

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993

**New National HIV/AIDS Strategy Released**

**Agema's Sex Education Folly**

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# TWO OF A KIND

How A Complementing Pair Of Artists, Partners Are Curating Their Own Community



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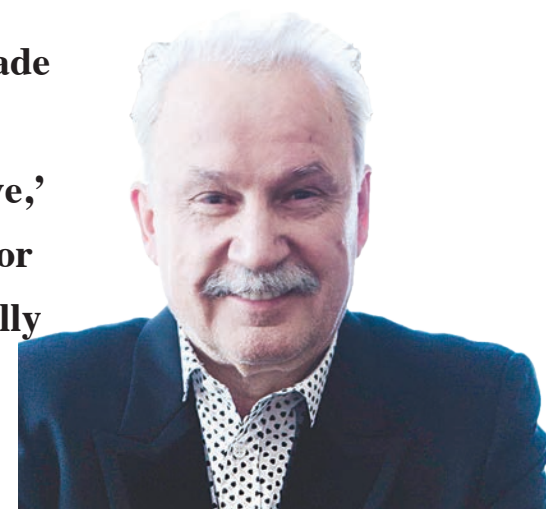
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“Everyone was saying that the gay community made that song (‘Love to Love You’) a hit. Now, I hear other people, especially with the song ‘I Feel Love,’ (saying) that it became a little bit of an anthem for the gay community. But, at the time, I didn’t really realize it.”

– Disco Pioneer  
Giorgio Moroder  
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### COMING NEXT WEEK!



**BTL Celebrates Marriage Equality With The DeBoer-Rowse Couple As They Get Ready To Marry Aug. 22**

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# Creep of the Week

## Priests for Life

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

**W**arning! A three-headed beast is on the loose, and it's coming for the children. Specifically the unborn.

I know what you're thinking: "Nice try, but monsters aren't real." Ah, don't be so quick to dismiss, because as a homo, you're part of the problem says anti-abortion group Priests for Life.

Note: Priests for Life is not to be confused with defunct pop group Priests 4 Lyfe, who did Catholic-themed covers of boyband songs at local Knights of Columbus Halls (See: "God Wants It His Way" in the style of the Backstreet Boys, "Glad You Came To Confession" in the style of The Wanted, and "I'll Make Love to You (But Not in the Jesus Hole)" in the style of Boyz II Men).

But back to this monster business. PFL recently posted the following warning on their website: "Friends, we are faced with a 3 headed monster that resists the Word of the Lord – 'Be fruitful and multiply' (procreate)!" above an image of a three-headed dog monster, each dog representing a different way "procreation" is "under attack."

The first is "Sexual Perversion," which includes homosexuality, fornication, adultery, incest, human trafficking, pornography and what is deemed "other hidden practices," which apparently stands in for sex stuff so crazy they didn't know what to call it.

Obviously we know that homosexuality does not belong on PFL's long list of sinful "practices," as two women in love is not the same thing as, say, selling two women into sex slavery, and two men having consensual sex with each other is not the same as an uncle raping his nephew. Unfortunately, PFL hasn't gotten that memo. Their main focus is babymaking, and any sexy-time stuff, including heterosexuals having consensual sex for fun, is equally terrible to them. Which means that they can't possibly be taken seriously.

**I've long said that right-wing religious groups who seemed to focus on just the gays actually had their sights on being the boss of all sex, heterosexual, too.**

The next monster head is labeled, "Abortion and Unnatural Contraception: No babies born, women maimed, babies slaughtered." Note that they're not only against abortion, they're also against birth control. PFL believes every sperm is a

potential baby jerked out into the world and every unfertilized egg is wasted. I've long said that right-wing religious groups who seemed to focus on just the gays actually had their sights on being the boss of all sex, heterosexual, too. Unfortunately, straight folks, even the ones sympathetic to LGBT people, either didn't notice or didn't believe it. And now being anti-contraception is a Real Thing in American politics. The crazies are out of the closet. Now that they've lost the marriage battle, it's full speed ahead to Total Uterus Control.

The last monster head is "Racism: No mating with 'inferior' humans who are not my 'color.'" This one confuses me a bit. PFL is an African-American outreach organization headed by Martin Luther King Jr.'s niece, Alveda King (though her views and her uncle's views are wildly different). Racism is definitely a huge problem in America, but there are no longer laws against interracial marriage, even if there are terrible people who are against the races "mixing."

It also appears PFL stole their monster image from the Internet. I found the same image on a Tomb Raider message board, a fitness center site and a debate forum posing the pressing question, "Who is scarier: Medusa (Gorgon with snakes for hair) or Cerberus (the three-headed dog)?" Chances are good that all of these sites stole the image from somewhere, evidence that such practices are widespread.

But I am especially disappointed in Priests for Life. What kind of organization sounds the alarm about a baby-stealing monster without even trying to get a photograph of the beast? That's just plain irresponsible.

# Feds Release Updated National HIV/AIDS Strategy

BY TODD HEYWOOD

The federal government announced last week that it will push for universal access to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) as well as full viral suppression of all persons living with HIV by 2020.

Health officials in Michigan said they are scaling up programming to match the new national goals. They also announced a new online directory of Michigan health care providers who are willing to prescribe PrEP.

The state announcement came in conjunction with the release of the updated National HIV/AIDS Strategy. The strategy was first published and released by the White House in 2010. That strategy laid out goals to 2015. The new strategy lays out plans to address the epidemic until 2020, well into the next presidential term.

Viral suppression, commonly referred to as undetectable viral loads, are a measure of the activity of antiretroviral medication. When a person living with HIV is on successful treatment, the viral load is less than 28 viral particles per milliliter of blood. That in turn, scientists have found, reduces the risk of transmission of the virus significantly. Studies have found no cases of transmission of HIV from

**“To achieve viral load suppression and improved health outcomes, Michigan is focusing on strategies to support people with HIV at each stage of the treatment cascade from diagnosis to viral suppression; build HIV Care Networks in underserved communities; and integrate HIV care expertise into the mainstream health care system.”**

- Jennifer Smith, a spokesperson for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

suppressed persons living with HIV to their HIV-negative sex partners.

"To achieve viral load suppression and improved health outcomes, Michigan is focusing on strategies to support people with HIV at each stage of the treatment cascade from diagnosis to viral suppression; build HIV Care Networks in underserved communities; and integrate HIV care expertise into the mainstream health care system," said Jennifer Smith, a spokesperson for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

In 2013, the most recent year available, MDHHS reported that viral suppression goals across the state had been surpassed in three target

categories: Latinos living with HIV, African-Americans living with HIV and men who have sex with men living with HIV.

According to state reports, of 5,604 African-Americans living with HIV, 64 percent had received a viral load test in the previous year, and 4,185 of the 5,604 (75 percent) were virally suppressed. In 2013, there were 832 Latinos living with HIV, and of those, 451 (54 percent) received a viral load test in the previous year and 337 of the 451 (84 percent) were virally suppressed. That same year, 8,950 men who have sex with men were living with the virus, and of those, 5,822 (65 percent) received a viral

See HIV Strategy, page 7

# Michigan's Cost In Defending Marriage Ban

BY TODD HEYWOOD

If the legal team that represented April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse prevails, the state of Michigan will be on the line to pay them nearly \$2 million in fees. The legal team filed a motion in federal court seeking \$1,927,450 in fees.

Federal law allows the prevailing party to receive payment from the losing party in lawsuits such as the marriage case.

The request for legal fees only pertains to the six attorneys – Carole Stanyar, Dana Nessel, Kenneth Mogill, Robert Sedler, Mary Bonauto and Vickie Henry – who represented DeBoer and Rowse. But the court filing notes that, in total, eight attorneys, seven law clerks and multiple paralegals helped during the case, The Free Press reported.

"Extensive attorney hours were expended, both before and after the complaint was filed in this case, due

**“Since taking office, Schuette has received at least \$68,000 in campaign contributions from the Warner Norcross & Judd PAC, while the law firm has received about \$728,000 worth of state contracts.”**

- Progress Michigan

to its novel character," the lawyers wrote, "...The questions presented were unquestionably novel, complex and difficult. This was the first trial in history challenging the Michigan Marriage Amendment, and Michigan's statutory marriage and second-parent adoption bans. It

was only the third trial in U.S. history challenging a marriage preclusion for same-sex couples."

