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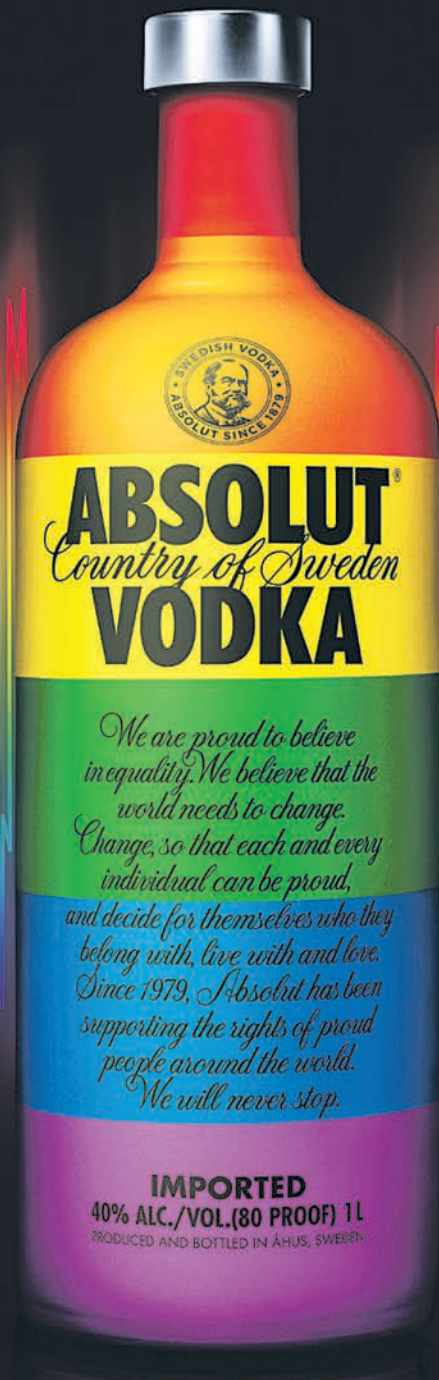


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Photo: Molly Cranna



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“ Maybe it was the **big hair** and the **triple lashes**, because I've been doing that for such a long time, but yeah, (I have) a big following with the gays, **which is awesome.** ”

– Carmen Electra, pg. 25



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Hundreds of runners take to downtown Ferndale for the annual Rainbow Run that precedes Ferndale Pride. This year they outran the rain and crossed the finish line, pooling into Pride. BTL Photo: Andrew Potter



From left, Alex Chester, Sarah Lechel, Sydney Martin, Melanie Gretkierewicz standing outside Affirmations just before downtown Ferndale was drenched in rain. BTL Photo: AJ Trager

# Ferndale Pride Rained OUT

BY AJ TRAGER

**FERNDALE** – Through torrential downpour and small pockets of sunshine, Ferndale Pride launched Michigan’s Pride season.

Thousands braved the weather last weekend and gathered on Nine Mile in downtown Ferndale to celebrate the first of many 2015 Michigan Pride festivals. While the weather may have been wet and muggy, attendees of Pride gathered before the main stage, enjoyed dancing and met new and old friends.

Pride began early in the morning with the Annual Rainbow Run, hosted by the Ferndale Chamber, covering participants in vibrant non-toxic colors. Jami Contreras and Krista Dornfried-Contreras ran with their daughter Bay Windsor; the family made news earlier this year when a pediatrician refused to treat them because they were an LGBT family.

Through torrential downpour and small pockets of sunshine, Ferndale Pride launched Michigan’s pride season.

The festival itself officially began with a balloon release ceremony, where volunteers and Pride-goers launched hundreds of rainbow colored, biodegradable balloons into the sky. In honor of Just For Us co-owner Kevin Rogers who passed away earlier this year, black balloons were added to the rainbow.

“I feel like a lot of people don’t get a lot of acceptance in the community, or any community, and I think it is important for people to know that it’s okay to be who you are – how you are,” Melanie Gretkierewicz said.

She was there with her friends Alex Chester, Sarah Lechel and Sydney Martin who had all stopped by the Affirmations booth to get stickers.

“I’m at Pride because it is such a loving environment. I love being here. I am wearing my free hugs T-shirt, and I get so many hugs. Everybody is so loving and happy. It makes you feel accepted,” Gretkierewicz said.

Miles Bond, Najee Jones, Eric Totaro and Brandon Harrison were hanging out by the DJ booth when approached by BTL. They have a long history of friendship that started in high school and continued when they enrolled at the University of Michigan. This year wasn’t their first Ferndale Pride

See Ferndale Pride, page 22





April DeBoer and Jayne DeBoer-Rowse, the plaintiff couple in the Michigan same-sex marriage case that is pending a decision from the U.S. Supreme Court, seen walking along Nine Mile with their children enjoying Ferndale Pride. BTL Photo: AJ Trager



Friends Miles Bond, Najee Jones, Eric Totaro and Brandon Harrison (L-R) listening to the DJ booth at Ferndale Pride, deciding what they will do for the rest of the day. BTL Photo: AJ Trager



The Rainbow Run. BTL Photo: Andrew Potter

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## Freedom Michigan Launches 'RFRA Hurts' Campaign

BY AJ TRAGER

LANSING – Freedom Michigan has launched a new campaign to raise awareness of the religious freedom restoration acts that could directly impact the LGBT community.

RFRA Hurts (RFRAhurts.org) was launched to raise awareness about the serious and harmful implications of the religious freedom legislation, that could open the door to LGBT discrimination in Michigan. The site includes access to pledge materials and quick contact information for Gov. Rick Snyder and local lawmakers.

“Religious freedom is a key American and Michigan value, that’s not up for debate,” the website reads, “but a so-called ‘religious freedom restoration act,’ or RFRA law, could have serious unintended consequences.”

Michigan currently prohibits discrimination due to religious beliefs against individuals in protected classifications such as race. However, sexual orientation and gender identity classifications are not listed among those classes. RFRA Hurts seeks to spread awareness on the Michigan Religious Freedom Restoration Act, SB04. If passed, the bill could allow for corporate and individual denial of service, employment, housing and many other opportunities to LGBT citizens, on the basis of “deeply held religious beliefs.”

The website highlights two stories from everyday men opposing RFRA bills. The first account comes from an army veteran and retired police officer from Kalamazoo who testified against MiRFRA before the Judiciary Committee earlier this year. Todd Christensen believes the sponsors and supporters of this legislation have good intentions but he stands by his experiences in strongly opposing the legislation.

The second story comes from Roland Leggett. Leggett, married to a man and a father of two, is concerned with the consequences for his family were the MiRFRA bill to advance out of the legislature and into state law.

“When lawmakers pass these laws they think, ‘Oh, we don’t want a Christian baker to have to make a wedding cake for a gay couple’s wedding,’ but this is really about vital services that LGBT people need and whether or not they deserve to have these services be called into question because someone claims they have a strongly held religious belief,” Leggett said in his highlight.

SB04 was heard by a Senate committee April 28 (coincidentally the same date the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments regarding marriage equality) despite raised concerns of business leaders and local government officials over the impact bills like RFRA could have on communities and the state’s economy.

National statistics conducted by Reuter’s University show 54 percent of the 892 individuals recently polled regarding RFRA laws said it was wrong for businesses to refuse services to LGBT identified individuals, while only 28 percent said they should have that right. Fifty-five percent said businesses should not have the right to refuse to hire certain people or groups based on the employer’s religious beliefs. Support for ensuring LGBT Americans had access to public spaces stood at 83 percent in contrast to 15 percent opposed.

*Freedom Michigan (<http://freedommichigan.org>) is a coalition of business leaders, lawmakers, faith leaders, grassroots activists, members of the LGBT community and concerned residents, formed by the Michigan Workforce Coalition, who have come together across party lines for one goal: to protect LGBT Michiganders from discrimination.*

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

FERNDALÉ – About 80 people braved the rains and came out for the seventh annual Transgender Day of Empowerment on Sunday. The conference, which was sponsored by the Gender-Identity Network Alliance (formerly Transgender Detroit), took place at Affirmations.

“I was a little disappointed in the attendance, but I’m attributing that to the weather,” said Michelle Fox-Phillips, executive director of GNA. “The whole day was awesome. The vendors that were there, the programs themselves, the workshops, were totally awesome.”

At the conference, Fox-Phillips announced a new queer legal project and had participants fill out surveys to glean information about any trans bias experienced. The project is a collaborative effort of GNA, Affirmations, Equality Michigan and the Stonewall Legal Project.

“We want to get a survey and then we’re going to start doing workshops for attorneys and judges and let them know our issues in the community,” Fox-Phillips said. “Then we’re going to be setting up a legal clinic.”

During the lunch portion of the conference, Roz Keith of Ally Moms spoke about her group. Keith is the mother of a teenage trans son and founded the group after he came out to her. The group has about 70 members across the U.S., Canada, the U.K. and Australia. Ally Moms offers phone counseling and support to parents of trans youth.

“The Ally Moms group just happened so organically,” Keith said. “It’s crazy how much support came in... it’s really intended just to be a love on the other end of the phone.”

Keith has also started a second group, Stand With Trans, which became a 501(c)(3) organization earlier this year. The mission of Stand With Trans is to provide education, advocacy, mentorship, scholarship, empowerment and support to trans youth and their families.”

### ‘We’re All Transgender’

One highlight of the conference was the workshop on intermarginalization. Led by Stephen Rassi and Sandra Samons, two therapists from Ann Arbor, the workshop looked at how different subsets of the trans community discriminate against one another.

“It’s that old them and us mentality,”

said Samons. “We’re not like them, and they’re not like us.”

While trans folk are under the LGBT umbrella, people in the workshop learned how many groups fall under the trans umbrella itself.

“What really gets under my skin is that a lot of activists don’t agree that crossdressers are part of the trans community, or drag queens or kings, but in reality they are,” Fox-Phillips told the group. “We’re all trans.”

Samons said that growing up in an often intolerant world causes everyone – even trans people themselves – to have some trans bias.

“I do not think it’s possible for anyone, including therapists, to grow up in a society where there is stigmatization and preconceived ideas about any particular population without internalizing some of that,” she said. “If you are a transgender person and you don’t feel entirely comfortable in the world, it probably has to do with some of those things that you’ve internalized about what it means to be a transgender person.”

And just what does it mean to be a transgender person? And does that label to some degree apply to everyone?

“Even John Wayne was not completely male in every way and even Marilyn Monroe wasn’t female in every way,” said Rassi. “Everybody in this room is trans.”

Samons concurred.

“I totally agree we’re all

transgender,” she said. “Everybody has some element of both genders, some more than others.”

The provocative statements were met with a mixed response.

“I feel like I kind of get the concept they’re going for,” said Jennifer Miracle-Best. “I guess the core point is that gender is very fluid. What makes it provocative is saying everyone is transgender. It’s similar to saying everybody is a little gay, which I also kind of believe. I think to say it that way is going to be met with a lot of, ‘Wow, wait, what?’ We all have masculine and feminine traits. We all have all of that. But I’ve never used the words, ‘We’re all transgender.’”

Miracle-Best’s husband, himself a trans man, was not entirely pleased.

“It felt like we discussed things like people putting labels on other people and people putting people in boxes, and then we turned around and did the same thing in the group,” said Ethan Best. “For me, personally, it allowed me to see that people with psychology backgrounds, and who work in that field also don’t get it.”

On the whole though, the day-long conference earned great marks with attendees.

“It was exhilarating and eye opening for me personally,” said Judy Mays, a board member of PFLAG-Detroit. “I learned a tremendous amount of information that I thought I had but that I really didn’t. Friendships were made. It was just a powerhouse day.”

### Study To Examine Experiences Of Trans Discrimination

BY AJ TRAGER

KALAMAZOO – A Western Michigan University Ph.D. student is seeking participants for dissertation research on transgender people’s experiences.

Codie Stone, working towards a doctorate in psychology, is conducting research in the different types of discrimination faced by the transgender population of southwest Michigan.

Interested parties will engage in a 90 minute, semi-structured video or audio-recorded interview that will focus on their experiences with discrimination and microaggressions while living in southwest Michigan, ways they have managed the potentially negative effects of such discrimination and their recommendations for local policymakers to make the area a more welcoming and safe place for trans people.

Interviews will be conducted in a safe place of the participant’s choosing. Participants must be 18 years or older; have lived in Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, Kent, Ottawa, St. Joseph or Van Buren Counties; be comfortable discussing their gender identity and experiences regarding discrimination in housing, public, professional and private settings and the workplace; and identify as transgender. For the purposes of the study, any individual who identifies as gender-nonconforming, genderqueer, androgynous, gender fluid or otherwise gender-variant are included under the transgender requirements.

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## Possible Violent Hate Crime Against Ypsilanti Man

The Washtenaw County Sheriff's department believes that an Ypsilanti man who was assaulted and robbed May 25 could have been targeted because he is gay.

According to the Ann Arbor News, the victim was attacked around 11:35 p.m. in the 8100 block of Autumn Woods Trail in Superior Township after leaving Powell's Pub with a friend.

The victim sat alone, texting in his car, then noticed a car pull up. Soon after, four unknown suspects began to assault him. They stole his phone and fled in their vehicle. According to a Nixle alert, the investigation has indicated that the victim and his acquaintance may have been targeted due to their sexual orientation and followed home from the bar.

"Unfortunately, violence has long been the recourse of cowards and petty criminals who still cling to outdated biases and dying prejudices about the LGBTQ community. While members of the JTCC Board of Directors are extremely disappointed that Washtenaw County may be the site of another hate crime, we have utmost confidence in Sheriff Clayton and his department to carry out a full and thorough investigation to bring these violent criminals to justice – regardless of the motivation behind their heinous actions," said Brad O'Conner, President of the Jim Toy Community Center (JTCC). "We have long known that members of the LGBT community are at a higher risk to be targeted for hate crimes; however, our community will not be bullied or beaten into the shadows, and JTCC strongly reaffirms our vision of creating an inclusive community where people of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity are visible and live together in equality, respect and happiness."

Michigan is one of just 18 states that do not include sexual orientation and one of only 22 states that do not include gender identity or gender expression in their hate crimes law. O'Conner has called upon the state legislature and Gov. Rick Snyder to update Michigan's 84-year-old Ethnic Intimidation Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes.

"As angry and disappointed as I am at the perpetrators of this assault, I'm equally outraged at our state government for continually failing to protect LGBTQ citizens from hate crimes. This legislature and our governor must take immediate action to update Michigan laws and provide our justice system with the tools needed to prosecute violent offenders for the appalling hate crimes they commit against our friends and neighbors," O'Conner said.

State Rep. Brandon Dillon, D-Grand Rapids, introduced legislation in 2014 to update the hate crime law with sponsorship from 37 lawmakers, including State Reps. Gretchen Driskell, D-Saline; Jeff Irwin, D-Ann Arbor; David Rutledge, D-Superior Township; and Adam Zemke, D-Ann Arbor. After failing to receive a vote before the end of the 2014 legislative session, the legislation was re-introduced by Rep. Dillon as House Bill 4164 on Feb. 10.

*If any member of the public has information regarding this incident, they are asked to contact the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office at 911, through its confidential tip line at 734-973-7711 or anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-Speak-UP.*

# Study: The Early Initiation Of HIV Treatment Dramatically Reduces AIDS, Other Adverse Events

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Scientists ended a multi-year study, funded by the National Institutes of Health, 18 months early because it showed those who started anti-HIV therapies reduced the risk of death or development of AIDS by half. The evidence, they say, shows initiation immediately upon diagnosis should be a standard of care and that it confers significant benefits on the health of persons living with HIV.

Dr. Peter Gulick, an infectious disease doctor with patients in Lansing, Harrison Township and Saginaw, hailed the findings.

"I totally 100 percent agree" with the findings, he said in a phone interview. He said early initiation can not only prevent the virus from destroying the immune system, but can address the chronic inflammation the infection causes. That inflammation can contribute to widespread issues such as heart disease as well as impact the kidneys and liver.

Current medical guidelines from the federal government recommend initiation of anti-HIV medications for those infected with the virus when their immune function has been somewhat impaired. But following the announcement of the end of the study, federal HIV experts hailed the findings.

"We now have clear-cut proof that it is of significantly greater health benefit to an HIV-infected person to start antiretroviral therapy sooner rather than later," Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., director of the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Disease, said in a press release. "Moreover, early therapy conveys a double benefit, not only improving the health of individuals but at the same time, by lowering their viral load, reducing the risk they will transmit HIV to others. These findings have global implications for the treatment of HIV."

But doctors knowing that early treatment will result in better outcomes for people living with HIV may have trouble translating that to people living with HIV.

## Michigan

The advantages of HIV treatment have long been known but those who know they are living with the virus in Michigan are not availing themselves of care and treatment, according to a 2015 report from the Michigan Department

of Community Health. Only about 38 percent of the population that is infected and knows has achieved viral suppression.

Viral suppression, commonly referred to as undetectable viral loads, is a medical measure of the number of viral particles in the blood. The measures used in Michigan generally can detect as few as 28 viral particles per milliliter of blood. Anything less than that is considered "undetectable." Studies have shown undetectable viral loads lead to healthier outcomes for people living with HIV. They have also shown that they make a person living with HIV significantly less likely to transmit their virus to another person.

Data from 2013 shows that over 18,000 people are living with the virus in the state. Of those, over 15,000 have been diagnosed. Of those who know they are living with the virus, just over 7,500 are in continuous HIV medical care, while just over 6,000 of those have suppressed their virus.

Additional data shows achieving viral suppression can be a function of geography in the state. For instance, in Flint and Benton Harbor areas, only about 20 percent of people living with HIV have achieved viral suppression, while in Lansing and Grand Rapids areas those numbers fall closer to 40 percent. In Metro Detroit, which accounts for the largest number of infections in the state, about 35 percent of people living with HIV have achieved undetectable viral loads.

## Obstacles To Treatment

Gulick, the HIV specialist who has been treating the epidemic since it was identified in 1981, said accessing and maintaining medical care for people living with HIV is often fraught with obstacles. Among those obstacles, he said, are mental health issues, transportation, internalized stigma and substance abuse issues.

He told the story of a patient struggling with depression. That patient has difficulty taking the anti-HIV drugs every day, something that is required to not only keep the virus at bay, but to prevent it from becoming immune to the drugs, because he often is hopeless.

"He has to have that underlying mental health issue addressed before he can deal with the HIV," Gulick said of the patient.

The state has currently funded several

grants for agencies across Michigan to work on assisting people living with HIV to get into care and remain there. Such programs will become "one stop shops" for medical care, including dental and mental health services.

Another obstacle for people living with HIV is access to affordable medical care and treatments. Anti-HIV medications can cost thousands of dollars a month, and while many are covered by health insurance policies, some insurance companies have put the drugs in specialty categories, forcing people living with HIV to pay 20 percent co-pays for the medication.

## Federal Dollars

Jennifer Smith, the Michigan Department of Community Health spokesperson, says the 2014 implementation of the Affordable Care Act, combined with the expansion of Medicaid eligibility in the state and the state health insurance exchange, have "dramatically changed the landscape" of how federal HIV care dollars and programs are operating.

One such program is the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, or ADAP. That program will help those with gross income at or below 450 percent of the Federal Poverty Level pay for their anti-HIV drugs and other medications that assist in addressing HIV, such as medications to treat various infections. The state currently assists 2,600 living with HIV through this program. But Smith said the state is prepared to absorb more clients in the program.

"As individuals become aware of their HIV status and obtain treatment, MIDAP will continue to absorb all clients who meet the eligibility requirements," she wrote in an email to Between The Lines. "Michigan will be able to absorb increases, if any, in the next two years."

