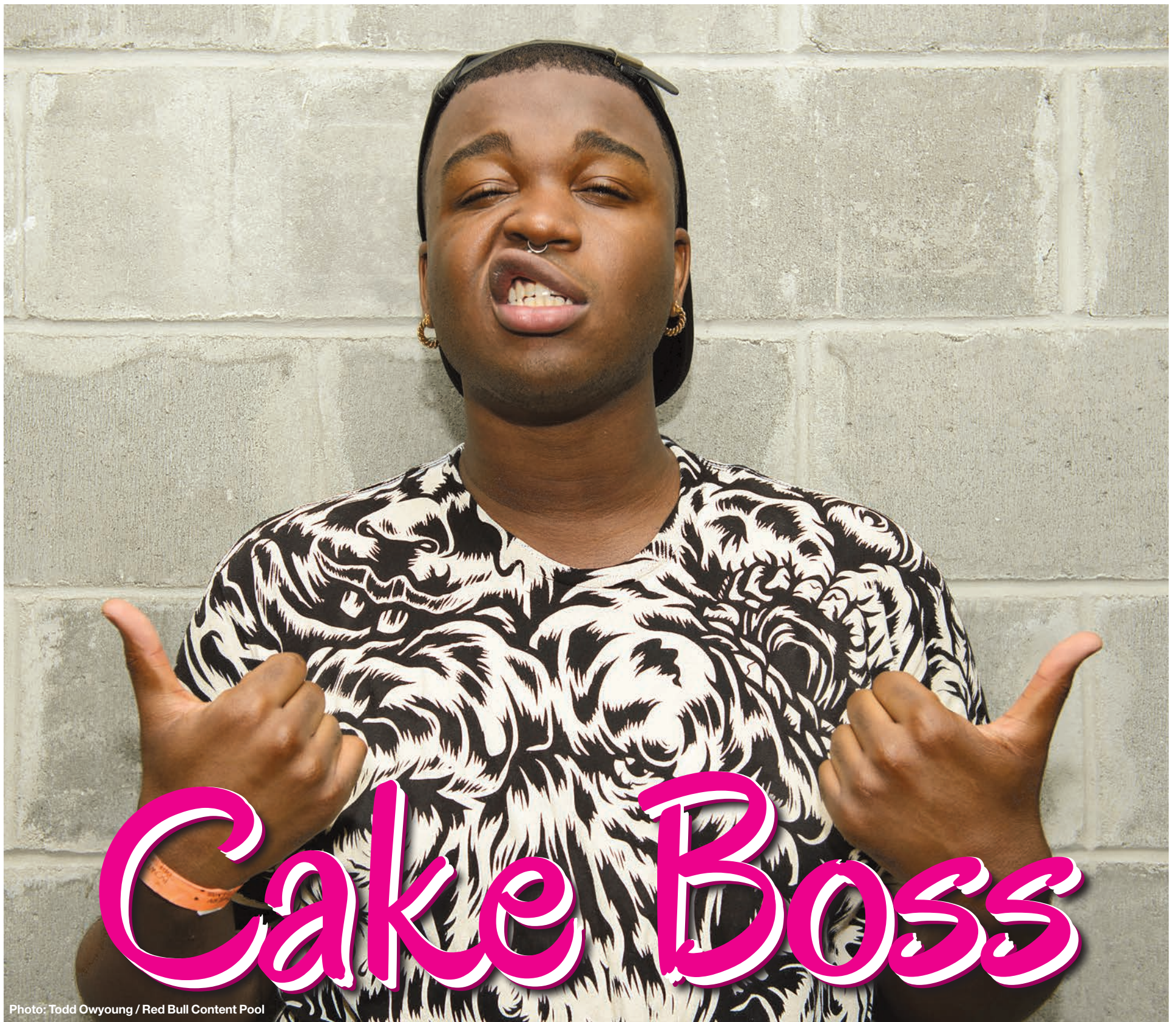
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## Self-Proclaimed 'Butch Queen' On Pop-Rap That 'Melts In Your Mouth'

BY ED ENGLISH

While it's become a standard to lead the genre of pop-rap with ass and attitude – think Nicki Minaj and Iggy Azalea – relative newcomer Cakes Da

Killa brings up his rear with bootylicious beats that are buttery and bass-driven.

In a colorful assortment of music videos, Cakes bats his eyes, flashes a smile and blows kisses – all while demurely proclaiming that you only want him for his “goodie goodies.”

Yes, he's a gay rapper in a straight man's game. But the game, says Cake, is changing fast, and his effortless flows have something to do with that: “And I spit that shit that make a homophobe a hypocrite,” he teases on the track “Get Right (Get Wet).”

“That's just straight people for you sometimes,” says Cakes, on people thinking hip-hop is exclusive to one group. “When I started rapping in high school, I saw my straight friends doing it as a way of getting attention. I did it as a joke, just to be like,



## INFO

### Cakes Da Killa

8 p.m. Feb. 22  
Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit  
4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit  
MOCADetroit.org

“Yeah, I can do this too, and I am better than y’all.”

He’s here now. And he’s good. Deal with it, Cakes’ attitude seems to declare. When he performs at the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit on Feb. 22, he says to expect nothing less than a classic rap show, “but definitely a rap show that’s not like the current landscape of rap shows.”

Like an ever-evolving recipe, each of his shows are tailored to fit his multifaceted fans. “To me, it’s just kind of like therapy,” he says of performing. But at the center of it all is Cakes, and no matter who you are, he’ll be leaving you hungry for a second helping. That’s just what he does. He opens minds.

“I don’t really think about it like that. I know there are gay people who are actually in the music industry,

and there are probably a bunch of rappers who are gay but not openly gay,” says Cakes. “For me it’s not really about that. It’s more so being respected as a writer.”

Born Rashard Bradshaw, Cakes Da Killa seems to have been created out of occupation necessity just to fit the rapper’s raunchy style. “I just needed a name that combined my sugary demeanor / Hello Kitty look with my rap style. So I just decided to go with ‘Cakes.’”

He adds, of course: “And I have a big butt.”

A Teaneck, N.J. native with degrees in fashion studies and journalism, the 24-year-old Cakes says he only recently thought about becoming a serious recording artist when he got the opportunity to record in college. Since his debut, he’s garnered comparisons to rappers Nicki Minaj, Foxy Brown and Lil’ Kim.