Mickey Hirten at City Pulse in Lansing reported the state of Michigan agreed to pay former solicitor general John Bursch up to \$75,000 for his representation of the state before the U.S. Supreme Court. Bursch works for the law firm Warner Norcross & Judd LLP in Grand Rapids. He has been with the firm since leaving the Attorney General's office in December 2013.

The law firm has had a generous relationship with the office of Attorney General Bill Schuette.

"Since taking office, Schuette has received at least \$68,000 in campaign contributions from the Warner Norcross & Judd PAC, while the law firm has received about \$728,000 worth of state contracts," said a recent report from Progress Michigan which has been tracking the relationship.



# Agema's Sex Education Folly

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Former Michigan State Representative and GOP National Committeeman Dave Agema wants the national governing body to approve a resolution calling for "truth in sex education." The resolution would require schools that teach about LGBT people in sex health classes to include "the negative health consequences of that lifestyle."

The Washington Blade broke the story this past weekend.

Agema, true to form, has followed up on that reporting with a post on Facebook.

"I got a call from the Washington Blade (an LGBT rag) a couple days ago and they once again twist words for their agenda," Agema wrote on his politician page. "THEY'RE UPSET. I am placing a resolution at the RNC meeting this week that simply states that if you are going to teach homosexuality in sex-ed at schools, then please teach the negative physical aspects of the lifestyle so our kids know the facts and health hazards. I called it a 'Resolution For Balanced Sex-Ed In Schools.' Apparently, they don't want the factual studies of the CDC, JAIDS, Oxford University etc. concerning the harmful effects of the lifestyle to their health to be taught. This is about equipping our kids with the necessary information that they need in order to make informed decisions concerning their health and behavior. 13-24 year olds are one of the faster growing groups getting HIV and other STD's according to the CDC. Shouldn't they know? Apparently not! One again, (sic) political correctness is rearing its ugly head!"

What Agema doesn't say is that the increased health burden on the LGBT community is the direct result of political actions he has long been associated with – anti-gay policies and abstinence only sex education.

"Homophobia, stigma and discrimination may place gay men at risk for multiple physical and mental health problems and affect whether they seek and are able to obtain high-quality health services," the CDC states in a report on men who have sex with men and HIV.

The American Psychological Association also raised concerns about homophobia as a barrier.

"Despite clear evidence for the social determinants of HIV transmission and the beneficial effects of structural interventions (Adimora & Auerbach, 2010), there have been limited efforts targeting these social inequalities, which place gay and bisexual men at greater risk for the acquisition of HIV disease," wrote Perry Halkitis in an online essay for the group. "Such health vulnerabilities driven by homophobia are often exacerbated for gay and bisexual men of color,



Former Michigan State Representative and GOP National Committeeman Dave Agema wants the national governing body to approve a resolution calling for "truth in sex education." The resolution would require schools that teach about LGBT people in sex health classes to include "the negative health consequences of that lifestyle."

who are often further burdened by the social circumstances of racism and poverty. Since discrimination based on sexual identity is critical to the ideas being put forth, and since the HIV prevention needs of gay and bisexual men differ widely from those of non-gay or bisexual MSM (Halkitis, 2010b), the focus of this issue of the newsletter is on gay and bisexual men, and not MSM in general."

During his time in the legislature, Agema proposed eliminating the Healthy Michigan Fund. That fund is the only matching fund mechanism for federal HIV prevention and care dollars. He wanted to transfer the fund balance into airport maintenance.

He is also a huge supporter of abstinence only sex education. Key messaging of this brand of sex education – which has been shown over and over again not to work in reducing unintended pregnancies or STIs in teenagers – tells teens they should remain abstinent from sex until married. For many LGBT youth in Michigan, however, marriage was not an option until June. It is yet to be seen what impact the Supreme Court ruling will have on abstinence only sex education, and whether or not it will be expanded to include same-sex marriage.

In short, Agema wants to point to the symptoms of systematic anti-gay social policies, without acknowledging that his actions and advocacy – and history as a lawmaker – have created the situation he wants to warn people about.

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# COVER STORY Two Of A Kind: Bree Gant And Blair Watts

## Artists Use RockCity Lookbook To Curate Their Own Rules



Bree Gant And Blair Watts

### BY ED ENGLISH

Artists and partners Bree Gant and Blair Watts are aliens in their own right.

“And then you forget that you are an alien,” explains Gant, 26, “Because now you have so many ways to reach out and connect with like-minded individuals. But then you’re in your daily life and somebody says something about the gays or the blacks or whatever is trending at the moment, and you’re like what? Is this 1915 or 2015?”

Never feeling they belong to any particular community, LGBT or otherwise — “No,” they say in tandem — Gant, a photographer of seven years, and Watts, a stylist, have worked to craft their own community with the forming of their joint creative brand RockCity Lookbook, an artist

collaborative producing editorial photography and “anything else that aids in brand awareness and community engagement for working artists.”

Beyond the producing of art, the brand’s true masterpiece, says Watts, lies in its mission to transcend focus on race, gender and sexual orientation and to give a voice to those who feel they are unheard.

“I feel like when you don’t aspire to mainstream, you don’t have another option to veer off,” says Watts, 26. RockCity Lookbook is meant to be that other option.

“At the very least, you get to discover some new boxes to go to. And then you learn there are different boxes, and I can break down this box (or stereotype) and step out of it. It’s not about egos here,” she explains. “I don’t give a fuck about what you do. I just want you to care about who you are and let’s be able to work together. That’s it.”

By stressing their own personal identities and narratives, they try to encourage others to do the same in their chosen medium, says Gant.

“We want to be able to identify ourselves as opposed to having our identity shoved down our throats,” she explains. “And I think that is another thing that’s common to being both black and queer is that your identity is already superimposed on you. Whatever you identify as doesn’t matter because there are so many images of black people in the media. So many images of queer people in the media, that’s who you are.”

“RockCity is like, ‘Oh no. Wait. Wait. This is me, here.’”

They hope to build a community that stresses the individual over generalization, where people, gay or straight, may exist without needing to

“And I think that is another thing that’s common to being both black and queer is that your identity is already superimposed on you. Whatever you identify as doesn’t matter because there are so many images of black people in the media. So many images of queer people in the media, that’s who you are.”

– Bree Gant

be defined as gay or straight. And when it comes to rejecting notions of who they — two gay, black women — should be, the couple pulls no punches. As they assert, pride is something created in place of acceptance.

“Pride itself. I don’t really get it,” says Watts. “It doesn’t really impress me.”

Gant chimes in, “I get it, but I am also a skeptic.”

She explains: “I think it’s a watered down concept. Instead of pride it should be more about acceptance. You can be prideful and still not accept yourself. And I feel like that’s why a lot of people are there. You yell about it here in the streets, but you still aren’t accepting yourself,” adding, “It shouldn’t just be, ‘I get to be who I am on this day on this week.’”

While they both agree that love always wins in regards to the Supreme Court’s decision on same-sex marriage, Gant says she feels having a movement against oppression has helped LGBT people realize other intersectional issues in the community.

“There is a lot more happening than being gay. There is a lot more happening than being gay and black,” she says. “We need to be focusing on everyone being equal. Equal, equality, I’m not fighting to be equal to you because we already are.”

The duo explains, in creating RockCity Lookbook, they are not looking to glamorize feeling different, but acknowledge people’s struggles.

“I see struggle. It’s the purest piece of who people are,” explains Watts. “The way that we want to express ourselves and from the shit we always go through, we want to have a good time and want to be surrounded by people who are like-

minded. That’s our paradise.”

Watts and Gant met at Cass Technical High School in Detroit. “A mutual friend introduced us during lunch hour. I was skipping to meet them,” says Watts. After they both left Detroit to attend college, they came back for different reasons.

“I came back because I didn’t feel like I had all the answers to venture out,” explains Watts. “I needed to come back to address some stuff.”

Gant’s reason was a little more practical. “I came back because I was broke,” she says with a laugh. “I stayed because I fell in love with the city.”

And from their mutual love of the city, and each other, they both found purpose in sharing their stories and unique voices while encouraging others to do so in Detroit.