She does warn, however, that as cases increase in the state, funding may have to increase for the program, which is funded through the Ryan White CARE Act and pharmaceutical company rebates.

"As prevalence increases, continued 'ADAP earmark' funding will be central to supporting people with HIV at each stage of the treatment cascade (from diagnosis to viral load suppression) to ensure reduction in mortality/morbidity and improvement in disease prognosis," she wrote.





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# Jenkins Leaves Affirmations, Opens Dessert Shop, Stays Engaged

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

**DETROIT** – He’s been a leader in metro Detroit and, indeed, Michigan’s LGBT community for over two decades. Now Johnny Jenkins, most recently director of programs for Affirmations, is leaving non-profit work to create a for-profit enterprise. As he makes this transition, Jenkins sat down with Between The Lines to talk about the change he’s witnessed over the past 20 years and what he believes the future holds for gays in the state.

Jenkins’ first non-profit experience was with Detroit Black Pride, organizers of the annual Hotter Than July black gay pride celebration in Detroit since 1996. Jenkins was one of the founders of the organization, which later changed its name to the Black Pride Society and now has been absorbed by LGBT Detroit (formerly Kick – The Agency for LGBT African Americans). President of the board for about a dozen years, Jenkins and DBP were for a long time synonymous with one another.

“It was never just Johnny, even though at times it felt like it,” Jenkins recalled. “There was always support from members of the board who took on a lot of responsibility. I was just the head of the snake.”

Jenkins’ day job during his tenure with DBP was in the corporate world, specifically advertising. But before long he found that he was spending more and more of his time working on behalf of the LGBT community.

“One of my key things over those 13 or so years was to intersect the mission of Black Pride into social justice work, so while people are partying at the club and hanging out at the park and not thinking about those issues that affect our everyday life, I saw an opportunity to spread knowledge,” Jenkins said. “That was kind of how Homophobia in Detroit came about, when we had those town hall meetings, and that was probably how I got into social justice and advocacy work because I was supposed to be a corporate advertising guy. I wasn’t supposed to be involved in advocacy work.”

But involved he was. Jenkins’ first full-time



Johnny Jenkins (right) and his partner Frederick Douglas have started a gourmet dessert business called Crème Detroipolis. BTL photo: Jason A. Michael

“Proposal 2 in 2004 was one of our major weak points. We realized we did not work well together because we never had to. So when that proposal passed, the weight of it was felt across the entire state.”

– Johnny Jenkins

non-profit job was working for the Arcus Foundation, where he was the Michigan program officer.

“I directed the social justice LGBT rights portfolio for the entire state of Michigan,” said Jenkins. “It was about a \$2.5-3 million annual grant making budget, pretty much aimed at advancing social justice and equality in the state of Michigan around LGBT rights.”

Jenkins said a pivotal moment for Michigan’s LGBT community was 2004, when Proposal 2, an amendment to the state’s constitution that made it illegal for same-sex marriages to be performed or even recognized in the state, passed.

“The LGBT community in the state of Michigan, I think, has gotten a lot more cohesive since then,” he said. “Community

organizations here are working more collaboratively with community organizers in Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids. Before that, leaders in southeastern Michigan weren’t talking or collaborating with anybody outside of southeastern Michigan.

“Proposal 2 in 2004 was one of our major weak points,” Jenkins continued. “We realized we did not work well together because we never had to. So when that proposal passed, the weight of it was felt across the entire state and by leaders from across the state. I remember we met in a room that was pulled together by (Between The Lines) and we talked about the realities of what had just happened and what people were feeling. And from that, I think, the community statewide is much stronger, much savvier in terms of how we engage our policy makers in Lansing and how we engage our community.”

Jenkins said that savviness has helped change minds and hearts across the state.

“It has been key toward changing attitudes toward LGBT people in the state and on the issue of marriage as well,” he said. “A lot of that was coming anyway, but it needed to be nurtured. We just had a lot of work to do after we lost that proposal. It exposed all of our weaknesses and it was not a pretty sight. Going to Arcus Foundation was a great opportunity to kind of access and analyze all of those weak ends. And Jon Stryker, bless his heart, was willing to throw millions of dollars to address the challenges.”

In 2011, Jenkins joined the staff of Affirmations, at a time when the community center was in great crisis.

“Dave (Garcia, former executive director) brought me on at a time when the center was only open a few hours a day a few days a week,” Jenkins recalled. “Programs had been cut dramatically and there was little to no activity happening in the building. So he wanted me to work with him to expand programs and essentially make the center relevant again. This was all right after the

See Johnny Jenkins, page 16



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# Queering The State House

BY TODD HEYWOOD AND AJ TRAGER

LANSING – Every Michigander is given 525,600 minutes to experience the mitten state each year. Some use that time to garden or advocate for better environmental practices to keep the state clean from pollution. Some use that time to crochet or make craft beer. But only a select few choose to shoot for an elected position.

State House Reps. Jeremy Moss and Jon Hoadley assumed office in January. Together with their peers in Lansing, the two are working towards a more inclusive “Pure Michigan.”

But how do two men, in a 110 seat lawmaking body, drive the change necessary to bring equality more quickly?

For Mark LaChey, chair of the LGBT Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party and member of the Victory Fund, the drive comes from who they are and the conversations they actively engage in while amongst the bigger body of government.

“Having Jon and Jeremy is a huge boost to the LGBT community here in Michigan. I’ve watched them since they’ve taken office and I believe they both are, first and foremost, state reps for their districts and the entire constituency. But they certainly are openly gay and a touchstone for our community to look at and be proud of,” LaChey said. “Their elections were on the short list of success stories for last November’s election.”

Michigan has had other LGBT identified state representatives. James K. Dressel, a Vietnam Veteran and active Air National Guard

until his death in 1992, served as a state representative during the late 70s and early 80s. While elected, Dressel pursued amendments to the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, the state civil rights law, and received continuous push back for not disclosing his sexuality when he ran for office. After losing to a Republican candidate in 1984, Dressel was more open about his sexual orientation and became

**How do two men, in a 110 seat lawmaking body, drive the change necessary to bring equality more quickly?**

active in advocating for civil rights protections for gay and lesbian people.

In 2000 Chris Kolb, former Ann Arbor City Councilman and mayor pro tem from 1994-2000, was elected as Michigan’s first openly gay state representative. He served six years on the Michigan House, advocated for environmental legislation and attempted to add sexual orientation to the list of characteristics covered under the state’s Ethnic Intimidation Act.

Seated in the 97th Michigan House of Representatives, Moss represents the 35th District, including Southfield, and Hoadley represents the 60th District of Kalamazoo. Neither area is a bastion of LGBT populations, like Ferndale or Saugatuck.

Hoadley and Moss provide more than just LGBT representation on the House floor. Moss serves as assistant floor leader and Hoadley is deputy finance chair. These leadership positions allow them to have a strong

voice on intersectional topics.

“Separately, they are both smart as a whip,” LaChey said. “They don’t just have a seat at the table, but a seat in leadership, which is big for our community, Democrats and for progressives.”

When the House was considering the three discriminatory adoption bills, Hoadley gave an impassioned speech from the podium.

“We bring the full package when

it comes to trying to be the most effective lawmakers in Michigan, and (we) also happen to be gay,” Moss said.

The two are part of a unique group of 10 openly gay elected officials in the state, says the Victory Fund – a D.C. based LGBT organization dedicated to training and supporting out LGBT candidates for campaigns and elective offices.

Currently, there are over 500,000 elected officials serving in some capacity in the U.S. According to the Victory Fund, there are 466 openly LGBT people among those elected officials. That’s less than one thousandth of a percent. The Williams Institute, located in California, reports that about 9 million American adults identify as LGBT – about the population of New Jersey.

“It is important for LGBTQ leaders to be on the frontlines when policy decisions are made,” says Sommer Foster, policy director at Equality Michigan. “Who better to



State House Reps. Jeremy Moss and Jon Hoadley assumed office in January. BTL photo: Rita Deibler

have in the halls of the legislature and the executive mansion than someone who can tell the story of what it is like to be LGBTQ in the state of Michigan? When LGBTQ leaders are elected to public office, they are often able to build

trusting relationships and break down barriers with people who don’t see the impact legislation can have on our community.”

Both Hoadley and Moss agree

See Queering The House, page 16



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## Kalamazoo Pride Preview

Kalamazoo Pride begins June 12, a two-day pride event celebrating the LGBT community and the many steps taken towards full equality.

Kalamazoo Pride will showcase affirming and inclusive organizations, vendors and businesses as well as food and beverage vendors from all over southwest Michigan. Family-friendly activities will be hosted throughout the day in the youth tent area.

The Eighth Annual Kalamazoo Pride will kick off with a local DJ beginning at 6 p.m. followed by the “Miss or Mister Kalamazoo Pride 2015,” a local drag competition that will crown the winner at midnight. The evening will close out with performances by electronic/R&B artist Tunde Olaniran, a DJ and Catfight, the all-girl band known as “the darlings” of the Chicago cover band scene.

Saturday performances will begin at 2 p.m. with a local DJ and then recording artist Brody Ray, who returns to Kalamazoo to showcase his rock and country sound. Entertainment continues with Bianca Del Rio, the “RuPaul’s Drag Race” season six winner; Luciana, the “Queen of Electro,” will headline at 11 p.m.

“Each year, Kalamazoo Pride celebrates the diversity of the queer community, and this year, we’re pleased to offer a diverse group of entertainment as well,” said Jay Maddock, Kalamazoo Pride co-chair and executive director of the Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center.

Different from other pride festivals in Michigan, Kalamazoo Pride is a fundraiser for the Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center, a 501(c)(3) that serves the LGBT+A communities of southwest Michigan. Kalamazoo Pride is the largest fundraiser for the organization. Last year Kalamazoo Pride was attended by over 12,000 people.

Tickets are \$10 for an advanced two-day pass, \$5 for entrance on June 12 and \$7 for entrance June 13.

“Kalamazoo Pride enjoys wonderful partnerships within our community,” shares Maddock. “This is a venue for both large corporations and small organizations to showcase their support of equality.”

Bell’s Brewery returns as presenting sponsor of Kalamazoo Pride 2015 and will feature Sparkleberry, a blend of sparkling ale and raspberry ale that debuted at Kalamazoo Pride 2013.

“Kalamazoo Pride is a perfect time for all members of our community to come together and celebrate each other. It is also an opportunity to unify our community as Michigan continues the battle toward full equality for all families. Not only do we await the right to marry, but also the right to provide loving homes to some of the 3,000 children needing safety and permanency in our state,” said Amy Perricone, vice president of the KGLRC Board of Directors and Kalamazoo Pride Steering Committee Member.

Visit the Kalamazoo Pride website at <http://pride.kglrc.org> for more information and to find out where to purchase tickets in advance.

### ► Queering The House

Continued from p. 14

that’s an accurate assessment of what happens when they are in the room.

Earlier this year, Republican lawmaker Al Pscholka used the phrase “fruits and nuts” during a floor debate on regulations related to chair lifts for the disabled. The comments resulted in instant backlash, as they were seen as anti-LGBT. Pscholka apologized to Moss through the media. Another lawmaker, Moss says, approached him and apologized for having laughed at the joke – realizing only after he had laughed how unacceptable that was.

Another incident occurred when the Michigan House approved legislation which would codify religious based discrimination from adoption agencies.

“We have a few folks who need to come out of the closet,” Moss said.

“As allies,” chimed in Hoadley.

“I had people coming up to me after the vote and apologizing,” says Moss.

**Hoadley and Moss provide more than just LGBT representation on the House floor. Moss serves as assistant floor leader and Hoadley is deputy finance chair.**



State House Reps. Jon Hoadley and Jeremy Moss at work during spring session. The two are part of a unique group of 10 openly gay elected officials in the state, says the Victory Fund. BTL photo: Rita Deibler

“Apologizing for voting for the adoption bills. You could see the pain in their eyes, but they couldn’t vote against the leadership.”

Early in their elective lives, the two men talked earnestly about creating an LGBT Equality Caucus in the legislature. Such caucuses are key issue moving bodies, focusing on issues like the environment. Others serve more as place keepers and

political statements.

They didn’t want an LGBT caucus to be a place keeper. They want it to be a real body, driving change.

They have a year and a half until they run as incumbents for office in 2016. Michigan can expect both representatives to critique more legislation and continue to fight for LGBT equality in the state.

“Stay tuned,” Hoadley said.

### ► Johnny Jenkins

Continued from p. 12

recession. I think the board was smart in terms of bringing someone on board with Dave’s leadership who would provide some spunk and some energy and reengage the community. Despite some of my prior history with Affirmations, I figured it was an opportunity to work within the organization to create some pretty meaningful change. So Dave provided me that opportunity to step up and be a part of that change, and I think we did it pretty well.”

Some of the change that Jenkins hoped to see transpired as a result of the Strategic Planning Committee.

“They included the Multicultural Advisory Report, which was a document of recommendations and action items that were made that the center was advised to move on to make it more culturally sensitive to its constituents who were disenfranchised and marginalized people and, more specifically, people of color,” said Jenkins. “That was made into a pillar of the strategic plan. I think that’s really important with an organization that’s had issues with diversity and inclusion on a multitude of levels for so long. That was

significant change.”

Jenkins said the most challenging aspect of his work was “prioritizing the need and balancing that with the resources that were available. There are a lot of needs in our community, and unfortunately we do not have unlimited resources to deal with them all.”

Now, three and a half years later, Jenkins is leaving Affirmations and the non-profit work that has consumed him for so long.

“It’s an opportunity for me to create economic wealth within the community by owning my own small business,” Jenkins explained. “My partner, Frederick Douglas, and I created a dessert business called Crème Detroitopolis. We specialize in gourmet sweet potato crème based deserts that are gluten free.”

In addition to sweet potato pies, Crème Detroitopolis offers cookies, cakes, truffles and even features a vegan sugarless sweet potato pie that sells almost as well as their regular pie. Already, Crème Detroitopolis has won a Best of Detroit award from Metro Times.

Jenkins said the whole thing came about by chance.

“I started playing around with my mother’s sweet potato pie recipe and started making it for the holidays,” he said. “People started really getting into it.

It got to the point where my mother told me she wasn’t going to bake it anymore and I needed to do something with it. So I put my marketing hat on, and the last two years has been an interesting ride. It’s been a great ride.”

But it’s not a ride into the sunset, and Jenkins insisted that his work with the LGBT community is not done.

“I’ve always made myself available to the community when I’m needed, and I will continue to do so,” Jenkins said. “There’s still a lot of work to be done. Once marriage equality is realized, there’s still other issues that will need to be addressed to improve the quality of life in our community, and they’re going to take just as much energy and resources to advance them.

“Our work isn’t done after marriage equality, and unfortunately a lot of people are going to think that it’s done,” Jenkins continued. “There are constant attacks against the civil rights act and there will be constant attacks against our community. And if we’re not vigilant in protecting the rights we achieve in the next few years, they’ll be taken away from us. So I’ll be working in those places.”

For more information on Jenkins’ new venture, visit [www.detroitopolis.com](http://www.detroitopolis.com).



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Alexandre Cabanel, French, 1823-1899, and Adolphe Jourdan, French, 1826-1899, *The Birth of Venus* (detail), ca. 1864. Oil on canvas, 33.5 x 53.6 inches. The Dahesh Museum Collection. Organized by the Dahesh Museum of Art and the Flint Institute of Arts.

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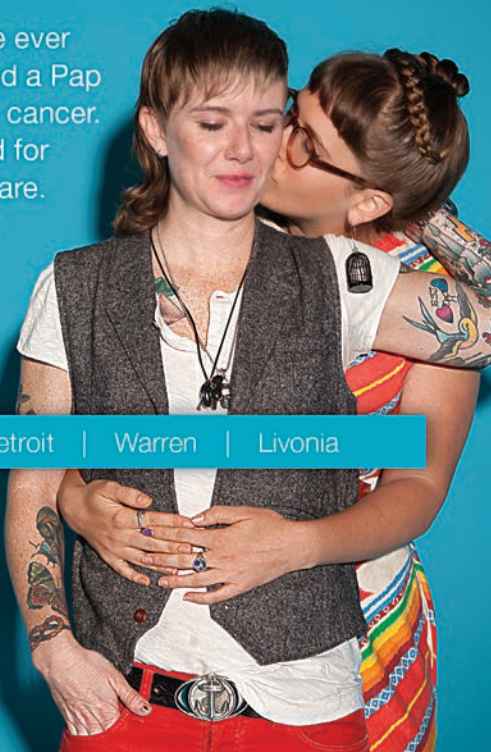
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## Looking Bassakwards (Pt. 4 of 4)



### Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

As a teenager I learned the lay of the land from word-of-mouth sharing from those who had navigated Detroit's watering holes years before me. I did however once venture – daringly – on my own into the Greyhound Bus Depot to check out noonday comings and goings. I was cautious. I had been forewarned.

“Miss Tillie goes there all the time. Mind your business, child. If you have to pee, just pee. Don't look anybody straight in the eye!” said street-wise, factory worker Miss Bruce.

Stories of hundreds of arrests for merely glancing at a vice officer – Miss Tillie – circulated. “It's your word against theirs, Mary. Case closed.” Accosting & Soliciting. 30 Dollars or 30 Days!

Just behind the Greyhound Bus Depot was another hangout for gay teenagers: Mama's. One diner star rating over the Hub Grill's none. Mama's was owned by the mother of 30-something, Butch Jimmy (“BJ”), who had as lovers his share of impressionable, gay teenagers.

A moody chef named Frank made sarcastic remarks about anyone he deemed “too queeny.” He also liked to loudly confide, while troubling greasy hamburgers and well-bruised hot dogs, that he had his casket all picked out and knew where he was to be buried. (R.I.P., Frank.)

Mama – short, stocky, ruddy, roly-poly faced – was of ethnic heritage, possibly Hungarian, Romanian. She wore her hair in a tight bun. Dressed in basic black. No pearls. She got her sense of humor by osmosis from gay kids, greeting regulars with a hearty wave of the hand, “Kud-de-vahs! Kud-de-vahs!” “Whores! Whores!”

As a teenager, I had no gay-positive role models. I learned how to survive from older, more experienced gays and lesbians. I came to realize that knowing a professional, boss, teacher, professor who was gay could be used to my advantage by letting him – or her – know that I too was “a friend of Dorothy.” It was an on-the-QT bonding. (It certainly helped grades and opportunities at Wayne University.)

A real plus was to know a gay doctor you could consult if a health concern or infection was a problem. (As an OR Tech at Harper Hospital, I was acquainted with two gay urologists.)

Contact in parks, outdoors, on busy streets or cruising areas was done cautiously, obliquely. “Do you come here often?” was one way of touching base, awaiting a suggestive response. (And, it was possible on many occasions to ask someone if he was gay and get as an answer, “Yes! I'm happy. Are you?”)