“Unlike any other openly gay artist, I have the biggest potty mouth. So I think it’s more

so the content (that gets me compared to) Lil’ Kim. Which I get completely.”

The content of his rhymes run the gamut from the explicit tops and bottoms of gay sex to Grindr hookups. It’s not for shock value, he explains, it’s just his life.

“That’s just the reality of the situation,” Cakes explains. “To me sex is not really raunchy. I don’t think there’s anything wrong with sex. I’m just talking about things adults do. I don’t touch on topics that I (can’t) speak about from firsthand experiences.”

As a black gay man, this gives Cakes an arsenal of words to play with lyrically. He writes about the struggles of being black and gay, remaining mindful of his many worlds.

“Even I the N-word – I am pulling myself away from using that word in my lyrics because I don’t use that word in my day-to-day vocabulary. So why should I feel the need to just put it in my raps because I am a rapper?” he explains. “With ‘faggot,’ I don’t know when I’m going to be able to let go of that word. I am trying to use it less and less. But because of the nature of rap music and the nature of the type of content I talk

about, faggots are just going to be called faggots if they try me.”

Understanding the complications of taboos and labels, Cakes still believes people should only be able to label themselves.

“People (should) identify themselves the way they want to identify themselves. It’s not my job to put a label on someone because they may fit my definition of that,” he says, explaining he doesn’t identify as a “queer” artist. “So even though I may fit that mold in your world, that doesn’t necessarily mean that’s what I want to answer to. If people went through their lives just focusing on themselves as opposed to being so quick to label other people in their life, the world would be a better place.”

So, then, what does Cakes label himself? Well, that’s easy: “I’m an old-school butch queen, that’s what I am,” he says, a title that rolls off the tongue.

“It melts in your mouth, too.”

“With ‘faggot,’ I don’t know when I’m going to be able to let go of that word. I am trying to use it less and less. But because of the nature of rap music and the nature of the type of content I talk about, faggots are just going to be called faggots if they try me.”

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Piano Concerto No. 2  
Symphony No. 6, “Pathétique”

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Olga Kern, piano  
Sat., Feb. 14 at 8 p.m.  
Sun., Feb. 15 at 3 p.m.   
Tchaikovsky *Marche Slav*  
Piano Concerto No. 1  
Symphony No. 1, “Winter Dreams”

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Suite from *Swan Lake*  
Symphony No. 3, “Polish”

### SYMPHONY NO. 5

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Olga Kern, piano  
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Sun., Feb. 22 at 3 p.m.   
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Piano Concerto No. 3  
Symphony No. 5

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# Tchaikovsky Uncovered

## The Secret Gay Life Of A Legend

BY CHRISTOPHER TREACY

Not only was revered Russian composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky gay, he also wasn't ashamed. At least, not nearly as much as historians and biographers had always led us to believe.

That Tchaikovsky struggled with depression is well documented, but up until the last 20 years, his sadness was attributed to the mere fact of his homosexuality. As we honor his legacy with the DSO's Tchaikovsky Festival, running for three weeks through March 1 and featuring his six symphonies, concerti and various other orchestral works, there seems no better time to clarify what's come to light via newfound access to his familial correspondence.

As it turns out, Tchaikovsky was reasonably comfortable with his homosexuality – as comfortable as someone could be living as a famous figure in 19th-century Russia.

"Tchaikovsky is really unique, in that he's one of the only gay composers to have become quite this famous," says Dr. Jon Anderson, a musicologist and Wayne State University professor who earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Composition from North Texas University. "We now have so many documented letters that his younger brother, Modest – who was also gay – saved, but the family didn't release for quite some time after his death. They offer a clear, evidential track of his homosexuality. It's probably the most fascinating exchange in the history of composer correspondence."

What little gray area may have existed about his sexual orientation has been eclipsed by the letters, which reveal the high-highs and low-lows of a troubled creative soul... but it's not the fact of his sexuality that seems the cause of

his ennui. More so, it's the near-universal artist's struggle with self-doubt coupled with longing brought on by unrequited love – also a common human experience – at the core of Tchaikovsky's suffering.

"There were actually quite a few gay people in the Russian government at that time," Anderson asserts. "Tchaikovsky wasn't as persecuted about his sexuality as was originally assumed. It wasn't so much about his being gay, but more about him not getting to experience fulfillment in his love affairs."

To further cement this idea, it's now clear that, according to Anderson, Tchaikovsky had a close circle of gay friends and actually referred to his homosexuality in personal correspondence as "the most natural thing ever."

It would be misleading, however, to characterize him as a consistently out and proud homosexual. While the new evidence suggests a much more contented person in some respects, it's also clear that he vacillated about his situation. A turning point manifests in his rather impulsive decision, at the age of 37, to marry Antonina Milyukova. The outcome is telling: realizing the marriage was a farce, he came to greater degrees of self-acceptance in the wake of its dissolution.

"Most of the time that we see his pain and suffering so clearly is when we see him having to get married... to a woman who pestered him for years," Anderson notes. "He eventually said, 'OK, we can be married, but we can't



Tchaikovsky (above); musicologist Dr. Jon Anderson (left). Photos: DSO



consummate – my parents will be thrilled.' Unfortunately, she turned out to be a loose cannon and held his sexuality against him, perhaps even threatening to out him to the world at large after it ended, which likely added a lot of stress to his life."

### Can we hear the queer?

In Tchaikovsky's case, gay men have long upheld the idea that the angst, despair and suffering deemed so apparent in his music's

"melodic lyricism" can be directly traced to the struggle of a closeted gay man living in torture with his secret. Those claims seem mislaid now, but there's no denying that the music depicts conflict. The question is, what was at its source – can we really hear Tchaikovsky's struggle with his sexuality?

The jury is still out on the issue of "queer sound" – that is, the debate as to whether sexuality is implied in a composer's musical choices. The evidence becomes difficult to sift through regarding modern songwriters in the pop arena because composition is inherently linked with performance and, often, a ready knowledge of an artist's sexuality.

"It's been talked about a lot in gender studies, this question about whether there's a 'gay music,'" Anderson says. "But it's difficult to come to any kind of consensus on the credibility of sexuality as a musical idea, especially if there's no text to go with it. There's definitely been work done around the concept of music being masculine and

### INFO

#### Tchaikovsky Festival

Feb. 12-March 1  
Various locations  
Detroit Symphony Orchestra  
Full schedule: [dso.org/TchaikFest](http://dso.org/TchaikFest)

feminine and the differing qualities of how we label our chords – almost a patriarchal ranking."