“For the same reason I want to hide, it’s a lot of fucking work being out there. And people just assume things about you and never allow you to be who you are, just slide you off to the side immediately,” says Gant. “I have to fight to live in my everyday life and it shouldn’t be that way. But every time I want to crawl in a hole, I’m like, ‘There’s other people out here.’ Somebody will send a message saying thank you for doing what you do. (They’d) never seen anything else like this before, didn’t know where to find it, but now they have hope.” And it is these people that inspire them to continue being creators.

“For me it’s like planting seeds,” says Watts. “I want to specifically plant seeds to let people know that we are here. Do it. Do it. Do it. So I can multiply this thing so I can get comfortable. So we can all feel comfortable in Detroit.”



# 'Same-Sex-Attracted' Catholic Group Falls Far Short Of Welcome, Fortunate Families Detroit Says

## Aug. 11 Protest Against Archdiocese of Detroit

BY BTL STAFF

**PLYMOUTH**—Fortunate Families Detroit, a group of Roman Catholic parents and allies of LGBTQ people, will hold a Prayer Walk from 7:30-9 a.m. on Aug. 11 at the Inn at St. John's, 44045 Five Mile Road, Plymouth in protest of an event sponsored by the Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit.

The event at St. John's, "Welcoming and Accompanying Our Brothers and Sisters with Same-Sex Attractions," will make clear the church's position that sexual relationships between LGBT persons cannot be considered to be morally acceptable.

The conference is part of the Courage apostolate, the only Church-sanctioned ministry to LGBT Catholics. Courage prescribes chastity for gay Catholics, whom they call "same-sex attracted," as the only permissible way to live in harmony with church teaching.

"Contrary to its title, the conference is neither welcoming nor willing to accompany LGBT Catholics and families on their faith journeys," said Fortunate Families Detroit leader Linda Karle-Nelson. "Let me be clear. While we honor and admire all of those who freely choose chastity as well as celibacy as a spiritual path, our own experiences and consciences teach us that our lesbian, gay, transgender and questioning children are gifts from God – in their total beings. Their sexual orientation, gender identities and loving relationships are emphatically not 'objectively

disordered' as the 'Catechism of the Catholic Church' holds. Fortunate Families believes that such an idea reflects an extremely limited and unhealthy understanding of human sexuality and of the divine presence in the lives and faithful relationships of LGBTQ persons."

In an FAQ on its website, Courage says: "Acceptance of another human being does not necessarily mean that we will agree with all his/her decisions and life-style choices, and sometimes love requires us to make our disagreement known. For example, if two same-sex attracted people are having a 'wedding/commitment' ceremony, a practicing Catholic cannot in good conscience attend that ceremony."

Fortunate Families Detroit also finds hurtful Courage's insistence in calling gay, lesbian and bisexual people "same-sex attracted"—a distancing label that does not allow a minority group to claim its own name. Fortunate Families Detroit will respectfully ask Archbishop Allen Vigneron, Father Paul Check, Father John Riccardo and other speakers at the conference to meet with Fortunate Families Detroit to hear LGBTQ stories.

*Fortunate Families Detroit is made up of parents, allies and LGBTQ Catholics in Metro Detroit who work and pray for change within the Catholic church. Visit the website for more information at [www.fortunatelifesdetroit.com](http://www.fortunatelifesdetroit.com).*

### ► HIV Strategy

Continued from p. 4

load test and 4,780 of the 5,822 (82 percent) were virally suppressed.

PrEP is a relatively new prevention method. In this intervention, a person at high risk for HIV takes an anti-HIV drug originally developed to treat the virus. The drug, known by the brand name Truvada, is taken daily. Studies show the drug is at least 92 percent effective in preventing a person who is HIV negative from being infected. A National Institutes of Health model predicts daily use of the drug would result in a 99 percent reduction in risk of infection.

"We will scale up universal access to PrEP and PrEP adherence support services by addressing and mitigating barriers that are commonly seen as roadblocks to PrEP services. To that end, a PrEP provider directory

for the state of Michigan has been compiled and posted online at [www.michigan.gov/hivstd](http://www.michigan.gov/hivstd)," Smith said. "We are developing supplementary tools for other areas such as cost (Medicaid, Healthy Michigan and Gilead co-pay assistance tool kit) and adherence (readiness assessment to determine if PrEP is right for a given client). Another important component is training and education of key personnel such as HIV test counselors, disease intervention specialists, STD clinic staff and medical professionals. These populations will be reached through activities by MDHHS and its collaborations with educational entities such as the Midwest AIDS Training & Education Center."

The strategy also committed the federal government to focus on HIV in men who have sex with men, as well as transgender communities. Both have a higher incidence of HIV infection.



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# Aug. 6 Republican Presidential Debate Preview

BY LISA KEEN

Studies have shown that only about one-third of LGBT Americans vote Republican, but there's realistic chance a Republican will win the White House in 2016, so LGBT people need to pay attention to who might take the GOP nomination.

The first debates among Republican presidential candidates hoping to win that nomination take place this week, including at 9 p.m. in Cleveland Thursday, Aug. 6, on Fox News. While pro-gay Republican groups have yet to take a stand behind any one candidate, individual gay Republicans and conservatives are beginning to sort the candidates into two basic categories: maybe supportable and definitely not.

For now, among the maybes, to varying degrees, are: Jeb Bush, Donald Trump, Scott Walker, Marco Rubio, Rand Paul, Ben Carson, Chris Christie, Carly Fiorina, John Kasich, Lindsey Graham, James Gilmore and George Pataki.

Among the definitely not are: Ted Cruz, Mike Huckabee, Rick Perry, Rick Santorum and Bobby Jindal.

Mimi Planas, president of Log Cabin Republicans of Miami, said she hasn't decided who to back yet but considers Rubio, Fiorina and Paul among her "top three."

Jimmy LaSalvia, who founded the now defunct GOProud organization, dings Fiorina, noting that she chaired the American Conservative Union Foundation, part of the organization, American Conservative Union, "that kicked out GOProud from the Conservative Political Action Conference

in 2011 because we were gay."

Donald Trump, on the other hand, accepted GOProud's invitation to speak at that 2011 CPAC conference, said LaSalvia, even as many conservatives attending the conference raised objections to GOProud's participation.

LaSalvia notes that Christie, Kasich and Pataki have all "demonstrated in the past a willingness to include LGBT voters in their outreach."

Log Cabin Republicans, the national gay Republican group, won't make an endorsement during the primaries, said its national executive director, Gregory Angelo. But the candidates this time – with the exception of Cruz, Huckabee and Santorum – do not exhibit the same "strident opposition to LGBT equality that marked campaigns in the past," said Angelo.

"A number of the candidates are trying to thread the needle," he said, hoping to please both the evangelical base and the voters needed to win the New Hampshire primary and the general election.

"It's like the GOP strategy on LGBT issues is to confuse everybody."

With 17 announced candidates, the Republican field is already confusing to many people. Below is a quick look at each, with some highlights of their records or remarks on LGBT issues, and a ranking by their odds of winning the nomination as calculated by the research project PredictWise.com (as of Aug. 3):

## Jeb Bush

Current odds of winning the nomination:  
45 percent

Occupational experience: Former governor of Florida



Age: 62

Main asset:  
Father was president

Main liability:  
His brother was president

Response to Obergefell: Issued statement saying the Court should

have let states decide the issue, urging the country protect "religious freedom" and "not discriminate."

**LGBT Record:** Supported Florida constitutional amendment against same-sex marriage; penned a 1994 op-ed in Miami Herald saying "Homosexuality is wrong;" and wrote in a 1995 book that he opposed protections for LGBT people because, "We have enough special categories, enough victims, without creating even more." In a January 2015 article on BuzzFeed, Bush spokeswoman Kristy Campbell said: "Gov. Bush believes that our society should have a culture of respect for all people, regardless of their differences, and that begins with preventing discrimination, including when it comes to sexual orientation. This (1994) opinion editorial from 20 years ago does not reflect Gov. Bush's views now, nor would he use this terminology today."

## Scott Walker

Current odds of winning the nomination:  
16 percent

Occupational experience: Current governor of Wisconsin



Age: 47

Main asset:  
His wife, Tonette, who comes from a Democratic family, told the Washington Post she and Walker's sons had difficulty with Walker's position against same-sex marriage.

Main liability: No foreign policy experience

Response to Obergefell: Issued a statement, calling it a "grave mistake" and saying the "only alternative left" is to amend the U.S. Constitution to "reaffirm the ability of the states to continue to define marriage."