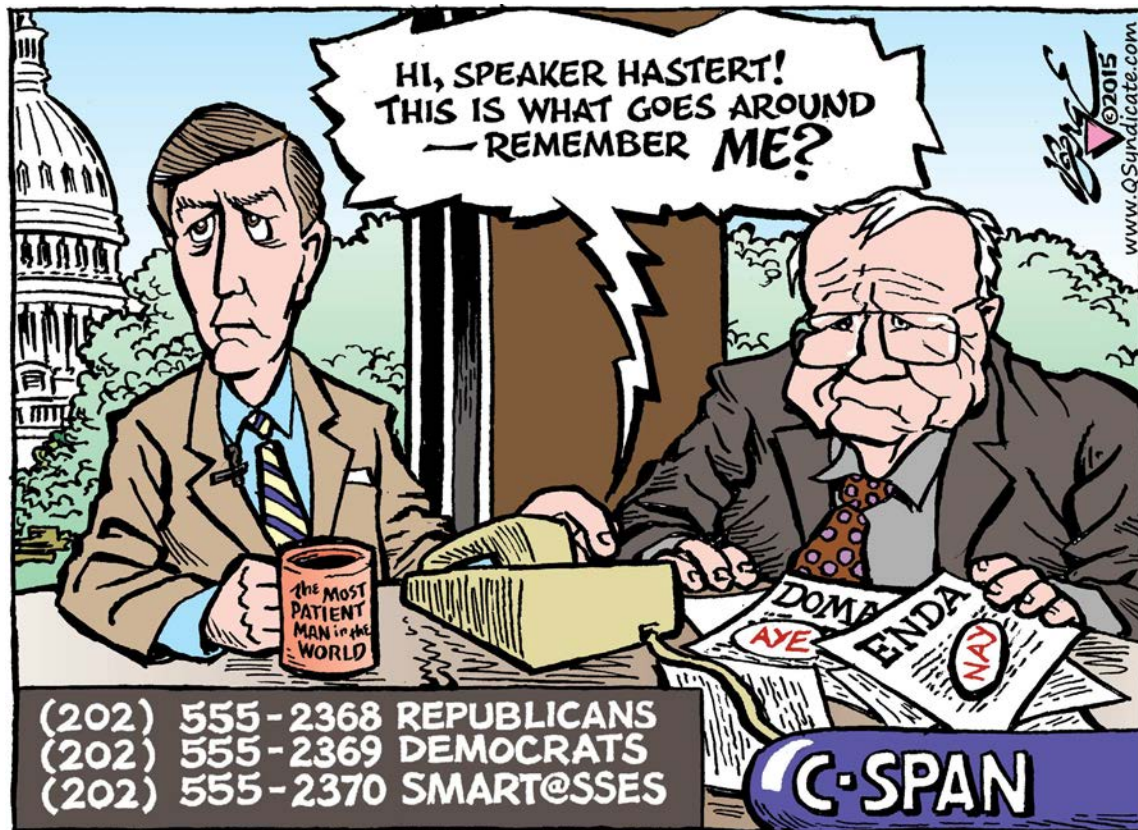
It was done by looks. Winks. Hints. “Dropping hair pins.” Very rarely directly. Gaydar circa 1950s nonetheless. Unlike today, the average straight person knew very little about gays or lesbians. We belonged to what essentially was a secret organization – the Gay Masons! – with passwords, special looks and hand signals.

Categories: Dingle Queen. Rice Queen. Leather Queen. Browning Queen. Rough Trade. Jail bait.

The better gay bars had back entrances. Keep it secret! Survive! Don't get caught! But do enjoy yourself! Just be on the lookout for straight tourists – maybe noisy neighbors – who come to gape and giggle at queers. If need be, switch pronouns when straights might overhear your ‘secret’ conversations. She for he. He for she.

Yes. It's been a long journey for me. It wasn't always easy. But then again, it wasn't that hard either. I've survived. And I like to think I've made something useful of myself as an artist, writer, human being who just happens to be gay. Quite gay. Contentedly so. Reasonably happy – most of the time. That's tax-paying life.

Fortunately for today's LGBT youth, it's a better – in many, many respects – world than it was 60 years ago. Yes! Been there. Done with that. Advice for today's newcomers: Take nothing for granted. Speak up! Speak out! Fight back!



## The Nation Reacts To Caitlyn Jenner

“Caitlyn, @Caitlyn\_Jenner thanku for being a part of all of our lives & using your platform to change people's minds.”

– Lady Gaga, via Twitter



“My hope for the world is that we can all be as brave as @Caitlyn\_Jenner.”

– Ellen DeGeneres, via Twitter

“To tell Caitlyn's story with care is to demand justice for trans people. We must not tell Caitlyn's story in a vacuum that erases the history of trans organizing, mobilizing and celebrity of the many trans women who came before her and made her Vanity Fair cover possible. Janet. Laverne. Major. Sylvia. Marsha.”

– Chase Strangio, staff attorney for the ACLU

“Yes, Caitlyn looks amazing and is beautiful but what I think is most beautiful about her is her heart and soul, the ways she has allowed the world into her vulnerabilities. The love and devotion she has for her family and that they have for her. Her courage to move past denial into her truth so publicly. These things are beyond beautiful to me. A year ago when my Time magazine cover came out I saw posts from many trans folks saying that I am ‘drop dead gorgeous’ and that that doesn't represent most trans people.”

– Laverne Cox, actress and activist

“Sometimes, for a movement to happen, one man or woman has to have the courage to step forward, even when the response may not be positive. That's how heroes are made. We all feel a bit less alone when we realize there are other people who are experiencing similar journeys to ours.”

– Darrius Hilmon, Executive Director of Affirmations

“Why are people so basic and still saying Bruce & he? The cover line LITERALLY says, ‘Call me Caitlyn.’ #usehername #CallMeCaitlyn.”

– Janet Mock, via Twitter



# Presidential Proclamation – LGBT Pride Month, 2015

BY BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

From the moment our Nation first came together to declare the fundamental truth that all men are created equal, courageous and dedicated patriots have fought to refine our founding promise and broaden democracy's reach. Over the course of more than two centuries of striving and sacrifice, our country has expanded civil rights and enshrined equal protections into our Constitution. Through struggle and setback, we see a common trajectory toward a more free and just society. But we are also reminded that we are not truly equal until every person is afforded the same rights and opportunities – that when one of us experiences discrimination, it affects all of us – and that our journey is not complete until our lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) brothers and sisters are treated like anyone else under the law.

Across our Nation, tremendous progress has been won by determined individuals who stood up, spoke out, and shared their stories. Earlier this year, because of my landmark Executive Order on LGBT workplace discrimination, protections for Federal contractors went into effect, guarding against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The Federal Government is now leading by example, ensuring that our employees and contractors are judged by the quality of their work, not by who they love. And I will keep calling on the Congress to pass legislation so that all Americans are covered by these protections, no matter where they work.

In communities throughout the country, barriers that limit the potential of LGBT Americans have been torn down, but too many individuals continue to encounter discrimination and unfair treatment. My Administration supports efforts to ban the use of conversion therapy for minors because the overwhelming scientific evidence demonstrates that it can cause substantial harm. We understand the unique challenges faced by sexual and gender minorities – especially transgender and gender non-conforming individuals – and are taking steps to address them. And we recognize that families come in many shapes and sizes. Whether biological, foster, or adoptive, family acceptance is an important protective factor against suicide and harm for LGBTQ youth, and mental health experts have created resources to support family communication and involvement.

For countless young people, it is not enough to simply say it gets better; we must take action too. We continue to address bullying and harassment in our classrooms, ensuring every student has a nurturing environment in which to learn and grow. Across the Federal Government, we are working every day to unlock the opportunities all LGBT individuals deserve and the resources and care they need. Too many LGBTQ youth face homelessness and too many older individuals struggle to find welcoming and affordable housing; that is why my Administration is striving to ensure they have equal access to safe and supportive housing throughout life. We are updating our National HIV/AIDS Strategy to better address the disproportionate burden HIV has on communities of gay and bisexual men and transgender women. We continue to extend family and spousal benefits to legally married same-sex couples. And because we know LGBT rights are human rights, we are championing protections and support for LGBT persons around the world.

All people deserve to live with dignity and respect, free from fear and violence, and protected against discrimination, regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation. During Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month, we celebrate the proud legacy LGBT individuals have woven into the fabric of our Nation, we honor those who have fought to perfect our Union, and we continue our work to build a society where every child grows up knowing that their country supports them, is proud of them, and has a place for them exactly as they are.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2015 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month. I call upon the people of the United States to eliminate prejudice everywhere it exists, and to celebrate the great diversity of the American people.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand fifteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-ninth.

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# Creep of the Week

## Roy Moore

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI



Roy Moore

Alabama's Chief Justice Roy Moore has something to tell you, ladies and gentlemen, and it's going to be hard to hear.

Now, if you're in the habit of listening to just about anything Moore says, especially on the subject of them homos, then you already know that giving an earful of hatred-fueled nonsense is one of Moore's specialties. It's a gift and he has it.

Of particular concern to Moore currently is the fact that the United States Supreme Court could very well make marriage equality the law of the land this month. Moore has already called for Ruth Bader Ginsburg's head because he thinks she's too friendly with the queers. And he's called for out and out rebellion if the Supreme Court doesn't tell gays and lesbians to crawl in a hole and die.

**Moore's called for out and out rebellion if the Supreme Court doesn't tell gays and lesbians to crawl in a hole and die.**

Now in an interview with CNS News, Moore is foretelling the destruction of America, because gays.

"What (SCOTUS is) doing is they're toying with something that's like dynamite and will destroy our country," Moore said.

In other words, "I now pronounce you husband and husband." KABOOM! So long U.S.A. It was fun – though very oppressive for anyone who wasn't white, straight and male – while it lasted.

"I think there's an attempt to destroy the institution of marriage and I think it will cause, literally cause, the destruction of our country or lead to the destruction of our country over the long run," Moore continued.

I, too, think there's an attempt to destroy the institution of marriage, though I think Moore and I have opposing views about whose fault it is. Making marriage into a weapon in order to hurt a specific group of people is a pretty sick thing to do and certainly shows no respect for the institution that Moore and his ilk claim they'd fight to the death for.

And yet same-sex couples who have been waiting years for the kind of legal recognition that Moore can take for granted are the enemies here?

I also take issue with Moore's use of "literally," as in "literally cause the destruction of our country." Is it really so literal, Moore? Look, the misuse of "literally" makes me figuratively insane. And I find it hard to believe, no matter how icky Moore thinks gays and lesbians are, that he thinks marriage equality will for sure 100 percent definitely cause the entire country to be annihilated.

Then again, he also said, "I'm not saying that everyone who's homosexual wants to see the country destroyed. I'm not saying that. I'm saying there's a push for it."

Got that? Not all the gays want to destroy the country, but some of them just can't wait! They're rubbing their gay hands together in Glee fantasizing about... About what, exactly? What is this post-apocalyptic hellscape Moore thinks homos are totally gay for? And who does he think is pushing for this scenario?

The vast majority of couples, whether gay or straight, want to get married because they love each other and want to make a go of this "spending our lives together" thing. Trying to start a family, whether it's just the two of them or whether there are kids involved, would be awfully inconvenient in a destabilized and crumbling United States. Literally.

## Proposal For 'Straight Pride' Club Spurs Calls For Training

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP) – Educators and parents in southern Indiana are calling for more training and awareness of the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students after a high school's failed attempt to establish a "Straight Pride" club.

A group of students at Bloomington High School North had proposed starting the faith-based club in the 2015-16 school year. Principal Jeff Henderson said federal law required the school to allow the club, which students had said would offer "specific supports for heterosexual students."

The idea died when the teacher who had agreed to sponsor the club withdrew following a community outcry. The Herald-Times reported. But the proposal has raised concerns about the atmosphere at the school and the need for increased awareness of the LGBT community.

Greg Chaffin, a guidance counselor at North and the faculty sponsor of the school's Gay Straight Alliance, said he was happy that plans for the club had fallen through but noted that there are still students motivated to start a group, which he called a smokescreen for bullying.

"Whether or not they find sponsorship, I think we need to have discussions around why these students felt compelled to have this group and what that means for our schools, our community and our Gay Straight Alliance," Chaffin said.

He noted that tension has been bubbling up at the school since the Gay Straight Alliance demonstrated at North on the National Day of Silence in April. Alliance members hung a "hands against homophobia" poster in the library and wore tape over their mouths to represent the silencing of LGBT students through bullying and harassment.

He said some students were called derogatory names and had the tape torn from their mouths. At least one teacher wouldn't allow students to wear the tape in the classroom, he said.

Amy Makice, who has a child attending Bloomington High School South, said she was saddened by the proposal to create the club and thinks more discussion and training for faculty are needed.

"I think it was a missed opportunity to sit down and talk with these kids about, 'What is it you really want from this group? How can we meet those needs without making a group that instills fear in other people?'" Makice said.

She said she has spoken with school administrators and is in touch with parents who plan to push for systemic change relating to LGBT students in the Monroe County Community School Corp.

"Teachers are great and love the students and care about them, but they don't know what issues come up with LGBT kids and how to best support them, help them and welcome them," she said. "A training on helping and supporting LGBT students, I think it's time that we had that at MCCSC. We should be leading the way in that."

## Study Finds Same-Sex Marriage Impacts LGBT Couples More Directly Than Their Heterosexual Siblings

LOS ANGELES – Advances in same-sex marriage impact family members to different degrees depending on how relevant those advances are to their own lives, according to a new report by researchers at Palo Alto University and the Williams Institute at UCLA School

of Law.

The study, titled "Windsor and Perry: Reactions of siblings in same-sex and heterosexual couples," is the first study to ask same-sex couples and their heterosexual siblings about their reactions to the U.S. Supreme Court decisions in *United States v. Windsor* and *Hollingsworth v. Perry*. The U.S. Supreme Court's decisions in these two cases extended marriage rights at the federal level to same-sex couples.

"Everyone in the same-sex couple subsample knew about the Supreme Court decisions," said principal investigator Kimberly Balsam, professor of psychology at Palo Alto University. "On the other hand, several individuals in the heterosexual sibling couple subsample responded that they had not heard about the decisions, stated that did not know enough about the decisions in order to have an opinion or expressed disapproval of the decisions."

Responses from same-sex couples reflected a direct emotional, practical and immediate impact of the decisions. Responses from heterosexual sibling couples reflected an impact by association, which included direct emotional impact for some, but not practical or immediate impacts on their lives.

Reactions of the 273 individuals currently or previously in same-sex couples revealed the following themes: an end to marriage restrictions – "It's about time!"; emotional responses celebrating the decisions or expressing relief; affirmation of their relationship or rights; practical consequences of the extension of rights; and cautious optimism related to anticipation of future prejudice or discrimination.

Reactions of the 98 heterosexual siblings currently or previously married were: support as allies for the rights of same-sex couples – "It's awesome!"; flat support without much emotion or elaboration; indifference to or ignorance about the decisions; and disapproval of the decisions.

"This is the first study to explore people's reactions to a turning point in the federal government's recognition of same-sex relationships, and to focus on same-sex couples and their heterosexual siblings," said Esther Rothblum, visiting distinguished scholar at the Williams Institute.

The participants in the current study were surveyed between August 2013 and January 2014, or two to seven months following the U.S. Supreme Court decision.

*Read the full report at [www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00918369.2015.1039360#.VV9uBIVVhBc](http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00918369.2015.1039360#.VV9uBIVVhBc).*

## Gay Marriage Challenge Cost Indiana \$1.4M In Attorney Fees

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - The Indiana attorney general's office says the state had to pay more than \$1.4 million in fees to plaintiffs' attorneys in its unsuccessful attempt to maintain its ban on same-sex marriages.

Same-sex marriage became legal in Indiana in October when the U.S. Supreme Court decided to let stand two federal court rulings that said the state's ban and refusal to recognize such marriages performed elsewhere was unconstitutional. That resolved the five lawsuits in favor of the plaintiffs, leaving the state to foot the legal bills.

The Indianapolis Star reports the most costly case at \$650,000 involved Amy Sandler and Niki Quasney, a Munster couple who fought to have their marriage recognized as Quasney was dying of cancer. That became the lead case in Indiana on same-sex marriage.





Russian anti-gay demonstrators attack a quad bike driven by gay rights activists as police detain gay rights activists during an attempt to hold a gay demonstration in central Moscow, Russia, Saturday, May 30. Such meetings, not permitted by the Moscow city authorities, are marked by police interference and resulted in the detention of several activists. AP Photo/Pavel Golovkin

## Gay-rights Activists Attempting Demonstration In Moscow Clash With Opponents, Police Detain 15

**MOSCOW (AP)** – Police in the Russian capital have detained 15 people after a clash broke out between gay-rights advocates and opponents.

A small group of activists tried to hold an unauthorized demonstration in support of gay rights outside the mayor's office on Saturday. But opponents fought with them and police detained people from both sides.

There was no immediate word on whether any of those detained would be charged, the Interfax news agency reported.

Animosity toward homosexuals is high in Russia. Authorities routinely deny permission to hold gay-rights demonstrations on the grounds of maintaining public order and avoiding violence.

## Northern Ireland Bakery Owners To Appeal 'Gay Cake' Verdict

**LONDON (AP)** – The owners of a Northern Ireland bakery that refused to bake a cake supporting gay marriage said last Thursday they would appeal their conviction for discrimination.

The Christian owners of Ashers Baking Company were convicted last week after refusing an order from gay rights activist Gareth Lee. He asked for a cake featuring Sesame Street characters Bert and Ernie and the words "Support Gay Marriage."

Belfast judge Isobel Brownlie ruled that the bakery had discriminated against Lee on grounds of sexual orientation and political beliefs and ordered it to pay 500 pounds (\$765) in damages, plus thousands in legal costs.

The judge said the bakery was a business, not a religious organization, and therefore had no legal basis to reject an order based on a customer's sexual orientation or beliefs.

Members of the McArthur family, the bakery's owners, said that "after much careful and prayerful consideration given to legal advice," they had decided to appeal.

"We continue to insist that we have done nothing wrong as we have discriminated against no individual, but rather acted according to what the Bible teaches regarding marriage," they said.

Same-sex marriages were legalized last year in the rest of the United Kingdom, but remain unrecognized in Northern Ireland.

## Kazakhstan 'Gay Propaganda' Measure Deemed Unconstitutional

**MOSCOW (AP)** – A proposed law in Kazakhstan that would criminalize dissemination to minors of information supporting homosexual relationships has been struck down as unconstitutional.

The measure had been passed by both houses of parliament, but it was rejected by the country's Constitutional Council, Kazakh news agencies said Wednesday.

It would have banned pornography and information seen as promoting violence and

"non-traditional relationships."

A similar law in Russia has sparked wide criticism, especially before last year's Olympics in the Russian city of Sochi.

Kazakhstan's largest city, Almaty, is bidding for the 2022 Winter Games. This month, a group of prominent sports figures, led by Martina Navratilova, wrote to International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach calling for Kazakhstan to be denied the Olympics because of the measure.



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BTL Photo: Andrew Potter

“ I feel like a lot of people don't get a lot of acceptance in the community, or any community, and I think it is important for people to know that it's okay to be who you are – how you are. ”

- Sarah Gretkierewicz



Zuri Tamm, Chase, Xeavior, Mitch, Melissa, Bridget and Ash posing for a photo for BTL before dancing down Nine Mile with more of their friends. BTL Photo: AJ Trager



## ► Ferndale Pride

Continued from p. 6

experience, and they expect to arrive in Hart Plaza for Motor City Pride June 6-7.

“Ferndale isn't as big as Detroit and is really known for its gay-friendly atmosphere. So it is a better mixture of people,” Harrison said. “Coming out to Pride is important, to co-mingle and interact with other gay people. It is really affirming.”

With the U.S. Supreme Court decision right around the corner, many couples at Pride were concerned about marriage and where, if at all, they would host their ceremony.

“Next year I would like to get married,” said Bond. “It's my happiness. I want to have the same rights that all my other straight friends have. I want to be able to show my love for someone in the way that is allowed for straight people but not allowed for me.”

Tracy Hudson and her soon to be wife, Cheri Belton, were inside Rosie O'Grady's with their friend Heidi Hiegel after most vendors packed up to get out of the rain. Hudson and Belton would like to get married in Michigan. They got engaged a year ago in August and are hoping for an affirming SCOTUS decision that would allow them to get married in the state. Otherwise, they will go to a nearby LGBT-friendly state like Illinois for the ceremony.