Meanwhile, letters to his nephew (nicknamed "Bob") during the later portion of his life indicate that a romantic relationship existed between the two despite a marked difference in age, and Tchaikovsky is clearly suffering from separation anxiety in a series of notes sent during a lengthy business trip to the United States. In one particular exchange, he tells Bob that he's come up with an incredible idea for his final symphony, but that, "...I'll take it to the grave with me" (i.e. he will not provide a text for explanation as to the piece's meaning).

This further ties in to the matter of Tchaikovsky's death at only 53 years old. Folks seem content to believe he drank unboiled water known to contain cholera, but debate ensues as to whether he did it knowingly – implying suicide – or whether the water was planted, indicating murder. Another explanation runs along the lines that he'd begun wooing the son of a Russian Count, who'd asked the Tsar to intervene, and that Tchaikovsky was ordered to die by his own hand in the resulting dust-up.

All of these elements have led to a great deal of mythology surrounding his swan song, Sixth Symphony, *Pathétique*, which often gets characterized as either a suicide note, a portrait of homosexual martyrdom, or some other form of gay tragedy. The fact that he dedicated it to Bob and conducted it in front of an audience for the first time just nine days before his death only thickens the plot.

"As the festival draws near, it's a perfect time to take a closer look at the man behind the music," Anderson concludes. "Tchaikovsky was really able to give us his experiences musically, in a way that we can feel them through his work so viscerally. Some people don't want that raw emotion, but for him to let us in on that is a really beautiful way of communing with his audience."



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# Teen Angst Comes To Royal Oak Stage

BY BTL STAFF

“Spring Awakening,” the edgy, pop/rock musical that took Broadway by storm and captured the 2007 Tony Award for Best Musical, sizzles with immediacy today thanks to the raw and electrifying pop score. This timeless coming-of-age tale runs through March 1 on the Second Stage at the Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette in downtown Royal Oak.

With intertwining narratives, a group of teens wrestle with their journey from adolescence into adulthood against the backdrop of the oppressive cultural and social mores of provincial 19th-century Germany. The show, based on the 1891 controversial play of the same name, addresses sensitive and still-relevant subjects such as rape, sexuality, abuse and suicide.

The young people at the center of the story are Melchior (Jeffrey Bobick of Royal Oak), handsome, world-wise and a promising student; Wendla (Kryssy Becker of Auburn Hills), innocent and naïve; and Moritz (Nick Bringardner of Farmington Hills), who is struggling with school and being consumed by sexual thoughts. The characters’ inner demons, relationships with each other, and the imposing male and female authority figures (all played by two actors, Dan Rose of Berkley and Rachel Biber of Huntington Woods, respectively) send their lives on a downward spiral.

Director Matthew Miga of Ferndale describes Spring Awakening as a type of bildungsroman – a story that focuses on a character’s growth from adolescence to adulthood – with one important difference. “Unlike other typical bildungsroman,” says Miga, “this is a community coming-of-age story. This is not simply the journey of a single character, but of all 11 youth. Their stories are so intertwined that a line from the original German text referred to them as flowers growing in a garden. This truly



is the tale of the planting, growth, pruning, death and flourishing of 11 beautiful seeds in one garden controlled by two gardeners.”

Miga extended the idea of community beyond the story and into his directing process. “My approach to this show has been to give the cast many liberties that most actors never receive: input with costumes and characterizations, as well as freedom with musical staging. As a result, I’m learning new things every day. Although my original vision of this show has changed through this process, that’s what has been so exciting. I love the idea of having a vision but adapting it to the needs and ideas of other people.”

Miga further adapted his artistic vision to downplay elements that had shocked audiences in the original Broadway production, which had pushed boundaries in nudity, language and themes. Instead, Miga is putting a stronger emphasis on the emotional stories of the characters. “I feel the language and story are more important than anything to shock an audience. Ultimately, it is the words and lives of these characters that will shock

and awe, challenging audiences to think about how we raise our youth,” he says, adding that the play’s content probably “pales in comparison with things today’s youth may see on prime-time television or in PG-13 movies.”

Based on Frank Wedekind’s 1891 play “Frühlings Erwachen (Spring’s Awakening),” which was first performed in 1906, “Spring Awakening,” with book and lyrics by Steven Sater and music by Duncan Sheik, opened Dec. 10, 2006 on Broadway at the Eugene O’Neill Theatre and ran for 859 performances, closing Jan. 18, 2009. The show won eight 2007 Tony Awards including Best Musical. The production featured Lea Michele of television’s “Glee” as Wendla.

The show runs approximately two hours including one intermission. “Spring Awakening” is rated M for its mature/sexual content and language, and is most appropriate for audiences 17 years of age and older.

Advance tickets for performances are \$18. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.stagecrafters.org](http://www.stagecrafters.org) (online handling fees apply) or by phone at 248-541-6430.

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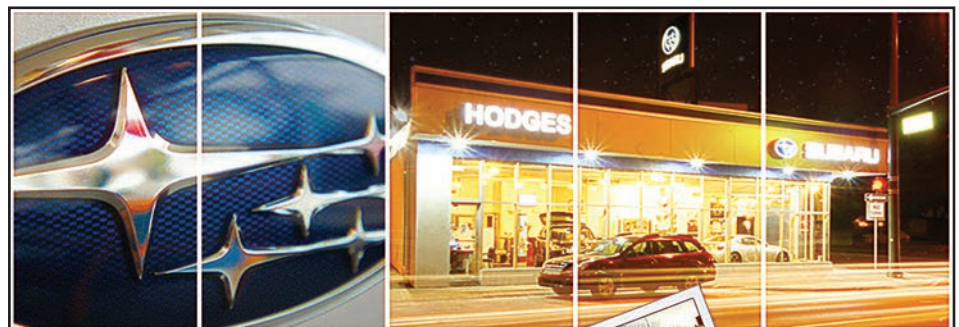
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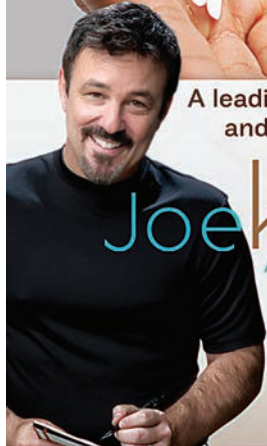