**LGBT Record:** Said he supported keeping the Boy Scout ban on gay leaders because it "protected children." He later tried to back off the comment, and deflected a question about whether sexual orientation is a choice by saying, "I'm going to work hard for every American." He supported the ban on same-sex marriage in Wisconsin and, as governor, tried to stop hospital visitation and domestic partner registries. Said he has attended the wedding reception of a gay family member.

## Marco Rubio

Current odds of winning the nomination:  
8 percent

Occupational experience: U.S. Senator from Florida (first term)



Age: 44

Main asset:  
He's a fresh face in Republican field

Main liability:  
"Imprudent" personal financial decisions

Response to Obergefell: Issued a

statement, saying the issue should be left to the people of each state and he would appoint judges who would apply the Constitution "as written and originally understood."

**LGBT Record:** Asked if he'd attend the wedding of a gay family member or staffer, he said: "If there's somebody in my life that I love and care for, of course I would. I'm not going to hurt them simply because I disagree with a choice they've made." But he said he does support the so-called "religious freedom" laws because he doesn't think business vendors should have to service "a specific event that violates the tenets of (their) faith." Earned a 22 (out of 100) on Human Right Campaign's Congressional Scorecard last session. Voted against ENDA in 2013.



## Donald Trump

Current odds of winning the nomination: 8 percent

Occupational experience: Real estate tycoon



Age: 69  
Main asset: Personal wealth he estimates at \$10 billion  
Main liability: Proposes unrealistic solutions

Response to Obergefell: Told CNN, "I don't say anything. I'm just for traditional marriage."

**LGBT Record:** Accepted GOProud's invitation to speak at CPAC conference in 2011. Eliminated a beauty pageant rule requiring contestants be "naturally born female." He said he has "many fabulous friends who happen to be gay," but thinks same-sex marriage is "weird" and doesn't support it. He accepted gay actor George Takei's invitation to lunch to discuss same-sex marriage and attended the wedding of a gay couple.

## Mike Huckabee

Current odds of winning the nomination: 4 percent

Occupational experience: Former governor of Arkansas



Age: 59  
Main asset: Folksy  
Main liability: Fondness for employing extreme metaphors to express a point

(Example: Peace plan with Iran equals marching Israelis "to the door of the oven.")

Response to Obergefell: Issued a statement saying he would "not acquiesce" to the Supreme Court, an over-the-top response that calls into question his willingness to abide by the U.S. Constitution generally.

**LGBT Record:** Says gays worked for his administration and he has "friends who are gay" but thinks gays are trying to shut down businesses of those who disagree with them, and initiated a "Chick-Fil-A Appreciation Day" to show support for the CEO's anti-same-sex marriage comments. Has said same-sex marriage will lead

to the "criminalization of Christianity." And, as governor, opposed gays as foster or adoptive parents.

## Chris Christie

Current odds of winning the nomination: 3 percent

Occupational experience: Current governor of New Jersey



Age: 52  
Main asset: Willing to ignore party lines when necessary  
Main liability: Perceived as vindictive

Response to Obergefell: At a press conference, said he doesn't agree with the decision and thinks the issue should have been left to "the people," but that he would "support the law of the land."

**LGBT Record:** Vetoes a marriage equality bill to allow same-sex couples to marry but then dropped an appeal challenging a court ruling that found the state's ban unconstitutional. Appointed an openly gay man to the state Supreme Court. Signed a law prohibiting conversion therapy. Said

he believes people are born gay and that he doesn't look at gays as sinners.

## Ted Cruz

Current odds of winning the nomination: 3 percent

Occupational experience: U.S. Senator from Texas (first term)



Age: 44  
Main asset: Of Cuban descent  
Main liability: Cruz alienated many of his GOP Senate peers in 2013 when he

filibustered to oppose any bill that would keep the government funded as a means of gutting the Affordable Care Act. As he did so, he derided many of these same peers as being soft on the ACA. And many of those peers are reluctant to help him out now.

Response to Obergefell: Staged a Senate subcommittee hearing to air grievances against the Supreme Court majority that struck down state bans on same-sex marriage and to urge that the justices be subject to

"retention elections."

**LGBT Record:** Led a brief supporting state bans on same-sex marriage in Obergefell case. Earned a 20 (on a scale of 100) from Human Rights Campaign for his Senate voting record on LGBT issues, including a vote against ENDA. Met with a small gay political gathering. Attempting to deflect questions about his positions on gay issues, he expressed concern for gays being executed by ISIS in Iraq and Syria. Praised legislation in some states that sought to allow businesses to refuse service to same-sex couples by claiming a religious objection.

## John Kasich

Current odds of winning the nomination: 3 percent

Occupational experience: Current governor of Ohio, former U.S. House Representative



Age: 63  
Main asset: Popular governor of a big swing state  
Main liability: Abrasive personality  
Response to Obergefell:

See Republican Debates, page 14

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## Five Thousand States Of No Return

# Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

**M**y favorite coming out story concerns a computer hacker – actually a brilliant graphic designer of science texts – named Dennis. We chanced to meet at Motor City Pride after many, many years. I knew him when he worked for Detroit’s legendary Gale Research in the 1970s.

When in his sackcloth-and-ashes 20s, Dennis studied for the Russian Orthodox priesthood. (Doctrinal attitude toward homosexuality same as Roman Catholic Church. Closeted. Ah-men. Wink. Wink.)

As a priesthood candidate Dennis soon found himself emotionally attracted to other men on the same spiritual path. And presumably because Dennis was handsome – still is, in a patriarchal, Charlton Heston way – one or two of his student brothers found in him a possible venue for a “special friendship.”

For that reason of frustrating same-sex distraction, Dennis decided a priest’s life was really not his cup of oolong tea. With or without a sidecar shot or two of Stolli vodka. (He left his religious studies without letting his right hand know what his left hand wasn’t doing – as far as gay sex practicum was concerned.)

If you can’t serve the Almighty, reasoned Dennis, do the next best thing. Join the State Department. It helped that Dennis was fluent in Russian and – though not married or possessed of an evenly remotely believable girlfriend – still virginal.

Seemingly a new career door was ajar. That is until Dennis was asked to take a lie detector test as a routine matter of application. “Have you ever had sexual relations with a man?” “No!” said Dennis, telling the gospel truth.

Alas, the recording marker waltzed all over the graph sheet. (In his case, it mazurka’d.) Virgin or not, he was now unwittingly out in both senses of the word.

“What the hell,” says Dennis. “I’d never been in bed with a living soul other than myself. And that was a little too regimented. So I decided right then and there that if my sexual orientation was authenticated for me by the State Department, it was high time I got some action. With or without a national security clearance.”

The failure of his lie detector test ended his hoped-for State Department career before it got off the ground. As far as rainbow history goes, our national State Department has not been welcoming to us. An understatement.

In 1953, President Dwight D. Eisenhower declared homosexuals a threat to national security as “sexual perverts,” vulnerable to blackmail by communist spies, and ordered the immediate firing of every gay man and lesbian working for the U.S. government.

Five thousand government workers, including private contractors, “fellow travelers,” were publicly exposed and sent packing. Over decades these numbers climbed to 50,000. (See 2012 film documentary, “Lavender Scare.”)

One of those casualties, Frank Kameny – the “grandfather” of the modern gay rights movement – was a Harvard-educated astronomer. During the Eisenhower witch hunt he was working for the Army Map Service on classified missile projects in the hopes of being an astronaut when he was fired.

Four years before the Stonewall riots in New York City, Kameny courageously led the first picket at the White House in 1965 to protest these government firings. He also petitioned the Supreme Court, which refused to hear his case.

Only in 1995 was that order rescinded by President Bill Clinton, who also instituted the controversial military policy, “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.” Congress voted to end State Department discrimination in 2011. Kameny died in that same year.

Charles@pridesource.com



## Transmission

# Would You Like To Take A Survey?

OPINION BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

**O**n Aug. 19, the National Center for Transgender Equality will launch a nation-wide survey on the lives of transgender people.

This is their second such survey, and is billing this as a follow-up to a previous survey they did in conjunction with the National LGBTQ Task Force. That survey was released in 2011 under the title “Injustice At Every Turn.”

The 2011 report has been an amazing tool for transgender activists – and while its findings were of little surprise, this was the first time we had a pretty comprehensive survey to back us up.