“This is where we live. We feel like we should be able to have the same rights as any other couple that loves one another and then be able to do that and pledge that love before God and all of our friends, whether they are gay or heterosexual,” Hudson said.

“This is such a welcoming community. I think that for all of the states, I would like to see people be more open and for the state of Michigan to see how accepting this community (the LGBT community) actually is,” Hudson said.

Main stage bands moved into the Twisted Tavern with adult Pride attendees spending the remaining daylight hours celebrating in packed local bars.

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# Betty You-Know-Who



Photo: Molly Cranna

## The Story Of An Ally ... From Her Michigan Art School's GSA To Motor City Pride

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

**B**etty Who doesn't just shake hands — she hugs. As she vows to look for little ol' me in the crowd during Motor City Pride ("I'm 17 times bigger than any regular person") and give me a tight squeeze, it's almost no surprise. It's the kind of gesture you'd expect from someone as undeniably

wholesome as the Aussie pop star. Born Jessica Anne Newham, her big breakout was, after all, a very loving nod to, well, love.

At a Salt Lake City Home Depot two years ago, Betty's infectious pop ditty "Somebody Loves You" famously set the scene for a surprise proposal between two boyfriends amidst a flash mob, joyous tears and all the cuteness of the cutest thing you've ever set your eyes on.

Since going viral, Betty Who's released a full album, her sweet-as-candy debut "Take Me When You Go," and opened for Katy Perry and Kylie Minogue. Before her next stop — Motor City Pride, where she'll take the Main Stage at 6 p.m. June 7 — Betty Who hopped on the phone to chat about watching Pride festivals on TV as a baby, learning "the foundation of musical knowledge" at Michigan's Interlochen and how,

in just a couple of years, her fanbase has evolved from gay fans to... more gay fans.

**You were in Michigan not long ago while on tour, and now you're coming back to Detroit, but for the gays this time.**

Yeah — for the gays! (Laughs) Always for the gays!



## INFO

### Betty Who

6 p.m. June 7  
Hart Plaza, Detroit (Main Stage)  
motorcitypride.org

#### What was your experience when you were here in May?

We were pretty in and out. The last few weeks of the tour were insane, but I have family in Northern Michigan, in the Traverse City area. We played a couple of shows there over the years. It's always really nice to be home. It was so fast (this past time), but it was still nice to be on Michigan soil.

#### You also went to Interlochen Center for the Arts. How would you describe your time there?

Interlochen was great. It's definitely kind of a school for a bunch of teenage crazies, which is exactly what it was and exactly who my friends were. Everybody is so passionate and so dedicated to their art at such a young age, which is really hard to find. And to me, it was valuable. It basically taught me everything I know and made me who I am. I was a very different person before I went to Interlochen, so I'm really grateful for it.

#### When you say it made you who you are, do you mean musically-speaking?

Not really musically because I studied cello. I mean, it gave me a foundation of musical knowledge in a lot of different ways. Personality-wise, though, because it was the first time I'd been to co-ed school. It was the first time I'd had gay friends who were my age; my mom had many gay friends that were her age, and I grew up with a super tolerant "people are people" bottomline rule.

#### Have you ever been to a Pride in the Michigan area?

I don't think I have! I think Detroit will be my first one. I did Chicago Pride last year, so kind of close to home, and I did Columbus Pride. I've done a couple Midwestern Prides but not Michigan. So, finally coming home!

#### Tell me about the first time you attended a Pride event.

I grew up in Sydney, Australia, and Sydney has one of the biggest gay Pride festivals in the world, which is Mardi Gras. I had never been to the parade because I was a little young and it's quite steamy at the parade, so I never actually attended it. But I watched the parade on TV every year, so I virtually had been attending Pride since I was a baby because my mom would volunteer every year. She would work them, and I'd be like, "Mom is working! I wanna watch it!" And I'd hope I could spot her, which is really why I wanted to watch it. "Maybe I'll see Mom on the telly!" I was too young to know anything else!

That also means I'd been watching Pride festivals since I was a kid. I think the first Pride

festival was probably at Interlochen because we had lots of LGBT events that were part of the Gay-Straight Alliance, the GSA, and I was one of the community leaders and, when I was a senior, I was vice president, so I organized a bunch of Pride events and was really involved in the community at Interlochen. When I got to college it was kind of inevitable that I ended up playing at a bunch of them as well.

#### Kylie Minogue is a fellow Aussie. Do you share the same enthusiasm for her as the gay community does?

Oh my god. You have no idea! You know I opened for her, right? I just opened for her on tour. That literally just happened like a month ago in Australia.

#### What was opening for Kylie like?

The story I told her when – oh my god, she's literally a dream, I can't even tell you. Growing up in Australia, I've always loved Kylie, but I didn't realize how many songs of hers I actually know until I watched the show.

She is such a queen. I told her this story when she came into my dressing room, because we played at the Sydney Entertainment Centre. When I was 13 years old she was on her Showgirl: The Homecoming Tour, which I believe was the first tour she played since fighting breast cancer, so it was a very emotional tour for her. I think she had a whole week at the Sydney Entertainment Centre, and I went to see one of the shows. I was 13 years old and Bono came out and I remember being really emotional even though I don't fucking care about Bono. But he came out and I burst into tears and everyone was freaking out. I was literally moved by the spirit of Bono even though I don't, like, give a fuck. It's hysterical in retrospect. I told Kylie this whole story, and I was like, "It's been pretty much 10 years since you played that show, and I was at the show and now I'm here opening for you." She was like, "How full circle is that?!" And I'm like, "KYLIE!!!"

#### Let's talk about the viral effect of "Somebody Loves You." How much of an impact did that song have on your gay following?

It's funny; I already only had basically a gay following like from the beginning, even before the video happened. Not sure what it is. I don't know if it's the music; I don't know if it's me. But when I played my first show in New York City, I played it in a room that holds like 80 people, and when I played that show I think 78 people in that room were gay men. Maybe two of them were straight women. Like, that was it. My whole demographic was gay men. So, when the video happened, it amplified and exploded. As opposed to 100 gay men coming to my shows, it was 600 gay men coming to shows. And so after that, kind of slowly my LGBT fan base has grown, so not just gay men but gay women have been coming to the shows way more – which is awesome – and now straight women are coming a little more as

See Betty Who, page 26

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## ► Betty Who

Continued from p. 25

well. I think my demographic previously was like 90 percent gay men, 10 percent straight women. Now, just from watching all the shows, here's my guess: 60 percent gay men, 30 percent gay women, 8 percent straight women and 2 percent straight men. (Laughs) I've met one or two straight men who have come to the show and they're like, "I listen to your music all the time," and I'm like, "Oh my god, you're a straight man who's at my show right now – this is crazy! I don't know what to do!" They freak me out. I'm like, "Why are you here?!" (Laughs)

### Can you go into a Home Depot now without getting recognized?

(Laughs) I wish I was getting recognized at Home Depot! How cool would that be – I could get all the help I wanted. I can never find what I need at Home Depot! But no – I don't actually spend a lot of time at Home Depot, shockingly enough. So no, I haven't gone to Home Depot a lot, but I've definitely become the resident wingman for many of my gay friends who wanna go out in New York, and they're like, "Me and my boyfriend just broke up. I need a wingman. Come with me to the gay club." It's like a moth to a flame.

### So you're a matchmaker too?!

I've always been a matchmaker, since I've been in high school. I make friends with everybody just pretty generally. I just love people. I love knowing people. I love having relationships with every single person that I possibly can. Even in high school a friend that I had from another group of friends would meet this other friend I had from my group of friends. I'd be like, "Oh, you should hang out!" and it'd be this beautiful high school romance. Now, I'm still playing that except on a much grander, scarier scale.

### So what you're saying is you're essentially a grown up high school student?

I was working yesterday and the guy I was meeting with is like, "I'm 35 going on 80," and I'm like, "I'm 23 going on 16!"

### How did your debut album, "Take Me When You Go," end up being so outsider-themed?

Until quite recently, I've never really had a proper boyfriend. That never really happened to me until about two years ago. So, when I was writing the record, I met a boyfriend of mine who I used to date. He was the first person who was like, "No; you are the person that I love. I wanna be with you only." And I was like, "This is a great feeling." So he and I had only been dating for five or six months when I was finishing up the record, so I was still



Photo: Kimi Selfridge

relating to all the feelings previous to the relationship. I know what it feels like to be looked over constantly. That was a massive theme on my album, which is what gives it this "not totally accepted for who you are" vibe. I mean, every now and again my mom's like, "You know, it's still OK if you're a lesbian!"

### How do you respond?

All the time, I'm like, "I will let you know. I'm still straight, but the second anything else happens, you'll be the first person I call." It's like, that's the environment I grew up in, and so I've always been accepted for who I am by so many people in my life. I've been lucky to have awesome friends, and when it came to love and relationships, which is what so much of the record is about, it was the one place that I would let myself not be accepted instead of saying, "If you're not gonna accept me for who I am, I'm outta here." I let somebody constantly not accept me and that was a lesson I had to learn. That that is *not* OK.

### How far are you into the next album?

I have started it. It's very conceptual. A lot of it is very conceptual right now. I have a

full list of things that I share with my label and my manager and I'm just trying to get everyone on the same page going into it. I've written a couple of songs that I like, but I haven't dove into it, nowhere near as much as I want to.

I'm really looking forward to it. Once I get off this next tour, I'll be doing that. So, it's kind of scary and also, mostly scary. (Laughs) But, you know, I'm optimistic and really hopeful and looking forward to creating again because it's been so long. You tour a record you made and finally, once you finish the album, I think you're so just – I'm just fucking tired! I don't wanna think about creating anything. I don't wanna make any more decisions ever again! (Laughs) Now that I've played the same songs for the last year, I'm good now. I'm good to make something again finally.

### I've never given birth, but I imagine delivering an album is like having a baby.

(Laughs) It's kind of like an empty nest right now. I had the baby, and then the 18 years that I spent feeding it and paying for it are now over, and now my baby's going to college and I'm like, "Ohh. What do I do with myself now?"





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# Carmen Electra-fying

## Superstar Model Looks Back On Career – Looks Forward To Pride!

BY ED ENGLISH

Where in the world is Carmen Electra? The model-TV personality-sex symbol-singer's recent hit "Around The World" says it all. And so does her Instagram feed.

One minute, she's bikini-clad for photo shoots in Tahiti; the next, she's glammed up in a ball gown raising awareness for MS in Beverly Hills. Then she's closing the Jean Paul Gaultier runway show before attending the Vienna Life Ball.

When we finally catch up to her, she's in Austin, Texas shooting for a new project before she jets off again to New York, all while trying to finish her album and newest single "Wish I Stayed," a club jam.

"I will be dropping the single in many different places and doing pop-up performances," she says. One of those places? Motor City Pride. The superstar will bring her trademark sparkle to the Main Stage at 7:30 p.m. June 6.

**Wow. You even sound sexy on the phone!**

Aw, thank you!

**When's the last time you were in Detroit?**

I haven't been to Detroit in a while. It's been a minute, so I'm excited to come back. I am from Cincinnati, Ohio, which is not far from Detroit, and it reminds me a lot of our city.

A lot has changed, now that there is Pride in Cincinnati and Detroit and so many other cities. I think it's really special, and I am really honored to be a part of it.

**What can we expect from your Pride performance?**

I will be introducing the new single and just having fun. I'm not sure at this point if it's a full on performance, maybe performing the new single.

**What are the most common misconceptions people have about you?**

That I'm so tiny and so short. People always think I'm 6-feet tall. I've literally been at the airport and listened to a conversation between two people. One person saying, "It's her." The other person saying, "No, that's not her. She's too short."

So it's funny. I'm 5-foot-2 and a half. That's what I am and I love it. And I get to wear extra high heels if I want to be taller!

**I also feel like people think you want**

### PRIDE

#### Carmen Electra

7:30 p.m. June 6

Hart Plaza, Detroit (Main Stage)

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**to talk about sex all the time. Does that get tiring?**

Answering questions about sex? (Laughs) Not necessarily. I mean, I am a sexual person. I don't see it as a big thing.

**And you're still one of the most well-known sex symbols.**

I have no problem with that. You know, my career has been very interesting. I've always had goals and things that I've wanted to do, and I've always been persistent and

worked really hard. But I let things flow.

I started off as a dancer and my dream was to be a backup dancer for Janet Jackson. That never happened, actually. But any and everything that I have done outside of that is an accomplishment to me, whether it's been really successful or not.

**Why Janet and not Michael?**

I just remember learning the choreography in my living room and just being obsessed with the style of dance. In Ohio, there wasn't classes like that at the time. Basically, it was strictly ballet, tap or jazz, but there wasn't a lot of that hip-hop style that's a little edgier. So I was just blown away, and I would sit in front of the TV and

learn all of her routines.

It ended up later on working with Prince. I had the chance to work with Janet's choreographer Tina Landon and Sean Cheesman on "Go Go Dancer" and "Everybody Get On Up." So that was pretty exciting because they choreographed for Janet!

**When you decided to get back into music, did you think about reaching out to Prince?**

No, we haven't talked in a long, long time. So I haven't thought about it. It'd be cool, though. I'm very grateful that he believed in me at such a young age, coming straight from Cincinnati and not knowing a lot. I learned a lot from watching him, his work ethic and how he runs things.

**Did he teach you how to dance in heels?**

(Laughs) Yes, we can relate to each other on that level. And it's not easy! It really is hard to dance in heels.

**Do you remember how the gays responded to Carmen circa '80s?**

Actually, a good response. Especially from a lot of Prince's underground followers. They always supported and would come to shows.

I especially remember when I started doing a show called "Erotic City" at Prince's club (Grand Slam West) in downtown L.A. and people were really drawn to how choreographer Jamie King would dance with another guy. It was a very sensual, very sexy show but with hardcore dancing. I think we all have back injuries from that!

See Carmen, page 30





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## ► Carmen

Continued from p. 28

But I remember people being really drawn to that, having the artistic freedom to do what you feel. Maybe it was the big hair and the triple lashes, because I've been doing that for such a long time, but yeah, (I have) a big following with the gays, which is awesome.

### How would you describe your music now compared to the past?

It's a different style than I am used to. I have a lot more freedom within the music that I am putting out. So it's a huge learning experience.

I wasn't expecting to get back into music; it happened out of the blue. But it fulfills something inside of me. I don't know if that is the dancer in me or the love of music, performing, putting on a show – the whole entire package. The costumes, the vibe and just seeing the whole entire thing together. It's a really fun creative process.

When "I Like It Loud," my first single, came out, the ball started rolling. Then next thing you know I am performing with my dancers in Palm Springs in front of 30,000 people.

### Any ballads in the works?

I was sent a few ballads. I don't know – it doesn't feel right for what I am doing right now. I am kind of really into the dance thing. And as a dancer, I just want to move.

### Who is your dream duet? Janet?

Oh, I would love that. Peaches! I love Peaches. I like a lot of different styles of music, so I'm not really stuck on one.

### Speaking of duets, are you dating anyone right now?

I'm single. I have dated here and there. But right now I am really focused on working and my music. Some people don't really understand the way it goes, you know? You have to work.

And when you are attracted to someone, there is a part of that you are attracted to. But people love to try and change who you are. I just really want a relationship where I feel loved for me, and understood in my lifestyle. I feel it coming, though. I feel it.

### We see you hustling, and you still manage to look flawless. How do you keep it all together?

You know, all the dancing from performing has helped tremendously. I drink water all day. That really leans me out a lot, like almost too much sometimes, to be honest. But I like it because then I'm like, "Oh my god! I can eat this cheesecake and all this." I love sweets, so I can go to the bakery and just, mmm.

### What's your favorite dessert?

I love red velvet cupcakes, cookies – you name it.

### And we know you like chocolate, as in your new film "Chocolate City."

Yes! What a fun set to shoot on, I

“ People love to try and change who you are. I just really want a relationship where I feel loved for me, and understood in my lifestyle. I feel it coming, though. I feel it. ”

have to tell you. I got to see that more Atlanta-style male strip club thing and it was intense.

### What's your role?

I play DJ Cleopatra. I introduce all the dancers, and it was really fun because I actually spent about five hours on the old-school turntables learning how to announce their name and be able to scratch a little into the song. It's something I've always wanted to do, so I was having the time of my life shooting that movie.

### Plus, all the hot men?

And that too. Helloooo!

### If you could get any famous guy up on the stage to strip, who would it be?

I am not answering that question! (Laughs). Because you know what that will turn into? We're dating. It will turn into engaged and then broken up. You get linked to people. People you've just

met whose hand you shook. It happens so much.

### What has been your strangest reported pairing?

There are so many. I actually saw a list and it was unbelievable. I mean, I would say the strangest pairing, though, out of people that I have actually dated and married, was probably Dennis (Rodman).

I didn't see it like that because we obviously bonded on a different level, and I see the good in people and potential in people. There is a super amazing part of Dennis that a lot of people don't get to see. He swept me off my feet and the world couldn't understand it. Coach Phil Jackson couldn't understand it. But we were truly in love and that's what it was. Madonna dated him before me, so there must have been something there.

### Do you still keep in contact with Dennis?

No, I don't. It was just one of those situations where I had to break off clean and clear, without any communication, because it just became really difficult toward the end.

I was doing an appearance in Florida and he came to that appearance unexpected and it was weird because everyone was kind of panicked like, "Do you need security? Do you want security?" And I said, "No, come on."

### Did you ask him what he was doing over in North Korea?

No! I didn't get into all that. (Laughs)

### You've done a lot of movies, including "Scary Movie" and "Disaster Movie." What's your dream role?

Something really edgy and just completely different. I love, even in comedies, when I get to change the way I look. I get to be me every day so it's fun to have a reason to go there. Something maybe where I am not glammed up. Maybe something where it's very raw, you know? Very, very raw.

It would just be really cool to get a chance to even be a badass character. Quentin Tarantino would be a dream. I would love for Quentin Tarantino to take me and make me look completely different and throw me into the craziest situation. I mean, that's a dream. I am a huge fan, huge fan. So I would go there. I would completely go there ... let him know!





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# The Lake Effect

## Darienne Lake Talks Detroit, Drag Race & Dishing Out Shade

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

Hot off Season 7 of the Logo TV's "RuPaul's Drag Race" phenomenon, Darienne Lake of Season 6 spoke with Between the Lines about her upcoming gig at Motor City Pride June 6. The New York native shared her opinion on past queens from the show, her love for the Internet and what her hometown has in common with Detroit.

**So you just got off RuPaul's DragCon, the country's first drag convention, hosted in Los Angeles – how was that?**

It was fantastic. It was the most amazing thing. It was twice as busy as they expected it would be. It was just incredible, because it's no longer just gay people coming out

INFO
<b>Detroit Drag Review</b>
with Shangela & Darienne Lake
5:30 p.m. June 6
Hart Plaza, Detroit
motorcitypride.org

to see drag queens. It's grandchildren and grandmothers. It's insane. (In addition to doing photo signings) I was on the Comedy Queens panel with Trixie (Season 7) and Pandora (Season 2)... It's funny – for a good three-and-a-half hours, I was standing in the "Free Area" and not in the Logo area for photos. So one of the people who worked on the show came

over and he said, "Girl, this line is crazy!" And I said, "Well, people said that they hated me after sending BenDeLaCreme home (Season 6's "Miss Congeniality" queen), so I told them to get in line. And they did!"