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# Hear Me Out

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

## Fifth Harmony, Michelle Chamuel



### Fifth Harmony, 'Reflection'

Raise your glass to girl-group power. It's returning thanks to music-maven Simon Cowell, who understands the need to resurrect this abandoned, gay-celebrated American tradition, where female voices unite for the purposes of empowerment and man-sassing. Fifth Harmony fills a sad void left by TLC, En Vogue, Spice Girls and Destiny's Child, and the quintet's long-anticipated debut, "Reflection," is both a modern-day creation of irresistible girl-group frivolity and a hat-tip to their '90s foremothers. Nowhere is this more obvious than on the cheery drum-dropping dance number "Brave Honest Beautiful," which launches with a "they ain't ready for this" roll-call a la "Bootylicious" and then, to reinforce their strong-women-rule mantra, names off Madonna, Shakira and Beyoncé. "Like Mariah" goes as far as to sample the chanteuse herself, looping her "do do doop dums" from "Always Be My Baby" into an infectious throwback that's cuter than kittens. On "Worth It," the ladies lead a parade of handclaps, horns and self-love swagger, and then there's "This Is How We Roll," which is Fifth

Harmony in a nutshell. "This place is jumpin' / we keep it bumpin'," they say. And yeah, even if it's a formula that'll only take them so far, it's true: They sure as hell know how to throw a party. *Grade: B+*



### Michelle Chamuel, 'Face the Fire'

Even before "The Voice," where she took second place during the fourth season, Michelle Chamuel had a knack for pop melodies as lead singer of Michigan-based Ella Riot (previously My Dear Disco). Additional clout never hurts, but on the perpetually peppy "Face the Fire," it's a hit Chamuel is after. And even if some of the material, co-written by Ella Riot bandmates Tyler Duncan and Theo Katzman, is slight, the adorkable ditty-maker has enough surefire singles to earn her some airplay: glitchy synths pop and sizzle on "Made for Me," delivering the lovestruck sentimentality and cinematic cuteness of a Sara Bareilles song; "Weight of the World" is a dreamy number set to

evocative keyboards and gentle bass; and traces of Gloria Estefan's "Rhythm Is Gonna Get You" are flecked throughout the anthemic title track. Chamuel's determination in riding the coattails of "The Voice" is apparent throughout (who can blame her?), but no more than on "Lottery," with a Kelly Clarkson-worthy hook – "we'll find out if it's meant to be, if we both play the lottery" – that scoops you up in its electro-pop fuzz. Radio, are you listening? *Grade: B*

### Also Out



### Kate Pierson, 'Guitars and Microphones'

Even after almost 40 years, B-52s co-founder Kate Pierson is still loading up the love shack. On "Pulls You Under," the last track from her first solo album – a long time coming, she's said – Pierson wraps the wounded in an ascending wallop of live instruments and her own "rainbow voice." The song sits among a sometimes-delightfully quirky (and definitely not-for-everyone) set executive produced by Sia, who also made songwriting contributions. "Throw Down the Roses" is a riotous chant, and many others charm too. "Mister Sister," however, misses the mark – it's too simplistic to be a trans anthem, as it's being called. And the music itself? Well, at least it's not terrible.



### Night Terrors of 1927, 'Everything's Coming Up Roses'

A pop-rock weepie reminiscent of The Cure and featuring Tegan and Sara, the terrific single "When You Were Mine" promised big things to come for L.A. alt duo Night Terrors of 1927. Now that it's out, however, the band's debut never quite meets that potential. Its major flub? How dated it sounds. Despite occasional sparks of ingenuity, especially the choir-accompanied "Perfect Day," "Everything's Coming Up Roses" sticks to the most basic tropes of 2000-era rock. So thanks anyway, "Always Be One," but The Killers beat you to the punch.



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## Editor's Pick

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre (A2CT) is hosting its Sixth Annual Chili Cook-Off/Beer Tasting this Sunday, Feb. 15. Tickets are \$20 and include 10 chili tastings and five beer samples. Chili-only tickets are \$10, with \$5 tickets for children ages 5-10. Kids under 5 attend free of charge.

The Annual Chili Cook-off/Beer Tasting is a fundraiser for A2CT. Chili judges feature local food experts including head-chef John Fischer from Gratz and Matteo Melosi from Wolverine State. The tin-can raffle items include a Wolverine State Brewing Company gift basket, and premium-seat tickets to a Tiger game among other unique prizes.

The cook-off runs from 2-5 p.m. at The Wolverine State Brewing Company at 2019 West Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor. Tickets for the event and the raffle are available in advance by calling 734-971-2228. They will also be available at the door of the Chili Cook-off. Additional information is available at [www.a2ct.org](http://www.a2ct.org).

2441 Pinecrest Dr., **Ferndale**. 248-399-7741.

### Thursday, Feb. 19

**Free HIV Testing** 2:30 p.m. Free anonymous HIV testing in-store at S3 every Thursday 2-8. Call to make an appointment, or walk-ins welcome. S3 Safe Sex Store and HARC, 1209 S. University, **Ann Arbor**. 734-741-1434. [info@bak-inc.com](mailto:info@bak-inc.com) [S3safesexstore.com](http://S3safesexstore.com)

**Monthly Design Night** 6 p.m. Events for everyone interested in learning tips and trends from local and national design experts, interior designers, stylists, business owners and more. Leon & Lulu, 96 W. 14 Mile Road, **Clawson**. 248-288-3600. [Leonandlulu.com](http://Leonandlulu.com)

**Transgender Women of Color (TWOC)** 7 p.m. Focused on embracing womanhood and developing sisterhood. TWOC, **Detroit**. 313-931-2975.

**Ladies Night** 10 p.m. Third Thursdays: For women who love women. Pronto Video Bar, 608 S. Washington Ave., **Royal Oak**.