The report listed the following as its key findings:

Discrimination was pervasive, but the combination of anti-transgender bias and persistent, structural racism was especially devastating. People of color in general fared worse than white participants across the board, with African-American transgender respondents faring far worse than all others in most areas examined.

Their sample population – some 6,400 respondents – was nearly four times more likely to have a household income of less than \$10,000 a year compared to the general population.

Forty-one percent of respondents reported attempting suicide compared to 1.6 percent of the general population, with rates rising for those who lost a job due to bias (55 percent), were harassed/bullied in school (51 percent), had low household income or were the victim of physical assault (61 percent) or sexual assault (64 percent).

On Aug. 19, the National Center for Transgender Equality will launch a nation-wide survey on the lives of transgender people at [www.ustranssurvey.org](http://www.ustranssurvey.org).

The “41 percent” suicide statistic, I believe, has been reported more than any other in the report.

It is the numbers in these statistics that have been used to improve federal protections for transgender people, helping to push organizations like the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Health and Human Services to take action on behalf of transgender people.

For decades before that study, actual numbers relating to the transgender community were near impossible to find. Aside from the reluctance of transgender people to actually participate in such, there were not any major organizations willing to spearhead such an effort – and no one willing to front the money for any serious medical studies, to boot.

This is also one of the things that makes the previous and upcoming studies important: they’re by us, and for us, and about us. They’re not put through the lens of non-transgender society. We have our own agency.

As I mentioned, it’s not like anyone with any ties to the community could not have spoken to some of these

See Transmission, page 12





## Viewpoint

# 2015 HIV World Conference Report

BY DR. PAUL BENSON

The Eighth International AIDS Society (IAS) Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment & Prevention convened in Vancouver, Canada July 19-22. Throughout the corridors the excitement of delegates became obvious after hearing the many presentations describing recent progress in HIV treatment and prevention. Included was the most up to date information on vaccines, new therapies, approaches, co-infections, eradication and even a cure therapy for HIV.

In 1996 at this very same IAS conference in Vancouver, there were also presentations that became game changers in the war against HIV. That 1996 conference introduced a new treatment, the Highly Active Antiviral Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors, now the standard of care commonly referred to as HAART, that transformed HIV into a chronic and manageable disease.

Last year at the World AIDS Conference in Australia, the World Health Organization introduced their 90-90-90 plan to eradicate HIV by the year 2030. That plan calls for 90 percent of the world's population of HIV positive individuals to be identified by testing, 90 percent of the HIV positive individuals to be on treatment for HIV, and that 90 percent of the known HIV positive individuals on treatment be undetected in their viral loads. Follow-up information of the 90-90-90 plan presented at this year's conference recognized that its successes so far are more than wishful thinking. Many countries around the world have made significant progress and are ahead of schedule in meeting their goal.

The WHO gave conference delegates a sneak preview into their change of treatment recommendations policy expected to be released this December. It calls for all HIV positive individuals to start therapy irrespective of what their CD4 counts are. This is a new strategy, although some countries are already adopting this. Money does make a difference and the WHO will work with countries lacking the financial resources to get this new treatment paradigm paid for.

Not only will this improve living with HIV, but it will also reduce transmission globally. Within any community, for every 1 percent increase in starting positive individuals on HIV treatment, there is a 1.7 percent decline in HIV acquisition. The results of the START and TEMPRANO trials support the WHO's new "soon to be" policy. These studies demonstrated that persons started on HIV therapy earlier rather than later, and with higher CD4 counts, have less HIV associated

New HIV prevention studies (HPTN067 & IPERGAY) were presented furthering our knowledge about using the HIV drug Truvada for prevention (commonly referred to as PrEP). This therapy is intended for HIV negative high risk individuals to prevent transmission of HIV. These studies demonstrate that using Truvada provides additional protection to condoms alone in preventing HIV.

and non-HIV associated serious events, including a reduced mortality rate.

New HIV prevention studies (HPTN067 & IPERGAY) were presented furthering our knowledge about using the HIV drug Truvada for prevention (commonly referred to as PrEP). This therapy is intended for HIV negative high risk individuals to prevent transmission of HIV. These studies demonstrate that using Truvada provides additional protection to condoms alone in preventing HIV. The IPERGAY study demonstrated 86 percent effectiveness in that Truvada can be effective taken less than once a day. Currently, Truvada is approved only for once daily use.

Both studies demonstrated that intermittent or on-demand use of Truvada is associated with less adherence compared to daily use, which may lead to a decreased benefit. PrEP's effectiveness varies, especially among women. These findings reinforce the fact that Truvada is an excellent choice for many people to consider. It needs to be used with the most up to date advice. PrEP adherence and mode of delivery remain key concerns. New agents are being tested for prevention that includes injectable therapies that are administered quarterly. This should significantly reduce adherence issues.

The efficiency of the injectable drug, when its levels are low and not replaced with a new injection at the end of three months, needs to be addressed. There have been significant breakthroughs in the research of vaccinations. Vaccinations can be used for HIV treatment or prevention. Recent work was presented at the conference on the success of broad spectrum neutralizing antibodies. They occur naturally in about 20 percent of HIV individuals after two years of being infected. They have

See HIV Report, page 12

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## ► HIV Conference Report

Continued from p. 11

demonstrated effectiveness in reducing viral load.

The issue with using these vaccinations (antibodies) as treatment is that they only have an effect for about one month. The best way to use this therapy is now being considered. This form of treatment may become part of the cure strategy. Currently the goal of successful therapy is to reach a viral load that

is undetectable. Remember that viral load tests measure what virus is in the blood and not necessarily in the tissue where it resides. Smarter and better treatment options are being considered and evaluated.

Perhaps with the newer drugs, or ones already available, we may find that two drug combinations are as effective as the standard HAART regimen of three. We need to find options of delivering and evaluating medications in tissues and latent reservoir sites. Sustained remission off therapy is rare, but achievable. Research is underway to find

biomarkers to identify potential persons with no virus, no virus transmission possibilities and no possibility viral rebound. The cure therapy for these individuals would be stopping all HIV medications.

That's where broad spectrum neutralizing antibody vaccinations, or other new therapies, might be of benefit. We may need to intensify treatment for a specific period of time to eliminate the virus from all compartments of the body, then discontinue treatment. Elite controllers of the virus (those few that are not on therapy and are undetected) are

being studied to determine if there are any biomarkers they have to predict this possibility. We are looking into "cure research" studies of taking appropriate people off therapy and observing them for viral rebound. This cure therapy should be achievable within the next 15 years... our lifetime.

*The next World's AIDS Conference will be July 17-22, 2016 in Durban, South Africa. Dr. Benson practices medicine in Berkley, Michigan. Check out his website: DoctorBeWell.com.*

## ► Transmission: Survey?

Continued from p. 10

issues before the report. One could see how pervasive suicide has been in the transgender community, how much of the community was forced into poverty and just how bad the combination of racism and transphobia affected people in the transgender community.

I should add, too, that this study would typically only give cold, hard data. It does not put a face on that data. It does not replace sharing our own stories when we can.

Yet as important as it is to share our individual stories, it is quite another thing to be able to share a sizable study covering thousands of such stories. The more who speak out, and the more we can show the overall

depth of the issues we face, the stronger the case we can make for change.

Another important thing this provides is a sense of the size of our community. Now I'm not going to contend that in 2011 the transgender community in the U.S. was a mere 6,400 people. That would simply not be the case – but this does give more of a sense of the scope of the issues. This is a subset of the community that was able to participate at that time. This did help to show that transgender people exist all over the country, that this weren't just issues for big, coastal towns, but for everywhere.

That is what both the 2011 report and the upcoming study both provide.

For this study, the National Center for Transgender Advocacy is hoping that 20,000

transgender people will pledge to take the survey. Currently, they have 9,000 such pledges.

Let me also clarify something about the survey for anyone who might be wondering: this is not just for transgender-identified people. It is a survey for trans people of all stripes, including those who identify as genderqueer or non-binary. You are needed.

Now a small dose of cold water: I cannot tell you what impact the new survey will have. The previous one came out during a very sympathetic administration, and used the study to help press for change on our behalf. By the time the upcoming study comes out, we will most likely have a different resident in the White House. We won't know for sure if that new resident will be as sympathetic,

particularly if they come from the right side of the aisle.