**Speaking of comedy, you're coming to Motor City Pride to cohost the drag show with Shangela (drag contestant on Seasons 2 and 3 of "RuPaul's Drag Race"). What should we expect from you two?**

That's going to be a lot of fun. She's hilarious, as well. It's going to be a great time – I love Shangela. Expect a lot of jokes, a lot of shade. (Laughs) It should be a great time. Expect everything – a

See Darienne Lake, page 34



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## ► Darienne Lake

Continued from p. 32

few surprises. I'll probably do a few death drops.

**I have to ask you about the shade. You always are very professional in interviews but were known for your shade on "RuPaul's Drag Race." Do you feel you keep the two personas separate?**

Even in my "normal" life there's a lot of shade – it's just how it's portrayed. Usually it's portrayed as harmless, as fun. The thing is, with shade, there always has to be an intelligence about you to throw it. Some people aren't good at throwing shade. I don't know – I'm not going to deny that I'm not shady in real life, but I'm shady in a way that it's fun. But then, the way it was portrayed on the show was me "being mean," but that's the power of TV.

**Do you have any thoughts on the edit of the current season?**

I think it's basically what it always is. There's a cast and characters to portray a certain storyline, and they portray a story. It's a reality competition, and it's not a documentary. I'm sure if it were a documentary, it wouldn't have all the editing noises and the special music and all that. They create an entertaining program, and we tune in every single week, and that's what makes us create heroes and villains in our minds.

**Who did you root for this season?**



It's really interesting to see how it goes, you know, based on your first impressions of people. My first impression of Violet was before the show. I met her in Denver, Colorado, and I had heard about her, about her stealing Sharon Needles' crown (winner of Season 4). So when I met her, I said, "Should I watch my stuff around you? I've heard about you." So I liked her from the beginning, and I saw some of the outfits she had. And for someone who was 16 years old when the show started, she had a lot of great outfits. So I was sort of a fan right from the beginning.

And also, with Ginger Minj, I kind of met her through Kasha

Davis (Season 7), and she was really stressed out, especially from the first announcement of the cast, especially because so many people out there are so critical right from the get-go. So she needed somebody to talk to. And she knew I had gotten a lot of hatred from a lot of people, so I talked with her a lot on the phone.

When I was younger I was bullied by real bullies with fists, not people with an Internet connection. So for me, that's like being bullied by air. So with her, I helped talk her through it. They're the same every single year. People get on Twitter and say, "What's it like to go home first?" People think they're funny. They think they're cute. But in the end, mind over matter: Don't pay them any mind, because they don't matter.

**Speaking of Ginger, what's it like seeing another "big queen" get to the top like you did?**

It's fantastic! Finally we have a big girl who made it to the Top 3, and she's really proven herself not just as an entertainer, but also proven herself when she's been in the bottom and had to lip synch. I always think that it's great to see somebody lip synch, because it gives a feel for what kind of entertainer they are. It's one thing to be pretty, but I don't want to stare at the "Mona Lisa" for an hour. I want to be entertained.

So, I'm definitely a Ginger Minj fan, all the way. Not just because she's a big girl, but because she's an entertainer. I think she'd be a great representative for the "RuPaul's Drag Race" brand because she *is* older, she has lived with everything in the past – the experience of hosting a show.

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Some of these girls, like with Pearl – gorgeous, fantastic – but her and Violet are children of the Internet. Not to say that's not a challenge, but can they handle it all, at such a young age? With Bianca (Del Rio, winner of Season 6), she's older as well, and she's handled it so incredibly well. It's hard to follow in her footsteps because she's done such a gang-up job. If you think about the queens who are older, like Raja (Season 3) as well, she has that experience – she's been through it all.

**Would you say the younger queens who have won haven't carried the crown or brand as well?**

Well, if you think about Sharon Needles, who's younger, she's had a lot of ups and downs. She's very polarizing – people either love her or hate her. Very young as well is Tyra (Season 2), and she's also either loved or she's hated. It's hard to tell with Bebe (Season 1), who was the first, but then with Jinkx (Season 5), she's done a really great job, but she's also not that young...

I've even heard about a past winner – and I'm not going to name names – but she was crying to Michelle Visage (one of the judges on the show) that she was completely broke. And I was like, "But you won! You had \$100,000, you have at least one album, you've been touring all over the place – how can you be broke?" That's the thing – you get to a point where you're desperate for money, so you end up doing desperate things for attention. It's shade, but it's also concern. Quite honestly, she is a friend, and I am concerned – I'm concerned about all of them.

**You mentioned Pearl and Violet being children of the Internet, but I've noticed you're actually pretty active online, including on reddit. Not many queens interact at that level online – why do you?**

I feel you have to keep up with everything, otherwise you'll be left behind. I've always been into technology and all that; I love the Internet. I don't sleep much, so... I know that some people have stayed away from places like reddit, like, "I don't want to hear mean things about myself." For me, I don't care. I'm a little bit of a masochist that way. I'm verified now with that subreddit (reddit.com/r/rupaulsdragrace), and I like to put in my opinion about the show as well, because I am, you know, a fan. They've come to respect me and understand me and see where I'm coming from.

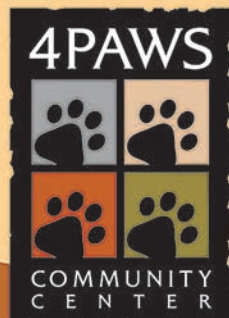
They still will criticize me and stuff. There are certain things they know aren't my strength – like my fashion. My fashion, I think, has always been shit. Let's face it – if I come out in a garter and corset, people will be like, "Girl, you're naked. Where the fuck is your dress?" I can't pull that off. I don't want to end up looking like Madonna – you know, desperate.

**Will we see you on a second season of "RuPaul's All Stars Drag Race"?**

I don't know! Through the rumor mill, I heard it didn't really do that well, so Logo doesn't really want to take a chance on something that won't do well. But I think with every year, the ratings are getting better and better. As long as they don't do teams.

**Taking it back to Motor City Pride – I know you visited Warren recently. Now that you'll be in the downtown Detroit area, what are you expecting from the city itself?**

I think it's great. I know that Detroit has this whole reputation of being run down – I also come from Rochester (New York). I'm in the rust belt. I get it. And the thing is, about our towns, is that the people that are still there are fighters. We'll take what little we have and make the best of it. That's what I love about my city, that's what I love about Detroit. We're not going to give in; we're going to rebuild it and make it better than it was. I'm in L.A. right now, and trust me, there are a lot of areas that look worse than Detroit here. (In Detroit) there's a lot of soul. And that's why I'm excited about Pride.



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**'We Exist,' Arcade Fire**

There's no ignoring us now, but still – it never hurts to remind non-queers that we have a place in the world too. On this feisty rally cry directly inspired by the LGBT movement, these Canadian allies stand up with us, rocking their way through an '80s-inspired call for equality.

**'Dance with Me,' Kelly Clarkson**

Leave your right-wing angst at the door and douse yourself in the shimmering sounds of Miss Independent's neon-bright dance delight. No crying. No fighting. No shaming. Kelly Clarkson won't have any of it... unless it involves body bumping. And glitter, because obviously.

**'All Kinds of Kinds,' Miranda Lambert**

"Thomas was a congressman with



one's for you. A declaration of fierceness, Gwen Stefani struts her stuff all over this ska-flavored synth song, urging anyone in her path to "go ahead and stare, and take a picture please." It's how you'll feel when you join that sexy sea of gays, wearing your "clothes."

**'Together You and I,' Dolly Parton**

To make much headway, we gotta do it hand in hand, right? Dolly knows, and she's preaching it on this bit of buoyant, pop-country inspiration. "Paint a pretty rainbow with love across the sky," the Country Queen sings, as if they're not already painted across every sky, and above every gay.

**'Burning Gold,' Christina Perri**

Pop singer-songwriter Christina



the real kicker: "... and dresses that he wore on Friday nights." With compelling character vignettes and a wise assessment of ignorance, Lambert's guitar-guided ditty celebrates every color of the rainbow.

**'Unbelievers,' Vampire Weekend**

Capturing unification in all its magical heart-happy glory is this

Vampire Weekend groove. As it playfully bounces about, just you try not to get wrapped up in the evocative adorability of the NYC hipsters' sweet sentiment – love – dedicated to the world's nonconformists.

**'Looking Hot,' No Doubt**

Calling all spotlight stealers – this

closets full of skeletons," the country superstar sings, before delivering

See Hear Me Out, page 38



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► **Hear Me Out**

Continued from p. 36

Perri is done waiting and hoping for change to just magically happen. So, with a thundering drum beat behind her, she stops wishing and starts realizing, igniting the flame that's been right there in her hands the whole time.

**'Queen,' Perfume Genius**

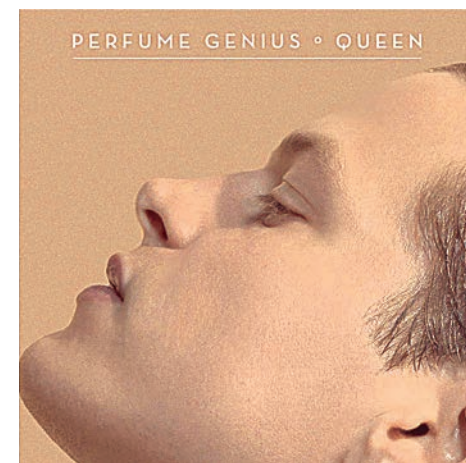
Who runs the world? You! Mike Hadreas (aka Perfume Genius) gives you permission – not that you needed it – to own the crown that was already yours, bestowing it upon all the “cracked, peelin’” queers who are “riddled with disease.” Haters gon’ hate, but as Hadreas warns: “No family is safe when I sashay.”

**'The Fight,' Sia**

Don't even bother trying to stand in Sia's way. The Aussie is one of the world's most sought-after songwriters, but even before she was swinging from her chandelier, Sia was bigger than life itself on this cartoony romp – and that's exactly how she makes you feel too.

**'Take Me to Church,' Sinead O'Connor**

Nothing compares to you. No, really – you're the best. “Set me on the floor; I'm



the only one I should adore,” the Irish icon declares, waxing poetic about finding love in a place where it's sometimes seemingly impossible – from within.

**'Raise You Up / Just Be,' "Kinky Boots"**

In case your kinky boots aren't enough to get you off the ground, this Cyndi Lauper-penned number from the hit Broadway show will. The show closer is a sparkly, ensemble-sung, feel-good romp that won't just add pep to your step, but at least three inches to your height.

*Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service. Reach him via his website at [www.chris-azzopardi.com](http://www.chris-azzopardi.com).*





# FESTIVAL AND PARADE

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# PRIDE

## FESTIVAL AND PARADE

### Pride Stage

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#### Saturday June 6th

- Noon Commitment Ceremony
- 12:30 PM Abigail Stauffer
- 1:30 PM Kate Peterson
- 2:30 PM Lauren Fisher
- 3:30 PM Mouths of Babes
- 4:30 PM Tunde Olaniran
- 5:30 PM Detroit Drag Review  
with Shangela & Darienne Lake  
Hosted By Sabin
- 7:00 PM Rich White Ladies
- 7:30 PM Carmen Electra

#### Sunday June 7th

- 11:30 AM Jason Michael
- 12:30 PM Sing Out Detroit
- 1:00 PM Parade Recognition
- 1:15 PM Detroit Drag Showcase  
with Miss. & Mr. Motor City Pride 2015  
Hosted By Sabin
- 3:00 PM Killer Flamingos
- 4:00 PM Garek
- 5:00 PM Georgie Porgie
- 6:00 PM Betty Who

#### Motor City Pride Parade

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#### Sunday, June 7, 2015

Step off is at Noon at Griswold and Fort Streets  
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### Saturday

- 1:00 PM Coffee House
- Michelle Eliz
- Andrea Naja
- Nikki Hollan
- Harmonie Pe
- Sandy Mullig
- 3:00 PM Jaimie Wilso
- 4:00 PM Macho City/  
Hosted by A

### Sunday

- 1:00 PM Beautiful Sh
- Featuring M
- & Line Danc
- 2:00 PM Motor City P
- Heal, Evolve
- Featuring pe
- Cognito Blab
- Megh Hollow
- Jason B Cra
- Intellect
- T Miller
- Hosted by V
- 4:00 PM AllDay MonD
- 5:00 PM March of the

### The Undergro

#### Saturday June 6th

- 12:30 PM Masdafani & Conno
- 1:30 PM DJ John Cruz
- 3:00 PM Selina Style
- 4:30 PM Jason Michael
- 6:00 PM DJ Jace

#### Sunday June 6th

- Noon DJ Nikoli
- 1:30 PM Evan Ficaj
- 2:45 PM DVJ Mark
- 4:00 PM J-Sette Competition

Schedules are subject to change. Check the website



# al Stage

by MGM Grand Detroit

ay June 6th

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ream/ Fierce Hot Mess Showcase

driel Thorton & Mike Trombley

ay June 7th

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r. Friendly, Men of Menjos

e Party with Ross

ride: HEAR Me Now!

& Reenergize

performances by:

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with DJ Ace

[www.motorcitypride.org](http://www.motorcitypride.org) for any last minute updates.

# Pyramid Stage

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## Saturday June 6th

1:00 PM Miss & Mr Motor City Pride Pageant 2015  
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Hosted by Chanel Hunter and Jadein Black

## Sunday June 7th

Presented by Inferno

Noon Stiletto's Showcase  
Hosted by Natalie Cole

4:00 PM Inferno Showcase

## Riverfront Patio/ Menjo's Showcase

Presented by Menjo's

### Saturday June 6th

Noon Rick Leos (Friday Pure Pop Dance Party)  
1:00 PM Dave Wheeler (Underground/ House)  
2:00 PM Motif (Live Band from Tuesday LIVE)  
3:30 PM Larry's Friday Night Live  
4:30 PM Sunday's Eclecticity Dance Party  
5:30 PM Monday's Open Mic/ Karaoke Party

### Sunday June 7th

Noon Sunday Tea Dance w/ DJ DD  
2:00 PM Thrust w/ Jason Crosby  
3:00 PM Thursday Line Dance Party & Lesson w/ Ross Hudson



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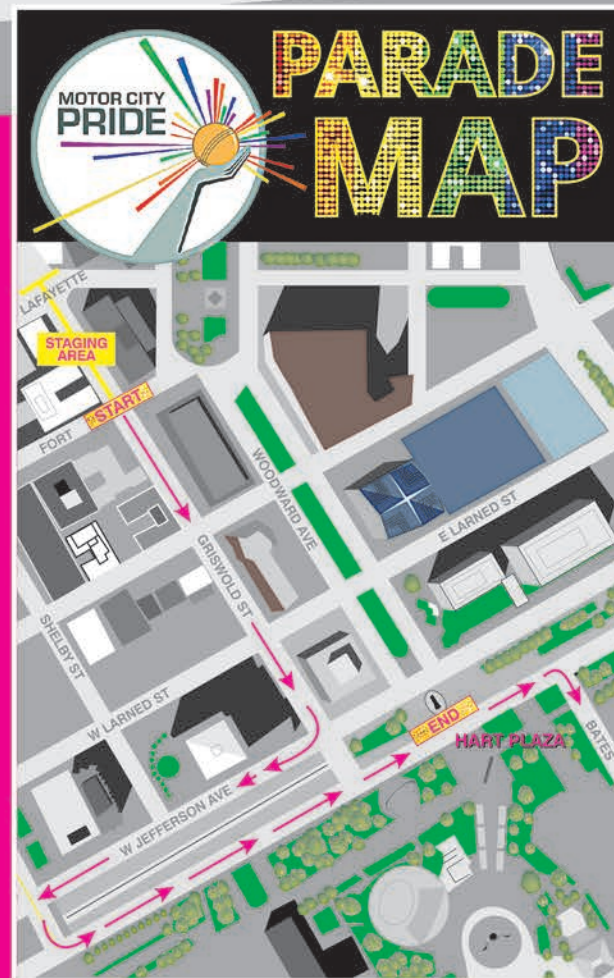
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**Sunday  
June 7, 2015  
Noon to 5:00 p.m.**



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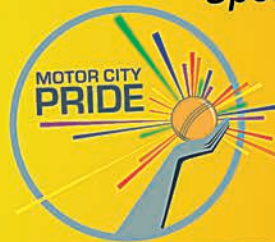
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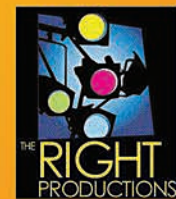


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# Rich Pleeeeeease

## Tokyo Diiva & Scotty Rebel Take On Haters, Talk 'Fierce' New Album

BY SARAH BRICKER-HUNT

These Rich White Ladies aren't white and are unlike most so-called ladies you're likely to meet. Bronx natives Tokyo Diiva and Scotty Rebel are loud and proud, and they have a special spot in their "Kunt Clutch" for the haters. In other words, they couldn't be a better match for what Pride stands for.

"We love fun music," says self-professed "real bitch" (emphasis "real") Tokyo. "We also love art that means something."

She says the writing process (alongside Justin Tranter and his Semi Precious Weapons band members) has evolved naturally. "We also think it's

### INFO

#### Rich White Ladies

7 p.m. June 6  
Hart Plaza, Detroit (Main Stage)  
[motorcitypride.org](http://motorcitypride.org)

OK to think and drink!" she adds.

While Rich White Ladies have enjoyed a growing following based on "bull-bullshit" and "White Powder Perms," their sound continues to evolve. Released in April, "No Bad Vibez" is a musical departure for the duo, but with a similar goal in mind: inspiration and motivation for the disenfranchised, for the 99 percent that

Tokyo says need to "own their place as the 1 percent of art and culture." The tune is all about a kind of "island positivity" focused on the power of positivity.

She says that message extends to the LGBT rights movement, too. "Of course there are commonalities between any civil or human rights movement," she explains. "We are all underdogs trying to be heard, and hoping for the right to be as honest, fabulous and free as we want."

This is true for any marginalized group, according to Tokyo. "As we can see in the civil rights movement, there is still much more to be done in terms

See Rich White Ladies, page 46



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## ► Rich White Ladies

Continued from p. 44

of race relations in this country,” she says. “Marriage equality is obviously a big step forward for a lot of my friends – but it’s just the beginning.”

If industry buzz is correct, the Bronx natives are on the cusp of something huge. The girls are riding the wave with signature attitude. As Scotty says, “We are feeling amazing!” She describes the duo’s upcoming album as “fierce.”

Fans may remember last summer’s ear bug “Wimbledon” and its persistently catchy hook: “You are so bull-bullshit/ We are so Wim-ble-don!” Semi Precious Weapons lead singer and gay fave Justin Tranter provides both backing vocals and a hilarious performance as a terrible tennis player in the accompanying video, which has garnered over a quarter million views. Tokyo says Tranter is usually into more of a “harem pants” look, but she thinks his Omar Alexander getup in the “Wimbledon” video suits him well.

Style is a big part of the Rich White Ladies image.

Tokyo points to a strong sense of “self” as a guidepost for her fashion choices. “That will never change,” she says. “If ever I felt a struggle to be true to myself then that would be the wrong business for me!”

“I’m also a fashion designer and just a natural artistic and creative spirit, so it’s very important to me to be able to express that at all times,” she adds.

The bunny ears? “Well, those are my antennas that help me function on a semi-normal basis,” Tokyo explains with a laugh.

The “White Powder Perm” video features a pair of older, white women sitting down for tea while mouthing the lyrics. Lyrics like “Puff puff / I’m stoned like Betty Rubble.” The actresses have garnered their own following at this point, a kind of “Left Shark” vibe. Scotty hopes the pair will join them on tour to perform the lip-sync live and in person.