### Friday, Feb. 20

**Mini Farmers Market** 11 a.m. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., **Saugatuck**. 269-857-2399. [www.Sc4a.org](http://www.Sc4a.org)

**Bisexual Peer Group** 4 p.m. Our group meets monthly on the third Friday & discussion relates to bisexual identity. Building is handicap accessible using ramp to rear entrance. Bisexual Peer Group, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. [Biprideannarbor@gmail.com](mailto:Biprideannarbor@gmail.com) [Facebook.com/groups/110918256984/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/110918256984/)

**Recognizing and Responding to LGBT Abuse** 1 p.m. This FREE training teaches participants the skills to support survivors and provide interpersonal education to their friends, family and co-workers about LGBT Abuse. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [www.Goaffirmations.org](http://www.Goaffirmations.org)

**Alcohol Abuse Weekly Therapy Group** 2 p.m. The Center for Relationship and Sexual Health, 25600 Woodward Ave., Ste. 215, **Royal Oak**. 248-399-7447. [officemgr@crsh.com](mailto:officemgr@crsh.com)

**LGBTQ-Friendly Yoga Class** Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., **Lansing**. [www.Justbyoga.com](http://www.Justbyoga.com)

**Fund Raiser for Taylor Dog Park** 6 p.m. Bowling, shoe rental, pop and pizza for \$20. The Taylor Dog Park Committee, **Taylor**.

**Dirty Show** 7 p.m. International Erotic Art Exhibition. 21+. Select dates are 18+. Tickets: \$30+. Dirty Show, 1600 Clay St., **Detroit**. 1-800-838-3006. [www.Dirtydetroit.com](http://www.Dirtydetroit.com)

**Women's Playwriting Festival** 8 p.m. Tickets: \$10-15. Two Muses Theatre, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, **West Bloomfield**. 248-850-9919. [www.Twomusetheatre.org](http://www.Twomusetheatre.org)

## MUSIC & MORE

**The Magic Bag** "Panama (Van Halensteins Day) with The Beggars" Tickets: \$12+. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. Sep. 26 - Feb. 13. 248-544-3030. [Themagicbag.com](http://Themagicbag.com)

Arbor. Jan. 12 - April 27. 734-668-8397. [Michtheater.org](http://Michtheater.org)

**Music Hall** "Maysa: A Night for Jazz Lovers." Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Ave., **Detroit**. Feb. 13. 313-887-8500. [Musichall.org](http://Musichall.org)

**The Ark** "Hey Rosetta!" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Feb. 16. 734-761-1800. [Theark.org](http://Theark.org)

**The Ark** "Ladysmith Black Mambazo" Tickets: \$45. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Feb. 17. 734-761-1800. [Theark.org](http://Theark.org)

**The Ark** "Jeremy Kittel" Tickets: \$17. 50. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 7:30 p.m. Feb. 15. 734-761-1800. [Theark.org](http://Theark.org)

**The Ark** "My Folky Valentine" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Feb. 12. 734-761-1800. [Theark.org](http://Theark.org)

**The Ark** "BreakFEST 2015" Tickets: \$30. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 7:30 p.m. Feb. 14. 734-761-1800. [Theark.org](http://Theark.org)

**The Magic Bag** "Dirty Dozen Brass Band" Tickets: \$20. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. Feb. 19. 248-544-3030. [Themagicbag.com](http://Themagicbag.com)

**The Majestic** "His Name is Alive: 25th Anniversary Tour." The Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 8 p.m. Feb. 14. 313-833-9700. [Majesticdetroit.com](http://Majesticdetroit.com)

**Unlimited Sky Production** "Wednesday Night Jazz & Soul Music Series" Every Wednesday Night Jazz & Soul Music Series featuring dome of the best live music in Michigan Cover: \$5. Harbor House, 440 Clinton, **Detroit**. Jan. 21 - June 24. 3139679900. [Harborhousemi.com](http://Harborhousemi.com)

### Other

**Ruhala Performing Arts Center** "Reiki for Teens" Fee: \$120. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, **East Lansing**. Jan. 28 - March 25. 517-337-0464. [Ruhalacenter.com](http://Ruhalacenter.com)

**Ruhala Performing Arts Center** "Reiki for Kids" Ages 6-12. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, **East Lansing**. Jan. 29 - March 26. 517-337-0464. [Ruhalacenter.com](http://Ruhalacenter.com)

**Trinity Divine Healing** "Health & Wellness Classes" Cost: \$5-10. Grace is Sufficient Ministries Neighborhood Center, 13345 Joy Road, **Detroit**. Jan. 12 - May 30. 313-451-2472.

### Shows

**Tangent Gallery** "VD: The Brief & Horrible Legend of St. Valentine" Tickets: \$10-14. Tangent Gallery/Hastings St. Ballroom, 715 E. Milwaukee St., **Detroit**. Feb. 14. [Facebook.com/events/554060824728364/](https://www.facebook.com/events/554060824728364/)

## THEATER

**Ain't Misbehavin** Tickets: \$19-22. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., **Lansing**. Through Feb. 15. 517-482-5700. [Riverwalktheatre.com](http://Riverwalktheatre.com)

**Anything Goes** Tickets: \$25-69. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., **Flint**. Feb. 13 - Feb. 14. 810-237-8689. [Thewhiting.com](http://Thewhiting.com)

**Armchair Dating** Tickets: \$10. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, **Hamtramck**. Through Feb. 14. 313-365-4948. [Planetant.com](http://Planetant.com)

**Bus Stop** Tickets: \$35-41. The Dio - Dining and Entertainment, 135 E. Main St., **Pinckney**. Through March 1. 517-672-6009. [Diotheatre.com](http://Diotheatre.com)

# Happenings

## OUTINGS

### Thursday, Feb. 12

**LGBT Youth Homelessness: A Dialogue on Safe Spaces** 5 p.m. A dialogue with academic and community experts on at-risk kids and safe spaces. Participants will examine trends and explore possible solutions to a growing problem for LGBT youth. Tickets: \$20. Equality Michigan, **Ypsilanti**. [Equalityymi.org](http://Equalityymi.org)

### Friday, Feb. 13

**Valentine's Day Weekend at Wolfgang Puck Steak** Wolfgang Puck Steak in MGM Grand Detroit will be offering an \$90 per person, five-course prix-fixe menu Valentine's Day weekend. Guests will enjoy an Amuse, first course, second course, entree and Chocolate Lovers dessert. Reservations are encouraged. MGM Grand Detroit, 1777 Third St., **Detroit**. 313-465-1644. [Mgmgranddetroit.com/restaurants/wolfgangpucksteak/default.aspx](http://Mgmgranddetroit.com/restaurants/wolfgangpucksteak/default.aspx)