Yet even with that in mind, consider that all the more reason to take this survey. This is what can still help to inform people about our lives, and will allow people to continue to push for their rights for many years to come, whether the administration is sympathetic or otherwise. We need this.

So please take a moment to hop on your computer or smart phone and point yourself at [www.ustranssurvey.org](http://www.ustranssurvey.org). The survey opens Aug. 19, sure, but you can pledge right now to be a part of it. They'll even remind you when it's time to take it, too.

*Gwen Smith has, of course, pledged. You'll find her on Twitter at @gwenners.*

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# MotorBall 2015 A Huge Success

## More Events Are In The Works

BY BTL STAFF

MotorBall, a Geared for Life event that returned for its second year on June 6 under Michigan AIDS Coalition management, raised a record amount for the agency. Over 750 people danced at St. Andrew's Hall in Detroit for over eight hours to four DJs on two floors, with five drag queens and 12 of Metro Detroit's hottest male dancers, keeping the party going.

"Our second year reboot of this famous Detroit event raised over \$15,000 for our agency, in great part due to a 50 percent increase in guest attendance," said Terry Ryan, CEO of MAC. "The energy and vibrancy of a big gay dance party is awesome. We want to give the Detroit area LGBTQ community a big shout out and say thank you for your great support."

MotorBall was made possible through the support of presenting sponsors, Five15 and Gary Baglio. Other sponsors included Greektown Casino, Gilead, Jason Misleh, Michael Helton & Andrew Geers, Sam Alqattan, NalPac, Between the Lines, OutPost and Metra.

"Bringing this event back from an early retirement has been an immense amount of work, but it's a labor of love," said Eddie Mulak, director of Geared for Life. "Detroit's comeback has been staggering and wonderful. As we continue to become a summer travel destination, we need and, quite honestly, deserve a high quality, 'big room' dance party

here in the region. I'm so proud of our team who helped produce MotorBall 2015 and I'm humbled by the response of the community."

The annual event takes place on the Saturday night of Motor City Pride in downtown Detroit at the historic St Andrew's Hall. Guests attending MotorBall were dazzled by great special effects, sound and a special performance featuring Sabin, DeAngela 'Show' Shannon and Andrew Christian's Super Stud Topher DiMaggio. DJs from Chicago, Toronto and Detroit kept the crowds moving all night long.

"Raising funds for HIV/AIDS outreach, testing and prevention has been, and always will be, one of my passions. I'm honored to have been asked to take the helm of producing a high quality, amazingly fun fundraiser for MAC," Mulak said. "I have some pretty lofty ideas and plans for 2016. I just hope Detroit's LGBTQ community is ready for what we're bringing next year!"

Geared for Life, the original organization that produced MotorBall and The GEAR Party, became part of MAC in 2014. Mulak said that MotorBall style parties aren't going to just be a once a year event. "MotorBall will continue to be our signature event. We've got some plans for various parties to help build momentum and energy for MotorBall throughout the year. Stay tuned, you're going to like what we've got planned."

*MotorBall returns in June 2016. More information is available at MotorBall.org.*

## Transgender Pride In The Park Will Feature Founders' Wedding Reception

BY AJ TRAGER

FERNDALE – Transgender Michigan will host the 2015 celebration of Transgender Pride in the Park at noon on Aug. 8 in Ferndale's Donald Red Geary Park.

Transgender Pride in the Park is the summer celebration for those outside the gender binary and their allies to come together and honor the lives and experiences of non-binary individuals.

Transgender Michigan has been celebrating Pride in the Park since 1997. This year, co-founders of Transgender Michigan, Rachel Crandall and Susan Cocker, will host their wedding reception during the event.

Crandall and Cocker founded Transgender Michigan in 1997 stemming from their personal experiences as transgender-identified individuals in a society ignorant about gender differences. Together they quickly realized the overwhelming need to unite transgender individuals throughout Michigan through an online clearinghouse for transgender information and events.

Transgender Michigan has evolved into an organization that provides a multitude of services and programs including founding the Transgender Day of Visibility and the local 24/7 Trans hotline. They have also orchestrated local events for Transgender Day of Remembrance, transgender health fairs, Give Out Day and Pride events around the state.

Crandall and Cocker have asked that those who wish to provide a wedding gift to the newlyweds donate to their honeymoon fund. The GoFundMe site can be found at [www.gofundme.com/yt897yc](http://www.gofundme.com/yt897yc).

Pride in the Park is free to attend. Participants are encouraged to join in the potluck by bringing a dish to share with hundreds of friends.

Donald Red Geary Park is located at 1000-1198 Earle Blvd in Ferndale. Visit the event Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/events/1452730258376283/](http://www.facebook.com/events/1452730258376283/).

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## ► Republican Debates

Continued from p. 9

On CBS' "Face the Nation," he said, "It's the law of the land and we'll abide by it," adding, "It's time to move on" and "strike a balance" with religious institutions.

**LGBT Record:** Scored between zero and 30 on Human Rights Campaign scorecard while in Congress. Said the state didn't need an Indiana style law to protect religious freedom. Issued an executive order prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation but not gender identity. Attended wedding of gay friend. In House, voted for the Defense of Marriage Act.

### Rand Paul

*Current odds of winning the nomination: 2 percent*

Occupational experience: U.S. Senator from Kentucky (first term)



Age: 52

Main asset: Provides free ophthalmologic surgery to poor Guatemalans

Main liability: Perceived as isolationist

Response to

Obergefell: Wrote op-ed piece in Time magazine saying he disagreed with the ruling but thinks all Americans should be able to enter into a "contract" and suggests the government shouldn't be in the business of granting these contracts because they are an "intrusion of government into the religious sphere."

**LGBT Record:** Earned a 20 (on a scale of 100) from the Human Rights Campaign for his Senate voting record on LGBT issues, including a vote against ENDA. Voted against amendment to allow benefits for same-sex spouses of veterans. Said his office has a "zero tolerance policy for anybody who displays discriminatory behavior or belief ... based on ... sexual orientation..."

### Ben Carson

*Current odds of winning the nomination: 2 percent*

Occupational experience: Former neurosurgeon and author

Age: 63

Main asset: Relatively new to national political scene

Main liability: Never run for office before



Response to Obergefell: Issued a statement saying he "strongly disagrees" with the ruling, saying marriage is a "religious service, not a government form." Called on Congress to "make sure deeply held religious views are respected and protected."

**LGBT Record:** Lumped same-sex couples with NAMBLA and bestiality while explaining why he doesn't support allowing same-sex couples to marry, then apologized for the remarks. Said prison proves sexual orientation is a choice, then apologized for those remarks, too, and, according to CNN, "said he won't be addressing gay rights issues for the duration of his presidential campaign."

### Rick Santorum

*Current odds of winning the nomination: 1 percent*

Occupational experience: Former U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania



Age: 57

Main asset: Persistence

Main liability: Failed to gain traction in 2012 bid

Response to Obergefell: Said the Court

"got it wrong," and that, as president, he would issue an executive order "to ensure no agency of the federal government will interfere with the religious liberty rights of faith-based organizations who oppose same-sex marriage."

**LGBT Record:** As U.S. Senator, scored zero on the Human Rights Campaign's Congressional Scorecard. During campaign for GOP presidential nomination in 2012, Santorum said he wanted to reinstate the ban on gays in the military, characterized the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" as "tragic," and boasted of his active campaign to oust three Iowa state Supreme Court justices who had ruled that the state constitution guaranteed gay couples the same rights as heterosexual couples seeking marriage licenses.



### Carly Fiorina

*Current odds of winning the nomination: 1 percent*

Occupational experience: Former chairman of Hewlett-Packard

Age: 60

Main asset: Only woman in the field

Main liability: Less than stellar business success

Response to Obergefell:

Posted at statement on Facebook saying the decision "usurps the constitutional right of the people to decide" but urged Americans to find "a way to respect one another and to celebrate a culture that protects religious freedom while promoting equality under the law."

**LGBT Record:** Said she voted for California's Proposition 8. Supported civil unions for same-sex couples, but not marriage. Said she did not support ENDA.

### Lindsey Graham

*Current odds of winning the nomination: 1 percent*

Occupational experience: U.S. Senator from South Carolina (second term)

Age: 55

Main asset: High profile in key Senate proceedings

Main liability: Not married

Response to Obergefell: Issued

statement saying he respects the Court's decision, would not support a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage but would "staunchly defend religious liberty."