Check out any Rich White Ladies video on YouTube and you’ll find a vibrant, insightful community always ready to add

some helpful commentary. Or not. Sometimes it’s lively but positive: “You crazy bitches – I fucking love you!” Sometimes it’s a hilarious indictment about the duo’s morals from a user named Flying Pig: “Swears up a storm, shakes their ass and wears skimpy clothes but has the audacity to wear crosses as if they’re with god. Smh. (shaking my head).” The girls handle it with the colorful candor one might expect.

“People say some outlandish things on YouTube,” Scotty says. “We tuck the negative comments into our Kunt Clutch and keep it moving. We love what we do and people have the freedom to have opinions. We’re enjoying being ourselves. Not everyone is going to be happy with what we do. But even the highest selling artists have people that don’t like them. Who cares. It’s the love that counts.”

As for Flying Pig, Scotty has this to say: “Thanks for the view. Wait until you see what’s next.”



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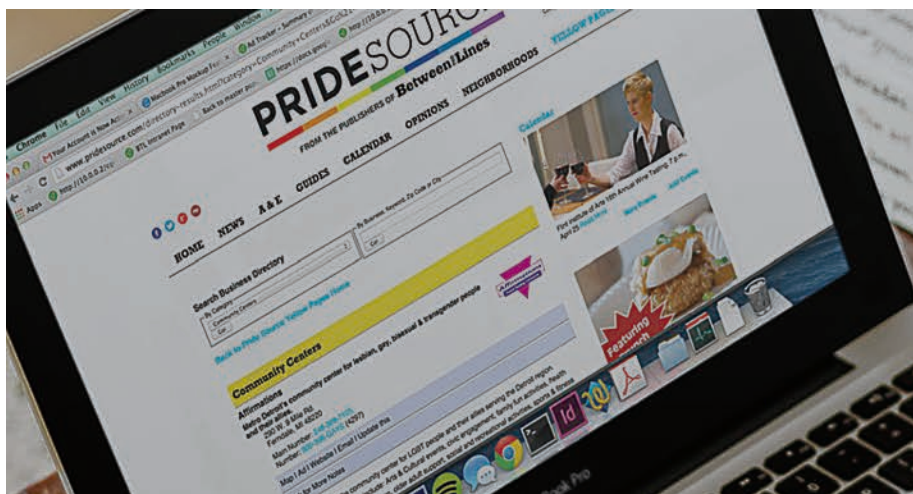
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Photo: Jason Shaltz

# Not Just Another Letter

## Flint Native Tunde Olaniran On Why Labels Shouldn't Matter So Much

BY ED ENGLISH

An outreach coordinator for Planned Parenthood by day and a war paint-clad musician by night, Flint native Tunde Olaniran bridges social justice with gender-bending beats.

"I try to talk about things that are important to me," says Olaniran. "It's the content to me that's the future of music – bringing back some rawness to rap music."

Basically, if Kate Bush and Missy Elliott had a song baby, it'd be Tunde Olaniran. As a straight man who considers himself a blend of "androgynous" and "genderqueer" – though he takes labels lightly, he says – the 31-year-old refuses to accentuate stereotypes. His stage presence says pop princess – all hair whipping, glitter, capes and futuristic choreography – but his lyrics go gangster.

Like the rap stars of the early '90s (think Run-D.M.C. and Public Enemy) Olaniran is a

INFO
<b>Tunde Olaniran</b>
4:30 p.m. June 6
Hart Plaza, Detroit (Main Stage)
<a href="http://motorcitypride.org">motorcitypride.org</a>

rebel with a cause. With many causes, in fact. As a social justice activist, Olaniran takes on a variety of issues in his life and music.

One of those issues: When artists play up a persona for popularity. (Cough, cough. Iggy Azalea anyone?)

"I definitely feel like I'm not a Cakes da Killa or a Mykki Blanco," he shares, feeling it wouldn't be fair to the LGBT community for him to represent gay artists when he is not gay. Olaniran exists in a musical sweet spot, he explains, created by other LGBT artists' efforts

See Tunde, page 50



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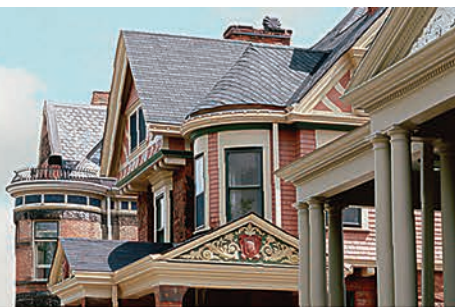
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## ► Tunde

Continued from p. 48

to open the music industry to new narratives, and in turn, opening people to more identities such as “genderqueer.”

“You are getting a lot of alternative narratives through people’s music,” he says. And narratives don’t get much more alternative than Olaniran, who was born to an atheist socialist mother and a Christian conservative father.

“I think people are looking for that alternative (sound) with that hip-hop vibe to it, but it has a few other elements,” he says, before explaining that some people believe artists are malleable. “I had a conversation with a major label and they were like, ‘We want to sign you. Your whole look is great. But (we) can find someone else to change and cut their hair, and we can do the same thing (as you’re doing).’ And I was like, ‘Good luck!’”

As an artist who meets many intersections, Olaniran says it is his lived experience that his audience identifies with through his music. That, he says, can’t be duplicated.

“I think an artist that tries to put on something that’s completely unlike them is going to end up, ultimately, Iggy Azalea-ing out,” says Olaniran. “You know it’s just not going to work after a certain point.”

From his own unique life experiences,

Olaniran says he sees the opportunity to unite the communities he’s a part of.

“I think things are very ... intersectional,” he says with an uneasy laugh regarding unification within the LGBT community. “I feel like I see a lot of race segregation in the LGBT community. Even at Pride, when you play Motor City Pride, you see pockets of color in the audience. When it comes to race, I think it’s so complicated within the black community.”

In this sense, Olaniran believes there are benefits of identity labels for all communities if it means offering everyone the chance to be heard.

“I am cool with multiple identities. We’ll figure it out later if we want to clean it up and repack it into something simpler, but right now there’s a lot of real stuff affecting people economically – their safety, how they are treated by police, whether they are likely to be in prison, homeless – that is tied up in those identities,” he says. “If certain things stick, then that’s fine. I know people are like, ‘Well, it’s alphabet soup and so many labels. Ahh!’ That’s challenging, but so is having your penis cut off as a kid because your parents don’t know what to do with you. To me, that’s a little more important than whether or not you can remember just one more letter.”

He adds, with attitude: “So, get over it. Learn the word. If it’s gone in a year, whatever; that’s how language works.”



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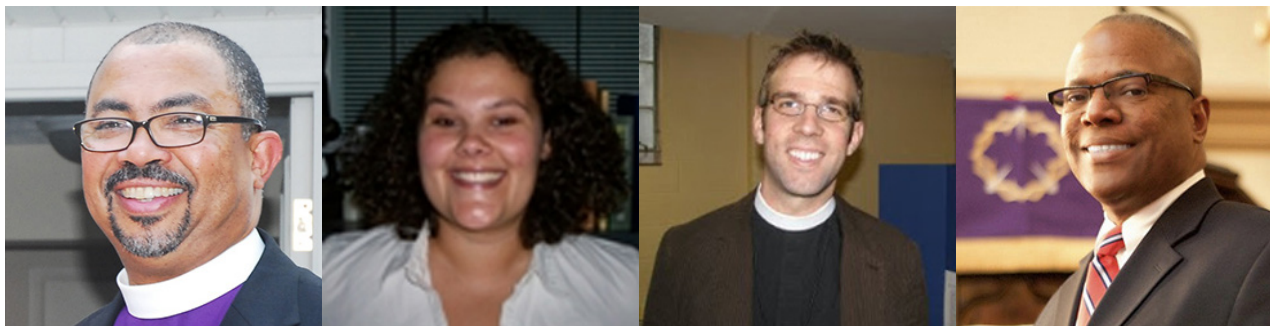
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**Sunday Worship 10 A.M.**



Photos (left to right): Bishop Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr., Reverend Lindsey Anderson, Reverend Matthew Bode and Michael C.R. Nabors

# Decision Day: When The Supreme Court Rules

Michigan for Marriage is currently planning events across the state to be held on Decision Day this month. The day the Supreme Court rules on marriage will be historic.

The Right Reverend Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr., the Tenth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan; Congressman Dan Kildee; former Republican Speaker of the House Chuck Perricone; and AFL-CIO President Karla Swift are co-chairs of Michigan for Marriage and are dedicated to protecting all Michigan families. When the U.S. Supreme Court rules on marriage equality this month Michigan for Marriage will hold events across the state. Visit [www.michiganformarriage.org](http://www.michiganformarriage.org) to locate an event near you and join in what all are hoping will be a celebration for heralding in marriage equality in all fifty states.

Bishop Gibbs is a strong supporter of marriage equality. He looks forward in hopeful anticipation to the day when all faithful and covenantal relationships between any two people regardless of sex, both within the church and within our society, are fully recognized. "In my opinion, picking and choosing whose

rights should be protected or which civil rights the church will support is neither American 'justice for all' nor supported by the God of salvation history. I stand in support of marriage equality and pray that our justice system will work to break down the walls of segregation, promote the humanity of all and calm our irrational fears."

Bishop Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr. is the Tenth Bishop of Michigan's Episcopal Diocese. He attended St. Mary's University & Seminary and Towson State University where he received his B.A. in business administration in 1977. In 1987, he received his Master of Divinity degree from Seabury-Western Theological Seminary. Bishop Gibbs and his wife of 25 years, Karlah Ambrose York, reside in Southeastern Michigan. He is the stepfather of two adult daughters, Eboni York and Amber York, and the proud grandfather of two boys, Isidro and Lu.

Michigan for Marriage has also organized Michigan Faith Leaders for Marriage, a coalition of the leading voices of Michigan's religious community who support the freedom to marry. Visit the website to learn more about this coalition.

*"We as African American Christian leaders must value all families, including LGBT families, as we continue to uplift our neighborhoods and communities. African American Christianity is about love and justice, despite recent Detroit media portrayals to the contrary."*

**-Coalition member Reverend Michael C.R. Nabors, Salem Memorial Lutheran Church, Detroit**

*"Hateful and condemning language often used by Christian leaders against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people is not part of a loving Christian tradition. We demand the press stop portraying hateful voices as the mainstream Christian voice."*

**-Coalition member Reverend Matthew Bode, Detroit**

*"We call on sisters and brothers of the Christian faith, especially pastors, to sign the marriage equality endorsement. All families, including LGBT families need the support of their pastors and churches."*

**-Coalition member Reverend Lindsey Anderson, Detroit**

*"We are called as Christian leaders to support marriage equality as an issue of justice and civil rights."*

**-Coalition member Reverend Patrick Gahagen, Detroit**



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[www.lordoflight.org](http://www.lordoflight.org)
- **Trinity Lutheran Church**  
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[www.trinityaa.org](http://www.trinityaa.org)
- **Detroit**  
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# Pride Season Calendar



COMPILED BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

## June 5

### *Love Who You ART*

Presenting Organization: KGLRC/Kalamazoo Pride  
Time: 5 p.m.  
Location: Urban Modern Hair, 235 S. Kalamazoo Mall, Kalamazoo  
Featuring “ArtHop” art on display, light appetizers, free refreshments and more.

### *Beat Your Heart Out*

Presenting Organization: Sing Out Detroit Chorus

Time: 8 p.m.  
Location: Oakland Community College, 27055 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills  
Contact: 248-943-2411 or [www.singoutdetroit.org](http://www.singoutdetroit.org)  
A high-energy concert, featuring the percussion sounds of African, Latin and pop music. Tickets: \$15-20.

### *Opening Party For Motor Ball*

Presenting Organization: Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC)  
Time: 9 p.m.  
Location: Club Gold Coast, 2971 E. Seven Mile Road, Detroit

Contact: [www.michiganidscoalition.org](http://www.michiganidscoalition.org)

## June 6

Presenting Organization: Motor City Bears  
Time: 11 a.m.  
Location: Level One Bank, 22635 Woodward Ave., Ferndale  
Contact: [www.meetup.com/Motor-City-Bears](http://www.meetup.com/Motor-City-Bears)

### *Motor City Pride*

Presenting Organization: Equality Michigan  
Time: 2 p.m.  
Location: Hart Plaza, Detroit

Contact: [www.motorcitypride.org](http://www.motorcitypride.org)  
Tickets: \$5

### *Second Annual Motor Ball*

Presenting Organization: Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC)  
Time: 9 p.m.  
Location: St. Andrew’s Hall, Detroit  
Contact: [www.michiganidscoalition.org](http://www.michiganidscoalition.org)  
Two levels and seven straight hours of music and dancing.

See Pride Calendar, page 56



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## ► Pride Calendar

Continued from p. 54

### June 7

#### *Motor City Pride Parade*

Presenting Organization: Equality Michigan

Time: 12 p.m.

Location: Fort and Grisworld, Detroit

Contact: [www.motorcitypride.org](http://www.motorcitypride.org)

#### *Motor City Pride*

Presenting Organization: Equality Michigan

Time: 12 p.m.

Location: Hart Plaza, Detroit

Contact: [www.motorcitypride.org](http://www.motorcitypride.org)

Tickets: \$5

### June 10

#### *Dining for a Cause*

Presenting Organization: Motor City Bears

Time: 4 p.m.

Location: Woodward Avenue Brewers, 22646

Woodward, Ferndale

Contact: [www.motorcitybears.com](http://www.motorcitybears.com)

Mention MCB for 15 percent of proceeds to go to charity.

### June 12

#### *Kalamazoo Pride*

Presenting Organization: Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center (KGLRC)

Time: 5 p.m.

Location: Arcadia Creek Festival Place, Kalamazoo

Contact: [www.kglrc.org/pride](http://www.kglrc.org/pride)

Tickets: \$7-10.

Sponsored by Bell's Brewery. Featuring drag queens, Bianca Del Rio and more

### June 13

#### *Kalamazoo Pride*

Presenting Organization: Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center (KGLRC)

Time: 1 p.m.

Location: Arcadia Creek Festival Place, Kalamazoo

Contact: [www.kglrc.org/pride](http://www.kglrc.org/pride)

Tickets: \$7-10.

Sponsored by Bell's Brewery. Featuring drag queens, Bianca Del Rio and more.

### June 20

#### *Older Adult Summit*

Presenting Organization: LGBT Older Adult Coalition

Time: 9 a.m.

Location: MSU Detroit Center, 2408 Woodward Ave., Detroit

Contact: [www.lgbtsummit2015.eventbrite.com](http://www.lgbtsummit2015.eventbrite.com)

Meet the new executive director of Affirmations and learn about opportunities and challenges in the Detroit Metro Community.

#### *Greater Grand Rapids Pride*

Presenting Organization: The Network

Time: 10 a.m.

See Pride Calendar, page 59



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**JUNE 17 WILL DOWNING & L'RENEE**  
**JUNE 24 DAVID SANBORN & MILES SMILES**  
**JULY 01 PIECES OF A DREAM & KIM WATERS**  
**JULY 08 BRIAN CULBERTSON & PHIL DENNY**  
**JULY 15 ANGELA WINBUSH & BRANDON WILLIAMS**  
**JULY 22 AVERY SUNSHINE & KINDRED THE FAMILY SOUL**  
**JULY 29 FREDDIE JACKSON & KAREN BRIGGS**  
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**AUGUST 12 THE FAMILY STONE & MACEO PARKER**

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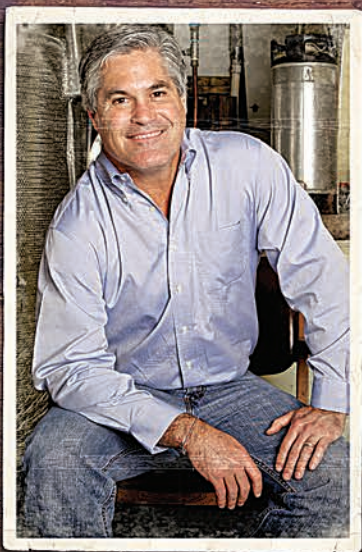
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## ► Pride Calendar

Continued from p. 56

Location: Calder Plaza, Grand Rapids  
Contact: [www.grlgbt.org/pride](http://www.grlgbt.org/pride)  
Family-friendly programming and nationally recognized entertainers and hometown favorites on the main stage.

### **Pizza Dinner & Bowl-Off**

Presenting Organization: Motor City Bears

Time: 4 p.m.

Location: Langan's Nor-West Lanes,  
32905 Northwestern Highway,  
Farmington Hills

Contact: [www.motorcitybears.com](http://www.motorcitybears.com)

Pizza, salad, pop, desserts, bowling, silent auction and more.



## June 23

### **Saginaw Valley LGBT Pride Awards Banquet**

Presenting Organization: Perceptions and Equality Michigan

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: Andersen Enrichment Center & Garden, 120 Ezra Rust Ave., Saginaw

Contact: [www.perceptionssv.org/pride/](http://www.perceptionssv.org/pride/)

The evening will include an appetizer reception; dinner and a Pride Program with presentation of awards. Tickets:

\$15-25.

## June 26

### **Holland Area PRIDE**

Presenting Organization: Holland Pride

Location: The Grounds of Centennial Park and Park Theater, Holland

Contact: [www.hollandareapride.org](http://www.hollandareapride.org)

Featuring: Amy Armstrong & Freddy Allen, comedians Poppy Champlin and Scott Duff, Nobody's Darlin', Maciek the Magician, Motif, MSU Accafellas and a drag show.

## June 27

### **Holland Area PRIDE**

Presenting Organization: Holland Pride

Time: 12 p.m.

Location: The Grounds of Centennial Park and Park Theater, Holland

Contact: [www.hollandareapride.org](http://www.hollandareapride.org)

Featuring: Amy Armstrong & Freddy Allen, comedians Poppy Champlin and Scott Duff, Nobody's Darlin', Maciek the Magician, Motif, MSU Accafellas and a drag show.

### **Flint Pride in the Park**

Presenting Organization: Flint Gay Pride Society

Time: 12 p.m.

Location: Wilson Park at U-M, Flint

Contact: [www.facebook.com/FLINTGAYPRIDE](http://www.facebook.com/FLINTGAYPRIDE)

Suggested Donation \$5.

### **MIC 8th Annual Detroit River Boat Cruise and Tea Dance**

Presenting Organization: Motown

Invitational Classic

Time: 1 p.m.

Location: Stroh's River Place, Jefferson Ave. at Detroit River

Contact: 313-727-4101; [www.mictournament.org](http://www.mictournament.org)

Tickets: \$25.

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## July 12

See Pride Calendar, page 60

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SAVE THE DATE

# FLINT pride in the park...

JUNE 27, 2015  
12-6 pm

## Flint Pride location has changed!!

Pride is located at Wilson Park on the University of Michigan-Flint campus between the William R. Murchie Science Building on E. Kearsely St. and the Flint Farmers' Market on E. 1st St.



[www.wellnessaids.org](http://www.wellnessaids.org)



## ► Pride Calendar

Continued from p. 59

### *Cement City Ride*

Presenting Organization: Dykes on Bikes Detroit

Time: 12 p.m.

Location: Start at Affirmations, Nine Mile Road, Ferndale

Contact: [www.dykesonbikesdetroit.org](http://www.dykesonbikesdetroit.org)

Voted best ride of the season; ride primarily through the beautiful Michigan countryside.

### July 21

#### *Candlelight Vigil*

Presenting Organization: LGBT Detroit

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: Blue Spruce Memorial Tree, Palmer Park, Detroit

Contact: 313-285-9733 or [www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/](http://www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/)

Part of Hotter Than July.