**Valentine Dance & MCCC Auction** 7 p.m. Family Style Dinner, Open Bar, and Dessert, plus dancing, 50/50 raffle & silent auction. Tickets: \$45-55. The Forum Foundation and MCCC, **Warren**. 586-573-9932. [Theforumfoundation.org](http://Theforumfoundation.org)

**Valentine's Day Dance** 7 p.m. For LGBTQ+ and allied teens ages 14-18. True Teen Group, **East Lansing**. 725-222-TRUE. [truelgbtq@gmail.com](mailto:truelgbtq@gmail.com)

### Saturday, Feb. 14

**Valentine's Day at Palette Dining Studio** 11 a.m. Palette Dining Studio, located in MGM Grand Detroit, will be offering a special menu on Valentine's Day. Prices \$22-28. MGM Grand Detroit, 1777 Third Street, **Detroit**. 313-465-1777. [Mgmgranddetroit.com/restaurants/palette.aspx](http://Mgmgranddetroit.com/restaurants/palette.aspx)

**Own Your Gender** 7 p.m. The Network, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. 616-458-3511. [Grlgbt.org](http://Grlgbt.org)

### Sunday, Feb. 15

**Chili Cook-Off** 2 p.m. Tickets: \$5-20. A2CT, 2019 W. Stadium Blvd., **Ann Arbor**. 734-971-2228. [A2ct.org](http://A2ct.org)

**Monthly Support and Program Meeting** 2 p.m. PFLAG, 306 N. Division, **Ann Arbor**. 734-741-0659. [Pflagaa.org](http://Pflagaa.org)

**Transitions** 2 p.m. Free transgender support group. Transitions, 1055 E. South Blvd., **Rochester Hills**. 586-838-0825.

**Lansing Capital Roller Derby: Winter Boot Camp** 3:30 p.m. Mitten Mavens, 7868 Old M-78, **East Lansing**. [Mittenmavens.net](http://Mittenmavens.net)

### Monday, Feb. 16

**LGBTQ Coalition Building** 12:30 p.m. Equality Michigan, **Ypsilanti**. [Equalityymi.org](http://Equalityymi.org)

**Substance Abuse Weekly Therapy Group** 6 p.m. The Center for Relationship and Sexual Health, 25600 Woodward Ave., Ste. 215, **Royal Oak**. 248-399-7447. [officemgr@crsh.com](mailto:officemgr@crsh.com)

**TransPeace** 7 p.m. Ruth Ellis Center, 77 Victor St., **Highland Park**. 313-867-6932. [Ruthelliscenter.org](http://Ruthelliscenter.org)

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

### Tuesday, Feb. 17

**LGBTQ+ Support Group** 4 p.m. For teens age 14-18. Call number for location. True Teen Group, **East Lansing**. 725-222-TRUE. [truelgbtq@gmail.com](mailto:truelgbtq@gmail.com)

**Talk Tuesdays** 6 p.m. Free. KICK, 41 Burroughs St. 109, **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. [e-kick.org](http://e-kick.org)

**Transgender Life Support** 7 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [Goaffirmations.org](http://Goaffirmations.org)

**A2 TNG (Next Generation of Kinkster)** 8 p.m. A kink and fetish oriented group for younger kinksters. The group focuses on support, the sharing of information in the form of demonstrations or discussion groups and socializing. Meets on the third Tuesday of every month. Open to all.

A2 TNG, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. [CuteSubToy@yahoo.com](mailto:CuteSubToy@yahoo.com) [JimToyCenter.org](http://JimToyCenter.org)

**Laverne Cox** 8 p.m. Equality Michigan, **Saginaw**. [Equalityymi.org](http://Equalityymi.org)



The group is named in tribute to his hometown, Ladysmith, while "black" is in reference to oxen and Mambazo is the Zulu word for a chopping axe.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo will perform at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 17 at the Ark. The Ark is located at 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$45. For more information, visit [www.theark.org](http://www.theark.org).

### Wednesday, Feb. 18

**Trans & Gender Queer Group** 12:30 p.m. Eastern Michigan University, **Ypsilanti**. 734-487-4149. [Emich.edu/lgbtrc](http://Emich.edu/lgbtrc)

**Senior Koffee Klatch** 1 p.m. A lively, discussion and social group for LGBT adults over 45. Group covers topics pertaining to aging and outside speakers. Potluck dinners at members homes, lunches out and holiday parties. Meets ever Wednesday on the upper level of the Affirmations building. Senior Koffee Klatch, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [GoAffirmations.org](http://GoAffirmations.org)

**Sistrum Weekly Rehearsal** 6:30 p.m. Sistrum, Lansing Women's Chorus, 215 N. Capital Ave., **Lansing**. [Sistrum.org](http://Sistrum.org)

**Ash Wednesday Service** 7 p.m. MCCC,

**Seventh Annual Artini Martini Crawl** 7 p.m. Tickets: \$50-80. Ann Arbor Art Center, **Ann Arbor**. [www.Annarborartcenter.org](http://www.Annarborartcenter.org)

### Saturday, Feb. 21

**CardioVista: Detroit Street Photography** 1 a.m. Featuring photos on LGBTQ culture in Detroit, the city and more. University of Michigan-Dearborn, **Dearborn**. [www.Umd.umich.edu](http://www.Umd.umich.edu)

**Re-imaging Gender** 15 promising artists take on one of the thorniest challenges facing contemporary art: how to render the modern spectrum of gender, going beyond the simple male/female binary to include a wide variety of identities and sexualities. University of Michigan, Inst. for Research on Women and Gender, 204 S. State St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-764-9537. [schwarde@umich.edu](mailto:schwarde@umich.edu) [www.lrwg.research.umich.edu/events/exhibitions.html](http://www.lrwg.research.umich.edu/events/exhibitions.html)

### Concerts

**Cathedral Church of St. Paul** "The Cathedral Choir in concert" The Cathedral Choir sings a varied program of choral music. Suggested donation at the door: \$12 adults, \$7 students and seniors. Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 4800 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 7:30 p.m. Feb. 13. 313. 833. 7547. [Detroitcathedral.org](http://Detroitcathedral.org)

**Flint School of Performing Arts** "French American Jazz." MacArthur Recital Hall, 1025 E. Kearsley St., **Flint**. 7 p.m. Feb. 13. [Flintarts.org](http://Flintarts.org)