**LGBT Record:** Earned a zero on Human Rights Campaign's latest Congressional Scorecard. Supported

federal constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage and voted for amendment to ban adoptions by gays in District of Columbia.

### Bobby Jindal

*Current odds of winning the nomination: 0 percent*

Occupational experience: Current governor of Louisiana

Age: 44

Main asset: Former assistant secretary HHS and U.S. House



Representative

Main liability: Low favorability rating in home state

Response to Obergefell: Issued statement saying God made marriage one man and one woman and that this ruling would trigger an "all out assault against religious freedom rights of Christians who disagree" with it.

**LGBT Record:** Issued an executive order allowing businesses to refuse service to gay couples and is seeking a state bill to do so.

### Rick Perry

*Current odds of winning the nomination: 0 percent*

Occupational experience: Former governor of Texas

Age: 65

Main asset: Former governor of a large state

Main liability: Perceived as not particularly bright

Response to Obergefell: Issued a statement, saying the decision was an "assault" on the 10th Amendment and an effort to "legislate" from the bench. (The 10th Amendment says states have powers not reserved to the federal government or prohibited by the Constitution.)

**LGBT Record:** As a GOP presidential candidate in 2012, he signed a pledge to the National Organization of Marriage to vigorously oppose same-sex marriage. Opposed gays in the military.

### George Pataki

*Current odds of winning the nomination: 0 percent*

Occupational experience: Former governor of New York

Age: 70

Main asset: Former three-term GOP governor of large Democratic state

Main liability: Relative lack

of name recognition nationally

Response to Obergefell: Told the Washington Blade he thinks states should have decided the issue but that he accepts the ruling and would not support effort to pass a constitutional amendment to ban marriage for same-sex couples.

**LGBT Record:** Signed a state law prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation. Said the marriage issue should be left up to the states. Early campaign ad characterizes LGBT issues as a "distraction."

### Jim Gilmore

*Current odds of winning the nomination: Not yet rated*

Occupational experience: Former governor of Virginia

Age: 65

Main asset: Thinks the party must become more accepting of gays

Main liability: Couldn't muster the

funds to run in 2008

Response to Obergefell: N/A

**LGBT Record:** Told the National Review that the GOP keeps "projecting anger at the gay community and the Hispanic community, even though they're open to many of our ideas."

*Broadcast note: Thursday's debate will be hosted and broadcast by the Fox News Channel. The network is dividing the Republican field into two tiers: The "top 10 candidates" based on an average of five national polls will debate among themselves at 9 p.m., and the remaining announced candidates will participate in a separate debate at 5 p.m.*

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# THE BIG DADDY

# OF DANCE

Disco Pioneer Giorgio Moroder Reemerges To Produce Some Of The Biggest Icons Of Our Time

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

It's been 35 years since Giorgio Moroder and Cher hooked up for a late-night session to produce "Bad Love," the diva's disco rave-up from the soundtrack of the 1980 coming-of-age drama, "Foxes."

"We were supposed to start at 2 o'clock in the studio, and who comes in at 2 o'clock punctual? Cher," Moroder recalls, tickled. "I said, 'Shit,' because with an artist like her – the big stars, you think, if it's 2 o'clock, they come in at 5 o'clock, if you're lucky. So she was there at 2 o'clock, and I said, 'Cher, something is wrong – I was told you're always late.' And she said, 'Yes, I'm always late... except the first time.'"

Decades have passed and music has changed and Cher has not. One other thing remains the same: Moroder still lights up at the mere thought of the ageless icon, how "I loved her" and "she was so funny." Undoubtedly, Cher, to this day, can still smack you with a punchline. A star, an icon, the diva of all divas – her success is abiding.

Now, returning to the scene at age 75 with his first album in 30 years, Moroder can say the same for his own monumental success.

The Italy-born musical mastermind who unwittingly blazed a fruitful trail of radio hits is the father of such celebrated dance-floor relics as Donna Summer's "Love to Love You Baby" and Blondie's ubiquitous No. 1 hit "Call Me." A cavernous catalog of '70s-era paragons and Moroder's unprecedented artistic vision became the catalyst for modern-age dance music. Between 1974 and 1984, Moroder's creative force was a hot commodity, and everyone who was everyone – Barbra Streisand, Elton John, Janet Jackson, Chaka Khan, Freddie Mercury, David Bowie – clamored for his heyday genius.

During Moroder's most musically prolific era, the producer, composer and DJ could be found endlessly shackled up in a studio. There, he'd mix until the wee hours, never to succumb to his own burgeoning brand of sonic escapism that coaxed just about everyone but himself – the man behind those very beats – to the clubs.

"If I go back, I remember one year, '85, when



I did the (music for the) ‘Top Gun’ movie,” he says. “The whole year I was doing several projects, of which most didn’t work out, but I think I had one weekend by myself. I would work like crazy.”

And even that’s an understatement. While producing for an army of iconic artists during the first wave of disco-dance, Moroder was also becoming a booming cinema presence.

He won his first Oscar for his music in 1978’s “Midnight Express,” and then two more for “Flashdance... What a Feeling” and Berlin’s “Take My Breath Away,” from “Top Gun.” In 1983, he intensified “Scarface” with his music (he produced the soundtrack), and also contributed to the 1984 children’s fantasy classic “The NeverEnding Story,” for which he produced the theme song.

At 75, his own story, it seems, is neverending. Thanks to a much-deserved salute to Moroder on their latest opus, the track “Giorgio by Moroder” from 2013’s Grammy-winning “Random Access Memories,” Daft Punk prompted a welcome resurgence. “My name is Giovanni Giorgio, but everybody calls me Giorgio,” he adorably notes during the spoken-word, EDM-charged caper. The song is Moroder’s memoir. And as he looks back on his teenage years, he says “(my) dream was so big that I didn’t see any chance.”

But other dreamers did. Some – for instance, RCA Records, who commissioned his latest offering, “Déjà Vu” – even gave him the chance.

## Love to love him, baby

Could anyone have predicted that Giorgio Moroder would change the future of music? Probably. But in 1969, the only evidence of his ingenuity was “Looky Looky,” a frothy Beach Boys-esque concoction that, while slight, still sounded remarkably ahead of its time.

Fast forward nearly 10 years to 1977, when, with the help of a blossoming singer named Donna Summer, his career boomed beyond his own wildest dreams.

The two made music magic together, storming the charts with the steamy disco number “Love to Love You Baby” in 1975 and, two years later, “I Feel Love,” a slice of synth heaven released in 1977. By incorporating the newly developed Moog synthesizer, which generated a bed of pulsating, writhing throbs, the latter was instrumental in revolutionizing the techno movement. But still, Moroder insists, “I Feel Love” would not have been the same without Summer’s ethereal coos.

Summer, he says, “humanized the machine,” a characteristic that was “one of the reasons it did so well.”

Concerning their first hit together, “Love to Love You Baby,” Moroder recalls reluctantly finding the song a label home. “When I presented that song to some record companies – actually, I didn’t. Somebody did it for me, because I was embarrassed. I thought nobody would ever release this.”

To his surprise, the song surged the charts,

eventually becoming recognized as one of the greatest disco-era songs of our time. Moroder credits the song’s success to a 17-minute extended cut of the five-minute single, an idea brought to him by Casablanca Records president Neil Bogart, who was inspired to maximize the track’s running time after hearing it looped at a party in its original form like it was drug. So, Moroder tagged on 12 minutes, which he now calls “the key to its success.”

Not all of Moroder’s projects managed the same level of commercial clout, however.

Janet Jackson’s second studio album, “Dream Street,” which Moroder produced when the entertainer was just 17 years old, didn’t fare as hoped. In fact, it didn’t really fare at all. Peaking at No. 147 on the Billboard 200 upon its release in October 1984, the pop icon’s coming-of-age sophomore release was, in retrospect, a stepping stone, a small push to a big breakthrough: 1986’s “Control.”

“Janet was such a darling, but at the time, she was so young,” Moroder says. “She was working on her voice, and I know that the father (Joseph Jackson) was involved with the production not directly but indirectly. It was difficult.”