### July 22

#### *Boat Ride*

Presenting Organization: LGBT Detroit

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: Rivard Plaza, Downtown Detroit Riverwalk, Detroit

Contact: 313-285-9733 or [www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/](http://www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/)

Tickets: \$55.

Part of Hotter Than July.

### July 23

#### *Film Festival*

Presenting Organization: LGBT Detroit

Time: 7 p.m. p.m.

Location: Cinema Detroit, 3420 Cass Ave., Detroit

Contact: 313-285-9733 or [www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/](http://www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/)

Tickets: \$20.

Part of Hotter Than July.

### July 24-27

#### *London Pride Ride*

Presenting Organization: Dykes on Bikes Detroit

Time: 12 p.m.

Location: Start at Affirmations, Nine Mile Road, Ferndale

Contact: [www.dykesonbikesdetroit.org](http://www.dykesonbikesdetroit.org)

### July 24

#### *Annual Gathering on LGBTQ Issues*

Presenting Organization: LGBT Detroit

Time: 9 a.m.

Location: Michigan State University, 4707 St. Antoine St., Detroit

Contact: 313-285-9733 or [www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/](http://www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/)

Free with Required Registration

Part of Hotter Than July.

#### *Annual HIR Golf Outing/Fundraiser*

Presenting Organization: Holland is Ready

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Macatawa Legends Golf and Country Club, 4600 Macatawa Legends Blvd., Holland

Contact: [www.hollandisready.org](http://www.hollandisready.org)

Come and play Glowball to help support HIR's efforts. Tickets: \$25-75.

### July 25

#### *Palmer Park Picnic*

Presenting Organization: LGBT Detroit

Time: 9 a.m.



Photo by Terry Johnston





Location: Palmer Park, Detroit  
 Contact: 313-285-9733 or [www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/](http://www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/)  
 Part of Hotter Than July.

## July 26

### *Worship Service*

Presenting Organization: LGBT Detroit  
 Time: 10 a.m.

Location: WHOSOEVER Ministry, 337 E. Crescent Lane, Detroit  
 Contact: 313-285-9733 or [www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/](http://www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/)  
 Part of Hotter Than July.

### *Sunday Brunch*

Presenting Organization: LGBT Detroit  
 Time: 1 p.m.

Location: TBD  
 Contact: 313-285-9733 or [www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/](http://www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/)  
 Tickets: \$50-90  
 Part of Hotter Than July.

## July 31

### *Ferndale Pub Crawl*

Presenting Organization: Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC)  
 Location: Downtown Ferndale  
 Contact: [www.michiganaidcoalition.org](http://www.michiganaidcoalition.org)

## Aug. 4-9

### *Michigan Womyn's Fest (Michfest)*

Presenting Organization: Michfest  
 Location: "The Land," Oceana County, Michigan  
 Contact: [www.michfest.com](http://www.michfest.com)

## Aug. 7-9

### *Windsor-Essex Pride Fest*

Presenting Organization: Windsor Pride  
 Location: Riverfront Festival Plaza, Downtown Windsor, Ontario, Canada  
 Contact: [www.wepridefest.com](http://www.wepridefest.com)

## Aug. 8

### *Transgender Picnic in the Park*

Presenting Organization: Transgender Michigan  
 Time: 12 p.m.  
 Location: Donald Red Geary Park, Ferndale

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See Pride Calendar, page 62



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### ► Pride Calendar

Continued from p. 61

Contact: 855-345-TGMI or [www.transgendermichigan.org](http://www.transgendermichigan.org)  
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### Aug. 16

#### *Caseville "Cheeseburger Festival" Ride*

Presenting Organization: Dykes on Bikes Detroit

Time: 12 p.m.

Location: Start at Affirmations, Nine Mile Road, Ferndale

Contact: [www.dykesonbikesdetroit.org](http://www.dykesonbikesdetroit.org)

Ride to Caseville, Michigan to celebrate the festival.

### Aug. 28

#### *White Party*

Presenting Organization: Michigan Pride

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Adado Riverfront Park, 300 N. Grand Ave., Lansing

Contact: [www.michiganpride.org](http://www.michiganpride.org)

Tickets: \$20-25.

White or silver attire. Performance by country music star Steve Grand.

### Aug. 29

#### *Pride Parade*

Presenting Organization: Michigan Pride

Time: 12 p.m.

Location: 200 N. Grand Ave., Lansing

Contact: [www.michiganpride.org](http://www.michiganpride.org)

The march will be held rain or shine and should last approximately 30 minutes.

#### *Michigan Pride Festival*

Presenting Organization: Michigan Pride

Time: 12 p.m.

Location: Adado Riverfront Park, 300 N. Grand Ave., Lansing

Contact: [www.michiganpride.org](http://www.michiganpride.org)

Michigan-based musicians, food, games, crafts and more. All ages welcome.

#### *Fundraiser - Pig Roast*

Presenting Organization: Dykes on Bikes Detroit

Time: 2 p.m.

Location: VFW Park, Royal Oak

Contact: 248-943-2411 or [www.dykesonbikesdetroit.org](http://www.dykesonbikesdetroit.org)

Tickets: \$20.

### Sept. 15

#### *Upper Peninsula Pride Fest*

Presenting Organization: Upper Peninsula Rainbow Pride

Time: 12 p.m.

Location: Tourist Park, Marquette

Contact: [www.uprainbowpride.com](http://www.uprainbowpride.com)

### Sept. 17-19

#### *20th Annual ArtWorks Detroit*

Presenting Organization: Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC)

Contact: [www.michiganaidcoalition.org](http://www.michiganaidcoalition.org)





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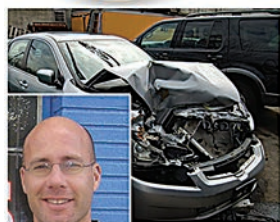


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## Kids In The Hall Still Head Of The Class

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

Years before American shows would dare to “go there,” the “Kids in the Hall” were skewering homophobia, dressing in drag and lampooning the stereotypes of gay men, feminist women and more. The five-man Canadian comedy troupe (composed of Dave Foley, Kevin McDonald, Bruce McCulloch, Mark McKinney and Scott Thompson) kept that irreverent, yet inclusive, spirit alive with their recent show at Royal Oak Music Theatre.

The curtains separated at almost 8 p.m. at the May 13 show, revealing all five comedians in women’s wedding dresses. The group gave a rehearsed speech, noting that they wore wedding dresses “for those who can’t.” “Those” people included farmers, soccer moms and cat ladies before the group “broke the fourth wall” and said in seriousness: “We support gay marriage.” The crowd broke into applause. Those “breaks” would continue throughout the night, including Foley referencing their failure to keep straight faces during some of the sketches.

The references to the LGBT community continued throughout the night, which was run much like a standard episode of the troupe’s old sketch show, complete with music riffs between quick changes and different sketches. Thompson, who has been openly gay throughout his career, reprised the character of “Buddy Cole” to a huge reaction from the crowd.

Cole, the “alpha queen” character known for sipping martinis while tearing apart the gay community, spent his monologue both satirizing and, ultimately, championing LGBT youth experiencing bullying. Much of the sketch involved the character wondering why LGBT youth today are so prominent in the spotlight. “When I was performing dances in the woods behind my house,” he said, referencing LGBT kids who make it onto talk shows, “I traumatized only the woodland creatures.” After a variety of digs at the community as a whole, Thompson’s Cole finished his speech with the message to LGBT youth to fight against bullying, owning the fact that they’re fabulous. “And there’s always violence,” he added with a smirk.

Thompson would go on to be one of the most solid in the almost two-hour performance, rarely breaking character unlike the more jovial McDonald and Foley; even McCulloch had trouble reigning in giggles at Thompson’s cross-dressing victim of theft in a sketch towards the end of the show.

Thompson’s “Running Faggot” character also made an appearance during a medley of Kids in the Hall’s music numbers (“The Daves I Know,” for instance, though McCulloch’s infamous “Tammy” character was absent from the musical number), also to much applause. The character, known for being a folk hero running while McCulloch and McKinney sing, did his usual schtick of helping lost puppies and angering homophobic rednecks.

The drag element of the show was as apparent as it was back in the ’90s; every one of the comedians appeared dressed as a woman at least once during the show, including Thompson as a put-upon wife who made a ham “too salty,” McCulloch as a mother who secretly hates her baby and McDonald as a swinging wife at the mercy of Thompson’s stereotypically “straight, alpha” man. McKinney’s well-known “Chicken Lady” character didn’t make an appearance, though the comedian did don drag while playing a woman who ruins a party after revealing she threw out a gift. Foley also reprised his monologue of “a man with a positive attitude toward menstruation.”

Finally, the encore of the evening featured perhaps the most well-known sketch from the comedy troupe: McKinney’s “Headcrusher.” Bringing out a camcorder to showcase the audience on a big screen behind the stage, McKinney “crushed” the heads of many audience members with his fingers from a distance before bringing out the other four “Kids” for an-end-of-the-show roast.

“Scott Thompson, you old gay relic,” McKinney spat, “what kind of gay man doesn’t have any following in the gay community?” He then crushed Thompson’s crestfallen head before turning on the other members. McKinney eventually turned the camera on himself, chastising himself for not using his most famous character during his brief tenure on “Saturday Night Live” before crushing his own head.





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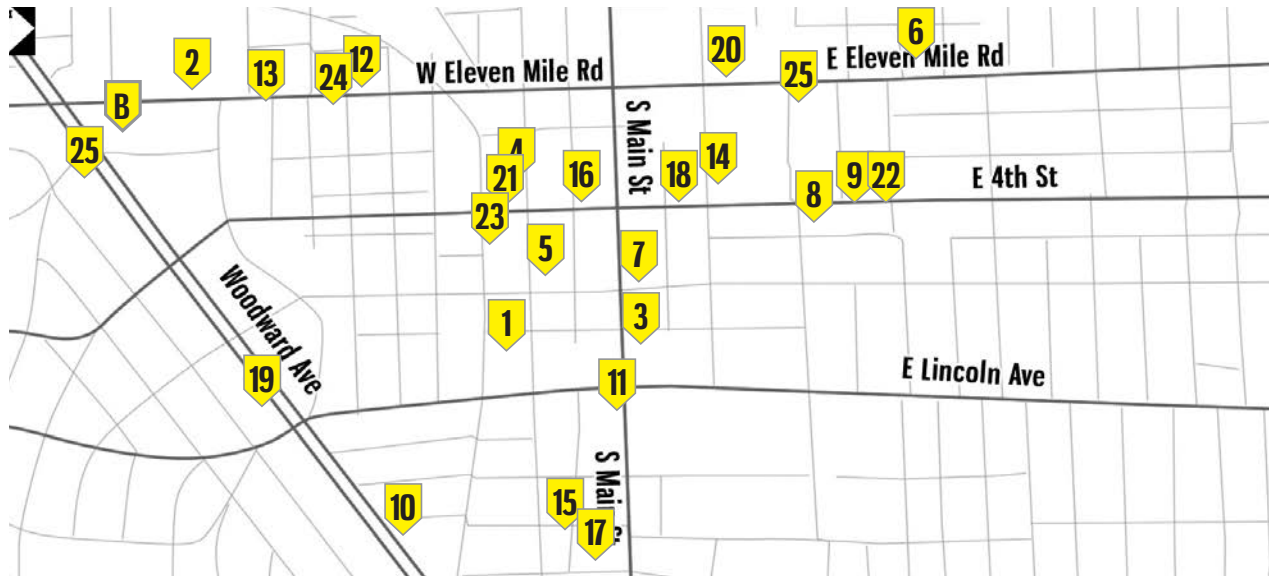


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# Happenings

## OUTINGS

### Thursday, June 4

**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 S3safesexstore.com

**Rent** 8 p.m. Tickets: \$13-25. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, 911 N. University, **Ann Arbor**. 734-971-0605. A2ct.org

### Friday, June 5

**Beat Your Heart Out!** 8 a.m. Don't miss this high-energy concert, featuring the percussion sounds of African, Latin and pop music! Tickets: \$15-20. Sing Out Detroit, 27005 Orchard Lake Road, **Farmington Hills**. 248-943-2411. lindacbrin@gmail.com http://singoutdetroit.org

**Equality Opportunity Helping Hands** 3 p.m. Would you be willing to volunteer to help yourself and fellow LGBT out at workers? Help them inspire, Help them grow, help our community? This help group is for you. Frank Vaca-Group room Everybody Reads, 2019 E Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI 48912, **Lansing**. 517 643 1491. vacaf@mail.lcc.edu Facebook.com/events/1580978622174738/

**Love Who You Art** 5 p.m. There will be free refreshments and light appetizers to enjoy. Kalamazoo Pride two-day passes will be available for purchase... as will Pride merch. Kalamazoo Pride, 235 S. Kalamazoo Mall, **Kalamazoo**. Kglrc.org

### Saturday, June 6

**Divas Night Out: The King & Queens Ball** Canceled. Chene Park, 2600 Atwater, **Detroit**. Cheneparkdetroit.com

**Bears in Speedos Carwash** 11 a.m. Motor City Bears, 22635 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. Meetup.com/Motor-City-Bears/

**Detroit Day!** 11 a.m. Will be serving some of Detroit's iconic offerings: coney dogs, Bettermade potato chips, Faygo pop and for dessert you can have either a Boston Cooler or a Faygo rootbeer float. Admission: Free for members. Ford Piquette Avenue Plant and Golden Spice Catering, 461 Piquette Ave., **Detroit**. 3138728759. info@fordpiquetteavenueplant.org Fordpiquetteavenueplant.org/?page\_id=1253

**Rainbow Community Rally** 1 p.m. The Rainbow Community Rally is a call to celebrate diversity and love inclusively in Livingston County. Rally sponsors include Livingston PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), Livingston Diversity Council, Community Unitarian Universalists in Brighton, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, New Hope Congregation and The Connection Youth Services. There will be speakers, children's activities, information booths by local organizations and music from special guest Sean Caldwell. Admission is free. Livingston PFLAG, **Brighton**. 734-224-8838. LivingstonPFLAG@gmail.com Facebook.com/events/798658200215855/

**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

**Motor Ball** 8 p.m. 18+. Geared for Life & Wink Detroit, **Detroit**. Saintandrewsdetroit.com

### Sunday, June 7

**Motor City Pride** Featured headliners include Andy Bell (of Erasure), Alex Newell, and musical performer and Tunde Olaniran, one of MichiganXXs fastest rising musicians. Tickets: \$5 for 21+. Free for under 21. Equality Michigan, **Detroit**. Motorcitypride.org

**Motor City Pride Parade** 12 p.m. Equality Michigan, **Detroit**. Motorcitypride.org

**All-Female Hamlet** 7 p.m. Tickets: \$10. Slipstream, 20937 John R. Road, **Hazel Park**. 248-298-9617. Slipstreamti.com

dinning or even stopping by for a drink can mention Motor City Bears and 15 percent of their bill will come back to the Motor City Bears. This funding will then be applied to our fundraising efforts for Ruth Ellis Center and Affirmations. This is completely open to anyone from 4-9 p.m. Spread the word. It is an easy way to have fun and help our charities at the same time. Motor City Bears, 22646 Woodward Ave, **Ferndale**. 248-546-3696. motorcitybears@gmail.com Motorcitybears.com

**Fourth Annual Sunflow Gardens on Woodward** 6 p.m. \$75. Norman Silk and Dale Morgan, **Detroit**. Woodwardavenue.org

### Saturday, June 13

**Fashion With a Twist** 7 p.m. Tickets: \$20-25. Papa Weeze, 31440 Northwestern Highway, **Farmington Hills**. 248-701-2643. Papaweeze.org

**Stand-Up Fashion** 7 p.m. Tickets: \$20-25. Papa Weeze, 31440 Northwestern Highway, **Farmington Hills**. 248-701-2643. Papaweeze.org

## MUSIC & MORE

### Benefits/Social Events

**Detroit Opera House** "BravoBravo" An evening of dining, dancing and support for the Detroit Opera House. Tickets: \$120-165. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. June 6 - June 5. 313-237-SING. Motopera.org

## Editor's Pick



"Rent" will have an Ann Arbor performance this weekend at the Mendelssohn Theatre. Based on the classic opera "La Bohème," this modern-day rock opera tells the story of one year in the life of a group of bohemians struggling in modern-day East Village New York. A beautiful musical score weaves issues of homelessness and AIDS into this compelling parable for the new millennium.

The Between The Lines-sponsored play features

the following performances: Dominic Seipenko as Mark Cohen, Kevin Morgan as Roger Davis, Nickolas Brown as Tom Collins, Chris Joseph as Angel Schunard, Paul Clark as Benny Coffin III, Amy Robbins as Mimi Marquez, Lauren Norris as Maureen Johnson and Kate Papachristou as Joanne Jefferson. Victor McDermott, Lawrence Havelka, Antonio Argiero, Daniel Schaefer, Jessa Lytle, Traci Gibson and Domonique Minter round out the cast.

"Rent," as performed through the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, will be performed at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday with a 2 p.m. Sunday showing, June 4-7. The Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre is located at 911 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. Visit [www.a2ct.org/shows/rent](http://www.a2ct.org/shows/rent) for more information.

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Gather at Chrysler House, 719 Griswold, at 11am to begin lining up. The Parade will step off at noon and end with a rally at the Pride stage in Hart Plaza.

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For more information contact Cass Varner, Director of Communications at (248) 677-7227 or email [CVarner@GoAffirmations.org](mailto:CVarner@GoAffirmations.org)

**SUNDAY • JUNE 7 • 12PM**

### Monday, June 8

**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

### Tuesday, June 9

**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 Irwg\_research.umich.edu/events/exhibitions.html

**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

### Wednesday, June 10

**Antigone Risng** 12 a.m. This all-female New York City quartet cultivates an amazing mixture of three-part harmony singing, original country-flavored songwriting, and rock intensity. Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-761-1818. Antigonerising.com

**Dining for a Cause** 4 p.m. Anyone

**Bette Midler** 8 p.m. The Palace of Auburn Hills, 5 Championship Dr., **Auburn Hills**. 248-377-0100. Palacenet.com

### Friday, June 12

**Kalamazoo Pride** Including Bianca Del Rio, winner of season 6 of RuPaul's Drag Race. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, **Kalamazoo**. Kglrc.org/pride

**Dangerous Curves Plus Size Belly Dance Second Annual Convention** 4 a.m. The Plus Sized Belly Dancers Dangerous Curves Group on Facebook was founded by Adina Gamal on the principle that plus sized belly dancers of all ages, shapes and sizes should enjoy embracing their inner beauty through dance. The group is made up of a diversified group of performers from all of the world. They enjoy sharing their love, fears, hopes and dreams with each other daily through post using different sources of social media. Detroit Shimmy and Fuse Tribal Belly Dance Magazine, 30559 Flynn Dr., **Romulus**. 313-288-2007. ms.jeaninewilson@yahoo.com Plusizedbellydancersconvention.com

**Detroit's Largest Zumba Fitness Party!** 5:30 p.m. Join us for the 4th Detroit Zumba All Stars Fitness party! All ages and abilities are welcome. No dance or fitness experience necessary. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for shopping, health checks and fitness demonstrations Zumba party begins at

**Flint Institute of Arts** "The Party" Expect the unexpected in theme, food, diversity of entertainment and transformed environment welcoming the beginning of summer. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. June 14 - June 6. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

**Pewabic Pottery** "For The House & Garden: Garden Party" Annual Benefit Show & Sale. Multiple events. Pewabic Pottery, 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit. June 5 - June 7. 313-626-2000. Pewabic.org

**The Whiting** "Growing Up Artfully 2015" Tickets: \$100. Flint Cultural Center Campus, 1310 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 5:30 p.m. June 4. Thewhiting.com

### Comedy

**Sound Board** "Whitney Cummings" Tickets: \$27-45. Sound Board, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. June 4. 800-745-3000. Motorcitycasino.com

### Concerts

**Chene Park Amphitheater** "Jazzy Nights". Chene Park Amphitheater, 2600 Atwater, Detroit. May 6 - Aug. 12. 313-393-7128. Cheneparkdetroit.com

**The Ark** "Red Wanting Blue" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 9. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

See Happenings, page 72



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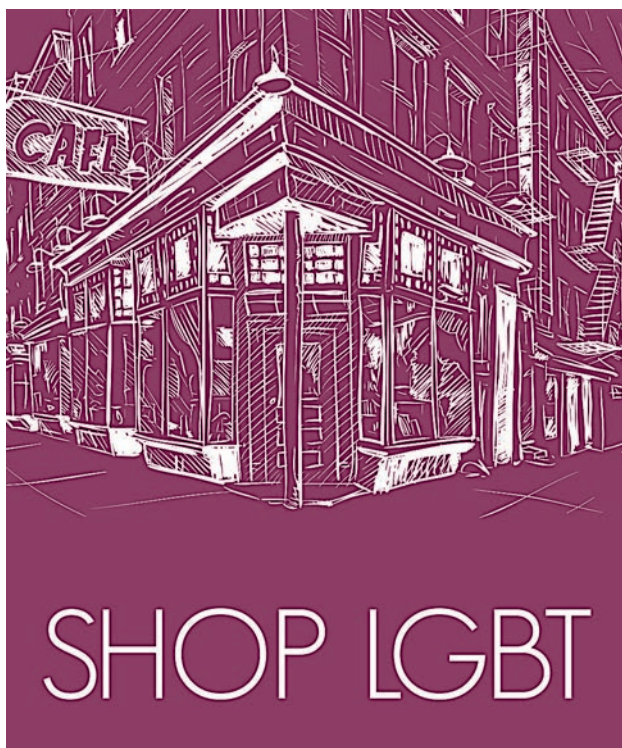
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## Puzzle solution on pg. 76

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## Editor's Pick

Pewabic Pottery in Detroit will host its 25th Annual "For the House & Garden Show" the first full weekend of June. The special event begins with a ticketed preview party fundraiser from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, June 4. The evening includes a preview of Pewabic's newest ceramics, live entertainment from Ben Sharkey, hors d'oeuvres and cocktails.