**Majestic Detroit** "Stick To Your Guns with The Amity Affliction." The Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 6 p.m. Feb. 18. 313-833-9700. [Majesticdetroit.com](http://Majesticdetroit.com)

**Michigan Theater** "Noir Film Series." Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., **Ann**



**Guys On Ice** Suitable for the whole family, the play follows the exploits of Lloyd and his best friend Marvin in their shanty on Sturgeon Bay in Wisconsin. Tickets: \$22-32. Encore, Encore Musical Theater Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Through Feb. 22. 734-268-6200. Theencoretheatre.org

**Miracle On South Division Street** Tickets: \$14-16. Farmington Players, Farmington Players Barn Theatre, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Feb. 13 - Feb. 28. 248-473-1856. Farmingtonplayers.org

**Red Night** Presenting "Sweet Pea's Mama." Benefiting the Detroit Repertory Theatre. Tickets: \$35. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Feb. 14. 313-868-1347. Detroitreptheatre.com

**Spring Awakening** Tickets: \$18-20. Stagecrafters, Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. Feb. 13 - March 1. 248-541-6430. Stagecrafters.org

**Sweet Pea's Mama** Tickets: \$17-20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through March 15. 313-868-1347. Detroitreptheatre.com

### Civic/Community Theater

**Dirty Work at the Cross Roads** Tickets: \$5-17. Richmond Community Theatre, 69619 Parker St., Richmond. Through Feb. 15. 586-727-9518. Richmondtheatre.com

**Steel Magnolias** . The Purple Rose Theatre Company, Purple Rose Theatre, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through March 14. 734-433-7673. Purplerosetheatre.org

### Professional

**Becoming Dr. Ruth** Everyone knows Dr. Ruth Westheimer from her career as a pioneering radio and television sex therapist, but few know the incredible journey that preceded it. The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company (JET), Jewish Ensemble Theatre, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Through Feb. 15. 248-788-2900. Jettheatre.org

**Leaving Iowa** CLICK HERE for complete show information. Tickets: \$29-32. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through March 8. 248-347-0003. tippingpointtheatre.com

**Once** An Irish musician and a Czech immigrant are drawn together by their shared love of music. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Through Feb. 15. 313-872-1000. Broadwayindetroit.com

**Sesame Street Live: Make a New Friend** Tickets: \$15-35. Olympia Entertainment, Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Through Feb. 16. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

**Sweet Pea's Mama** A timely story that puts racial indignity and mental challenge in striking juxtaposition. The effect is both disturbing and enlightening. Tickets: \$17-20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through March 15. 313-868-1347. detroitreptheatre.com

**The Best Brothers** CLICK HERE for complete show information. Tickets: \$15-27. Williamston Theatre,

122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. Through March 1. 517-655-SHOW. williamstontheatre.org

**Yellowman** A two-person multi-character drama about an African-American woman who dreams of life beyond the confines of her small town South Carolina upbringing and the light-skinned African American man whose fate is tragically intertwined with hers. Tickets: \$25-41. Performance Network, Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through Feb. 15. 734-663-0681. Pntheatre.org

### Theater for Young Audiences

**Oh, Ananse!** . PuppetART Theater, Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. Through Feb. 28. 313-961-7777. Puppetart.org

**Spot the Dog: Spot and Friends** Recommended for grades Pre-K-2. Tickets: \$15-25. Musica Hall for the Performing Arts, Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit. 4 p.m. Feb. 15. 313-887-8500. Musichall.org

**Under the African Sky** Tickets: \$8-12. Wild Swan Theater, Towsley Auditorium, Morris Lawrence Building, Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron Dr., Ann Arbor. Feb. 12 - Feb. 14. 734-995-0530. Wildswantheater.org

### ART 'N' AROUND

**Ann Arbor Art Center** "Allegorical Space" Featuring artists who use the landscape as a metaphor. Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Jan. 2 - Feb. 22. 734-994-8004. Annarborartcenter.org

**Ann Arbor Art Center** "Drawing with color" 18+. Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Jan. 12 - March 9. 734-994-8004. Annarborartcenter.org

**Ann Arbor Art Center** "Developing Your Artistic Voice." Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Jan. 12 - March 9. 734-994-8004. Annarborartcenter.org

**Cranbrook Art Museum** "The Cranbrook Hall of Wonders: Artworks, Objects and Natural Curiosities." Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Nov. 23 - March 22. 877-462-7262. Cranbrook.edu

**Detroit Artists Market (DAM)** "It's Like Toys In Here" Three generations serious about play. Detroit Artists Market, 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 16 - Feb. 14. 313-832-8540. Detroitartistsmarket.org

**DIA** "Ordinary People by Extraordinary Artists: Works on Paper by Degas, Renoir and Friends." Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 1 - March 29. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

**DIA** "Photographs from the Detroit Walk-In Portrait Studio by Corne Vermeulen." Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 1 - May 17. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

**DIA** "Make a Joyful Noise: Renaissance Art and Music at Florence Cathedral" A rare opportunity to see three exquisite marble carvings and other Italian Renaissance masterpieces by sculptor Luca della Robbia. Detroit Institute of

Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Feb. 6 - May 17. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

**Downriver Council for the Arts** "A Light Within the Darkness." Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. Jan. 22 - Feb. 13. 734-720-0671. Downriverarts.org

**Flint Institute of Arts** "Common Ground: African American Art Exhibition." Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Feb. 8 - April 26. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

**MOCAD** "Radical Scavengers: the MOCAD Quilting Bee Project" This winter the Mobile Homestead space transforms into a contemporary quilt making workshop for the community. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 25 - May 24. 313-832-6622. Moccadetroit.org

**N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art** "The Making of the Dauphine." N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, 52 E. Forest, Detroit. Feb. 13 - March 14.

**N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art** "Michael Luchs, Christine Hagedorn and Anita Bates." N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, 52 E. Forest, Detroit. Jan. 16 - March 14.