On Friday through Sunday, Pewabic opens its event to the public with activities for the whole family. Some features include ceramic work from

over 80 artists, free docent led tours, demonstrations by Pewabic artisans, drop-in workshops and a biergarten.

General admission tickets are \$75. Associate level members can purchase tickets for \$35. For more information, call 313-626-2002 or visit [www.pewabic.org](http://www.pewabic.org).

## ▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 70

**The Ark** "Jeff Austin Band featuring Danny Barnes, Ross Martin & Eric Thorin" Tickets: \$25. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 8. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

**The Ark** "Shari Kane & Dave Steele" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 4. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

**The Ark** "The Accidentals" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. June 7. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

**The Ark** "Antigone Rising" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 10. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

**The Ark** "Baskery" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 5. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

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

## Festivals

**99.5 WYCD, Olympia Entertainment and Live Nation** "Downtown Hoedown". Detroit RiverFront Conservancy, Detroit. June 5 - June 6. Olympiaentertainment.com

## Film & Video

**Cinetopia** "Cinetopia International Film Festival" Tickets: \$9-12. Various, Detroit and Ann Arbor. June 4 - June 14. 313-833-7900. Cinetopiafestival.org

## THEATER

**Best of Friends** Tickets: \$8-15. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Through June 7. 517-482-5700. Riverwalktheatre.com

**10 Naked Men** Playwright Ronnie Larsen's hit comedy about prostitution in Hollywood focuses on 10 individuals: three hustlers, two producers, two agents, one banker, a single photographer and a lone actor. And yes, they get naked. Tickets: \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through June 8. 248-545-5545. theeringwald.com

**A Lovely Sunday for Creve Coeur** A lovely summer comedy for all ages written by Tennessee Williams. Tickets: \$20-32. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through June 28. 248-347-0003. tippingpointtheatre.com

**Bad Jews** This dark comedy about family, faith and legacy is filled with hope, inspiration, wit and laughter. Tickets: \$41-48. The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company, in the DeRoy Theatre on the campus of the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Through June 14. 248-788-2900. jetttheatre.org

**Clybourne Park** A provocative play, both hilarious and appalling, that deals with race, real estate and the volatile state of each. Tickets: \$18-20 in advance; \$2 more at the door. Two Muses Theatre, Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. June 5 - June 21. 248-850-9919. twomusetheatre.org

**Dogfight** It's Nov. 21, 1963, and three young marines set out for one final night of debauchery in San Francisco on the eve of their deployment overseas. Tickets: \$32-34; recommended for ages 15 and above. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. June 5 - June 21. 269-343-2727. farmersalleytheatre.com

**Escanaba in da Moonlight** Just when you thought it was safe to go back in the woods, this Michigan classic returns to the Barn! Tickets: \$37. Barn Theatre, 13351 West M-96, Augusta. June 2 - June 7. 269-731-4121. <http://barntheatreschool.org>

**Hamlet** Slipstream takes its first leap into "immersive theater" with this all-female version of Shakespeare's classic. Tickets: \$10 in advance only. Slipstream Theatre Initiative, Slipstream Summer Home, 20937 John R., Hazel Park. Through June 7. slipstreamti.com

**If You Give a Mouse a Cookie** A delightful family production exploring the delicious chain reaction set in motion when a little boy offers a cookie to a visiting mouse. Tickets: \$19. City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 6 - June 7. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

**Improv Mondays** At 8 p.m. the show kicks off with a guest improv troupe, followed by a performance by Planet Ant's resident Home Team. The night closes with The Ant Jam, an opportunity for anyone to improvise on the Planet Ant stage. Tickets: \$5 at the door. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Through June 29. 313-365-4948. planetant.com

**Invierno** A look at local California/Mexican history and the clash and fusion of many cultures before California became part of the United States. Tickets: \$12-20. The American Shakespeare Collective, Dart Auditorium on the campus of Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capital, Lansing. June 4 - June 7. tickets.americanshakespearecollective.com

[americanshakespearecollective.com](http://americanshakespearecollective.com)

**Kinky Boots** Charlie Price has reluctantly inherited his father's shoe factory, which is on the verge of bankruptcy. Trying to live up to his father's legacy and save his family business, Charlie finds inspiration in the form of Lola, a fabulous entertainer in need of some sturdy stilettos. Tickets: \$32. 50 and up. Broadway in Grand Rapids, DeVos Performance Hall, 303 Monroe Ave. NW, Grand Rapids. June 2 - June 7. 1-800-745-3000. [broadwaygrandrapids.com](http://broadwaygrandrapids.com)

**Kolobok** A Russian folktale about the adventures of a little butterball named Kolobok, who was baked by an elderly childless couple. Tickets: \$5-10. PuppetART, Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. June 6 - June 27. 313-961-7777. puppetart.org

**Outside Mullingar** A delightful new work about how it's never too late to take a chance on love. Tickets: \$15-35. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. Through June 21. 517-655-SHOW. williamstontheatre.com

**South Pacific** From the hauntingly beautiful first three notes of "Bali Hai" to the romance of "Some Enchanted Evening," it's no surprise that this Rodgers & Hammerstein favorite is one of the greatest Broadway musicals of all time. Tickets: \$28-32. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. June 4 - July 3. 734-268-6200. theencoretheatre.org

**The Bikinis, A New Musical Beach Party** In 1964, four friends formed a band and won their local talent contest on the Jersey Shore. Now, 35 years later, the girls are back together one more time. Tickets: \$26-41. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. Through June 21. 248-377-3300. mbtheatre.com

**White Ash Falling 9/11** Three actors prepare for an off-Broadway production about the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Tickets: \$17-20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through June 28. 313-868-1347. detroitreptheatre.com

## ART 'N' AROUND

**Detroit Historical Museum** "Fruehauf, the First Name in Transportation" Surviving grandchildren, Ruth Fruehauf and Rick Neumann, will also be available to sign a 100th anniversary historical poster, answer questions about their grandfathers and tour the exhibition with visitors. Detroit Historical Museum, 5401 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 2 p.m. June 7.

**Flint Institute of Arts** "Beauty, Passion and Bliss: 19th Century Masterworks". Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. May 17 - Aug. 16. 810-234-1695.

Flintarts.org

**MOCAD** "Detroit City: Detroit Affinities" Detroit: Affinities, Speaks and Stages. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sep. 12 - Aug. 2. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

**MOCAD** "The Obama Paintings and the Lincoln Monument". Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. May 15 - Aug. 2. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

**River's Edge Gallery** "Dream(Face)Land" Bill Morrison, Corey Scillian, Edgar Sterling Wise, Jerome Ferretti, Kyra Wojcik, Mark Julians, Mary Y. Trusel, Niagara, Patricia Izzo, Steve Glazer, Tony Roko. River's Edge Gallery, 3024 Biddle, Wyandotte. May 15 - June 12. Artattheedge.com

**Riverside Arts Center Gallery** "Light, Bronze and Pigment". Riverside Arts Center, 76 North Huron Street, Ypsilanti. June 4 - June 27. 734-483-7345. Riversidearts.org

**robert kidd gallery** "Kikuo Saito". robert kidd gallery, 107 Townsend St., Birmingham. May 29 - July 1. 248-642-3909. Robertkiddgallery.com

**Tangent Gallery** "INK. Detroit" Sponsored by Eternal Tattoos, Sailor Jerry Spiced Rum, Atelier Gothique Fine Jewelry, Sassmouth Ink, Tattoo Nouveau, Lady Luck Tattoo, Ink Addict, Ink Detroit, Green Man Tattoo and Skin Time. INK is very pleased to be partnered with Burners Without Borders Detroit, to help this city's unfortunate homeless citizens. Canned goods will be collected at the door. 18+. Tangent Gallery/Hastings Street Ballroom, 715 East Milwaukee St., Detroit. June 5 - June 6. 248-797-0757. Facebook.com/INKArtShowDetroit

**The Scarab Club** "2015 Blooms, Bugs, Beasts Exhibition". The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. May 20 - June 27. 313-831-1250. Scarabclub.org

**UMMA** "In Focus: Lynn Davis, Iceberg". University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. May 1 - July 19. 734-763-4186. Umma. umich.edu

**UMMA** "Mine More Coal: War Effort and Americanism in World War I Posters". University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. May 9 - Sep. 20. 734-763-4186. Umma. umich.edu

**UMMA** "Sophie Calle: North Pole". University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. May 2 - Aug. 9. 734-763-4186. Umma. umich.edu

**UMMA** "Hana Hamplova: Meditations on Paper". University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Feb. 21 - Aug. 9. 734-763-4186. Umma. umich.edu

**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** "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 - July 19. 734-763-4186. Umma. umich.edu

**University of Michigan, Inst. for Research on Women and Gender** "Re-imagining 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. Lane Hall, 204 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Jan. 15 - June 26. 734-764-9537. [irwg.research.umich.edu/events/exhibitions.html](http://irwg.research.umich.edu/events/exhibitions.html)



# 'The Bikinis': Been There, Done That (Got The T-Shirt At The Boardwalk)

BY JOHN QUINN

So what do we know about "The Bikinis, a new musical beach party!" other than its title is in need of judicious editing? If we know it's in production at Meadow Brook Theatre, then we can rest assured that Ray Roderick and James Hindman's K-Tel-like compilation of pop music hits has potential. Blasts from the past sell well at Meadow Brook.

The market forces are compelling. Nostalgia draws age groups to the art of their childhood, wherein one finds that familiarly breeds comfort, not contempt. There are still a lot of baby boomers around – there was an unprecedented number to begin with. Therefore, there is a big demand for the so-called "jukebox musical," revues that feature the music of a specific era, wrapping a plot so lacking in complexity that its development subtracts as little time as possible that could be devoted to music. It's a crowded field. Can "The Bikinis, a new musical beach party!" avoid drowning in a rising tide?

The plot won't float your boat; it's full of holes. In short, the summer of '64 finds four young vacationers (Bambi Jones, Jeanne Tinker, Stephanie Wahl and Stacy White) thrust into the local "talent" show wearing only the famous swimwear that inspired the name of the one-hit-wonder girl group. After 35 years, these friends are back together, headlining a show to raise funds to keep real-estate developers from getting the trailer park. Over time, they've grown apart. If their bods are no longer bikini ready, do they cherish friendship enough to iron out the wrinkles?

Part of "The Bikinis" buoyancy is the source material itself. I cannot objectively address how good the music of my youth was; I've been an addict since my first twist of an AM radio dial. But when all is said and done, "The Bikinis" is a Meadow Brook Theatre production and meets all the expectations that that entails.

Director Travis W. Walter is pretty much a master of the genre and has probably reached the point of blocking scenes in his sleep. He's assembled a solidly talented group of singers, dancers and actors. This triple-threat quartet, aided and abetted by musical director Zachary Ryan and his combo, render the vocals with a predictable polish. All that, understand, while performing precision-drill choreography by Tyrick Wiltez Jones.

Terry Carpenter is the stage manager but you'd have to be reminded of the fact because



## INFO

### The Bikinis

Meadow Brook Theatre  
207 Wilson Hall, Oakland University in Rochester  
May 25-June 21  
www.mbtheatre.com

an audience never notices a stage manager unless something goes wrong. Meadow Brook stage managers don't let things go wrong. "The Bikinis" employs set design by Kristen Gribbin, costume design by Corey T. Globke, lighting design by Matthew J. Fick and sound design by Mike Duncan. The four define a Meadow Brook approach to technical theater: solid, simple, attractive designs that complement the director's vision and attract without obtruding.

So what sets "The Bikinis, a new musical beach party!" ahead of other jukebox musicals? Nothing. We could be out for a night of the theater watching "Beehive—The 60's Musical," a show that revives hits from roughly the same decades as "The Bikinis."

Where am I going with this? I don't know. Is predictability an evil? Not when a reputation for quality is keeping 'em lined up at the box office. Is accepting a challenge the responsible thing to do? I can only ask the questions and let those with more experience find some answers for me.

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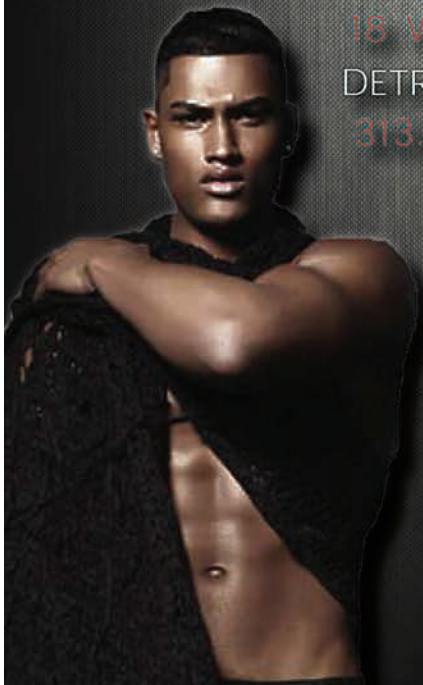


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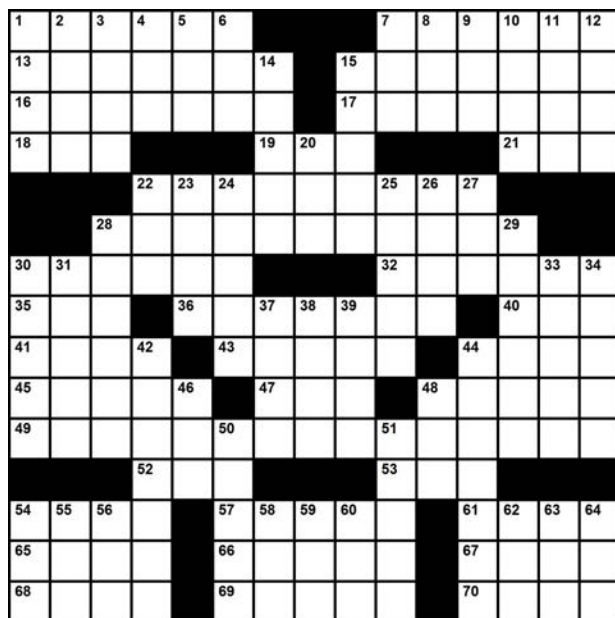
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# Q Puzzle

## In His Own Words



### Across

1 Start of a quote from "The Harvey Milk Interviews: In His Own Words"  
 7 More of the quote  
 13 As a bottom limit  
 15 Green fruit  
 16 Open, to Billie Jean

17 Working stiff  
 18 Before, to poets  
 19 Solidly behind  
 21 Palm Pilot, e.g.  
 22 "Romeo and Juliet," e.g.  
 28 More of the quote  
 30 Playful talk  
 32 It may be under the tongue

35 Ref for Woolf  
 36 Thought originators  
 40 Shakespearean prince  
 41 Editor's word  
 43 Opera highlights  
 44 "Cunt" author Muscio  
 45 When actors should come  
 47 More of the quote  
 48 Poet Dickinson  
 49 More of the quote  
 52 Get a load of  
 53 Queen of the hill  
 54 Walk like you're fagged out  
 57 Best example  
 61 "I Shot \_\_\_ Warhol"  
 65 Elton John Broadway musical  
 66 Bottled spirits  
 67 Digs of "Rent"  
 68 Disney duck nephew  
 69 End of the quote  
 70 Herbert's "Fortune and Men's \_\_\_"

### Down

1 Log Cabin pundits do this to candidates  
 2 "Take \_\_\_ leave it!"  
 3 Stick together  
 4 Ship, to seamen  
 5 Provincetown souvenir  
 6 U-turn from NNW  
 7 Gardner of "Show Boat"  
 8 "Chicago" director Marshall  
 9 Logical beginning  
 10 Get bent  
 11 Pigged out (on)  
 12 "Brothers & Sisters" mother  
 14 Laid-back sort  
 15 Over one's head  
 20 Siegfried's partner  
 22 Stuff for a blow job?  
 23 Mapa of "Switched at Birth"  
 24 What the Greeks plucked  
 25 Moves with a hum  
 26 Chaplin widow  
 27 Sink-trap shape  
 28 Next up, in Dave Pallone's sport  
 29 Like some cuisine  
 30 It's a bust  
 31 Prudential rival  
 33 Name of many a gay bar  
 34 "Three Tall Women," and more  
 37 Horror writer Michael  
 38 Precollege ed  
 39 Churlish chap  
 42 Mardi Gras, e.g.  
 44 Flatter, perhaps  
 46 Summer for Colette  
 48 Awfully long time  
 50 Part of a Seven Dwarfs' song title  
 51 Bona fide  
 54 "Poppycock!"  
 55 Lucy of "Charlie's Angels"  
 56 It may be Sapphic  
 58 Report card blemish  
 59 "Bambi" doe  
 60 Earhart's milieu  
 62 Nureyev's nyet  
 63 Change color  
 64 "Let's do it!"

Solution on pg. 72



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### 308 EMPLOYMENT - COMMUNITY SERVICES

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Affirmations, the community center for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBTQ) people and their allies, seeks a Director of Marketing and Communications. Serving as a member of the center's Senior Management Team, the Director of Marketing and Communications will oversee the ideation, planning, coordination and execution of all marketing, communications and public relations activities for Affirmations. For more information, visit [www.GoAffirmations.org/domc](http://www.GoAffirmations.org/domc)

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Contact Dave at [massage4@aol.com](mailto:massage4@aol.com)  
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