**Pewabic Pottery** "Ware Wolves in Sheep's Clothing." Pewabic Pottery, 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit. Jan. 23 - March 29. 313-626-2000. Pewabic.org

**Public Pool Art Space** "Picnics in the Polar Vortex" An exhibition and series of events which showcase the collective wandering and inspired observations of Picnic Club Detroit. Public Pool Art Space, 3309 Caniff, Hamtramck. Jan. 10 - Feb. 21. 313-587-9572. publicpool.tumblr.com/

**The Scarab Club** "the MUNDANE show." The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. Jan. 1 - Feb. 14. 313-831-1250. Scarabclub.org

**The Scarab Club** "2015 Silver Medal Exhibition." The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. Feb. 18 - March 28. 313-831-1250. Scarabclub.org

**UMMA** "HE: The Hergott Shepard Photography Collection." University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Feb. 14 - June 14. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

**UMMA** "Medicinal Plants and Gardens: The Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum." University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Jan. 25 - May 3. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

**UMMA** "Suspended Moments: Photographs from the David S. Rosen Collection." University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Jan. 1 - Feb. 15. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

**UMMA** "Guido van der Werve: Nummer veertien, home." University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Jan. 1 - April 26. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

**UMMA** "Flip Your Field: Objects from the Collection" An exhibition from the Museum's collection of three-dimensional objects. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Jan. 24 - June 30. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

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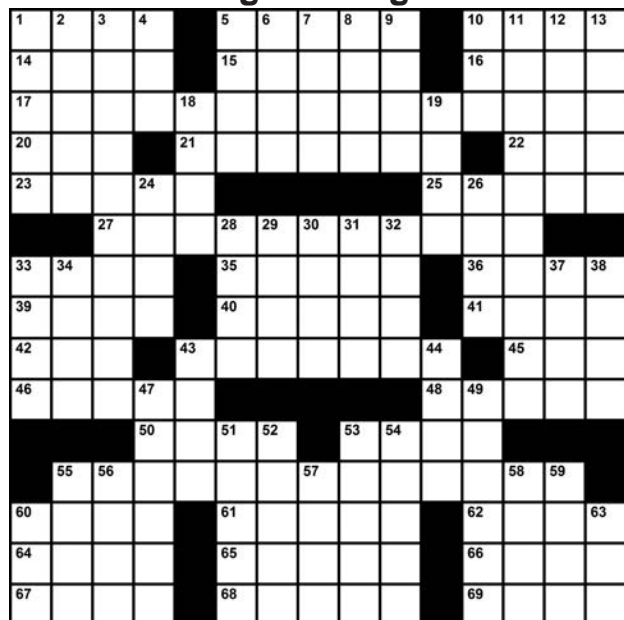
SHOP LGBT





# QPuzzle

## You Can See Right Through Her



### Across

- 1 Bunch of stallions
- 5 People in flaming pants?
- 10 Seeks answers
- 14 Lube ingredient
- 15 Ganges country
- 16 Like a virgin
- 17 Character of 27-Across

- 20 U.K. member
- 21 Prominent cock
- 22 Slinger's weapon
- 23 "Gross Anatomy" actress Christine
- 25 Acts as an usher
- 27 Gender identity comedy
- 33 Meaty sandwich, maybe
- 35 "Thereby hangs \_\_\_"

- 36 Cut calories
- 39 Star quality
- 40 Gulf war ally
- 41 In need of BenGay
- 42 Unburden
- 43 "Me and My Shadows" subject Judy
- 45 Long in the field of acting
- 46 Bannon's Brinker
- 48 Brian of figure skating
- 50 Ivy League team
- 53 "Beat it!"
- 55 Actor who plays 17-Across
- 60 Burning software
- 61 Kline of "De-Lovely"
- 62 Forbidden fruit site
- 64 CK One emanation
- 65 Make changes to
- 66 Sally who rode into space
- 67 Like three men that visited Mary
- 68 Office furniture
- 69 HIV exam, e.g.

### Down

- 1 "Hill Street Blues" regular Veronica
- 2 Writer Dykewomon
- 3 Dangerous cruising
- 4 Augsburg article
- 5 Suction head
- 6 The 411
- 7 Fruity drinks
- 8 Diplomacy breakdown
- 9 Like sex with protection
- 10 Busy mo. for the IRS
- 11 Closing remarks of Evan Wolfson
- 12 Put it on top of your hot dog

- 13 Tickle pink
- 18 Opera queen's delight
- 19 Highland dialect
- 24 Disney techno flick
- 26 "All's Well That \_\_\_ Well"
- 28 Org. that has never been to Uranus
- 29 Have top billing
- 30 Lynde of "Bewitched"
- 31 Alan of "The Aviator"
- 32 Strap on a stallion
- 33 Alpert of "Mame" fame
- 34 Peace Nobel Wiesel
- 37 Buffalo's lake
- 38 Dotted-line command
- 43 Sheehan's sport
- 44 Dire destiny
- 47 Peter Allen's "Once \_\_\_ I Go"
- 49 Photog Mapplethorpe
- 51 Hot under the collar
- 52 Part of a "Tommy" lyric
- 53 Are lousy
- 54 Dealer's offerings
- 55 Knight job for Alec Guinness
- 56 Love of Lesbos
- 57 Part of YSL
- 58 Garfield's sidekick
- 59 Beatty flick
- 60 "This instant!"
- 63 King's court divider

Solution on pg. 28



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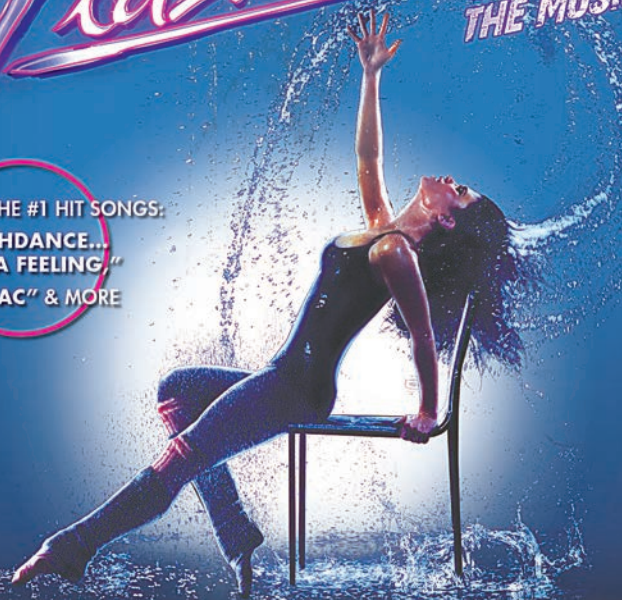
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