That same year, Moroder produced Freddie Mercury’s first song as a solo artist, “Love Kills.” Their collaboration, however, wasn’t a Janet-like situation – it was just the opposite. Freddie Mercury was so seasoned, he left Moroder feeling “intimidated.”

“Freddie was relatively difficult,” Moroder reveals. “He was such a great singer, composer, lyricist, performer, diva, dancer, icon that (I thought), ‘Am I going to tell Freddie that that high note he sang was not perfect?’ So between that and the little problems we had before we even started, it was a tough production.”

Tech advancements have certainly alleviated any potential social anxieties, but not, of course, without their own set of challenges. The process nowadays, Moroder says, is impersonal, two people – the artist, the producer – conceiving a song in a virtual world. Sia, Britney Spears and Kylie Minogue all appear on “Déjà Vu,” but during the recording, they and Moroder weren’t even in the same time zone.

“Compared to Donna Summer – she was busy but nothing like singers are busy now,” he says. “Sia, for example, is all over the world. One day she’s in Australia; the next day she’s in London. They don’t even have time to go into the studio with me as a producer. That’s the new way. The only problem is the communication – and that’s a big problem.”

## Déjà woo

With a cluster of white-robed men ogling a bearded Moroder, and a steamy haze obscuring the scene, the subliminal marketing of Moroder’s “Knights in White Satin” cover wasn’t exactly subliminal. By suggesting Moroder was gay by

See Giorgio Moroder, page 19

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LANSING – Rodgers + Hammerstein's "Cinderella," the 2013 Tony Award winning Broadway musical from the creators of "South Pacific" and "The Sound of Music," is the first MSU Federal Credit Union Broadway at Wharton Center show of the 2015-2016 season. The show opens in September. Tickets start at \$35 and are available at [www.whartoncenter.com](http://www.whartoncenter.com), as well as at the Auto-Owners Insurance Ticket Office at Wharton Center, or by calling 1-800-WHARTON.

With its fresh new take on the beloved tale of a young woman who is transformed from a chambermaid into a princess, this hilarious and romantic edition of Rodgers + Hammerstein's "Cinderella" combines the story's classic elements – glass slippers, a pumpkin and a beautiful ball along with some surprising twists.

More than just a pretty face with the right shoe size, this "Cinderella" is a contemporary figure living in a fairytale setting. She is a spirited young woman with savvy and soul who doesn't let her rags or her gowns trip her up in her quest for kindness, compassion and forgiveness. She longs to escape the

drudgery of her work at home and instead works to make the world a better place. She not only fights for her own dreams, but forces the prince to open his eyes to the world around him and realize his dreams too.

With music by Richard Rodgers and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II, "Cinderella" was originally written for television – debuting in 1957 with Julie Andrews as the star. In 2013, the show made its long overdue Broadway debut with a new book by Douglas Carter Beane based on the original book by Oscar Hammerstein II.

Rodgers + Hammerstein's "Cinderella" is directed by Mark Brokaw and choreographed by Josh Rhodes. Music adaptation, supervision and arrangements are by David Chase and orchestrations are by Danny Troob. Mr. Beane's book for "Cinderella" blends masterfully with the musical's cherished score, which includes songs such as "In My Own Little Corner," "Impossible/It's Possible," "Ten Minutes Ago" and "Do I Love You Because You're Beautiful?" Along with "Cinderella," Richard Rodgers' and Oscar Hammerstein's legendary

musicals include "OKLAHOMA!," "Carousel," "The King and I," "South Pacific" and "The Sound of Music."

The Broadway creative team includes Tony Award nominated scenic designer Anna Louizos, six-time Tony winning costume designer William Ivey Long, lighting design by Tony winner Kenneth Posner and sound design by Tony Award nominee Nevin Steinberg. The tour is produced by Robyn Goodman, Jill Furman, Stephen Kocis, Edward Walson, Venetian Glass Productions, The Araca Group, Caiola Productions, Roy Furman, Peter May, Sanford Robertson, Eric Schmidt, James Spry and Blanket Fort Productions. Rodgers + Hammerstein's "Cinderella" is generously sponsored by Farm Bureau Life Insurance, Jackson National Life Insurance Company, Mayberry Homes, Palmer, Bush & Jensen Family Funeral Homes, Physicians Health Plan and Portnoy and Tu, DDS, PC.

"Cinderella" runs Sept. 22-27 at the Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. shows on Sunday. For more information, visit [www.whartoncenter.com](http://www.whartoncenter.com).



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## ► Giorgio Moroder

Continued from page 17

way of a not-so-subtle bathhouse setting – and changing “Nights” to “Knights” – Casablanca Records’ Neil Bogart could expand the producer’s already growing gay following. Moroder, though, was oblivious to the fact that he was being baited.

“For months, I didn’t even notice,” he recalls, snickering. “I realized that (Bogart) was giving this to the gay community, which is great. But what a sneaky guy! I was just surprised at how cleverly he changed the title. And I was happy. It was absolutely OK with me. Although, I must tell you: I’m not gay, but I love gay people. It’s absolutely in my... feelings, actually.”

In his “feelings”? In his thick, lovable Italian accent, Moroder clarifies, making you wish he were your smartphone’s knowledge navigator – your Siri.

“I love gay people; although I’m not, I love them.”

The feeling was mutual, as Bogart soon discovered.

“‘Love to Love You’ with Donna Summer was a big hit in the discotheques,” he says. “And since I never really went to discotheques, I did not really know exactly what was happening. But everyone was saying that the gay community made that song a hit. Now, I hear other people, especially with the song ‘I Feel Love,’ (saying) that it became a little bit of an anthem for the gay community. But, at the time, I didn’t really realize it.”

In fact, he wasn’t conscious of a gay following until just a decade ago, in his 60s. As Moroder savored his semi-retirement, he discovered – along with, obviously, Bogart’s calculated assistance – that he’d wooed a rather significant queer following over the years. On occasion, while casually perusing gay press, Moroder says he’d see him come up in reference to the EDM sound he had pioneered years before. His influence on today’s dance music-makers du jour – Avicii, Dr. Luke, Calvin Harris and David Guetta – is as inescapable as it is indelible.

“I noticed more and more the (gay) audience describing that production, which was similar or inspired by me,” Moroder says. “That made me think that maybe I have some (gay) following, at least with regard to the music.”

He does. He *must*. And “Déjà Vu,” with a smoldering line-up of gay-loved ladies, is just the beginning of a new beginning. In between DJ sets and solving one small booklet of crossword puzzles a week – which, he says, has kept his mind sharp (“I’m solving the same puzzles as I did 30 years ago”) – the music pioneer continues to dedicate ample time to his still-coveted artistry. Coming soon: a collaboration with Lady Gaga, who has recruited Moroder for her next album.



“Everyone was saying that the gay community made that song (*Love to Love You*) a hit. Now, I hear other people, especially with the song *I Feel Love*, (saying) that it became a little bit of an anthem for the gay community. But, at the time, I didn’t really realize it.”

How is Moroder feeling about his sudden reemergence? Overwhelmed. Humbled. But, mostly, thrilled.

“I remember I was on a press tour in the limelight – this was about 40 years ago, late ’70s, beginning of ’80s – and now I’m almost back as big and as known as then, and it’s quite something,” he says, uttering a blissful sigh. “Sometimes I think, ‘Shouldn’t I be playing with little dogs and having my hobbies?’ I’ve

worked for two and a half years on this album and I’m happy. I’m absolutely not complaining. I mean, it’s a lot of work, but I guess it’s what keeps me happy.”

*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) and on Twitter (@chrisazzopardi).*

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# Downtime Detox

## Healthy Ways to Revive Your Summer Spirit

BY MIKEY ROX

**W**e're just about halfway through summer, and chances are you've worn yourself out – even though you don't dare show it. Secret's safe, playboys (and girls). But here are a few healthy ways to recoup and reenergize just in case.

### Cut back on the booze, hound

If you have even a smidge of a social life, you can find a shindig just about every weekend during the summer – whether it be at your BFF's barbecue, hanging by the pool at a friend of a friend's, or dancing the night away at your favorite club. And what's a

party without a few cocktails, right? The problem is that too much of a good thing will start to take its toll on your body, and fast. Not only will the alcohol and resulting hangover make



you sluggish, but you'll interrupt your normal sleep cycle, make poorer food choices, and likely skip the gym. If this scenario sounds familiar, it's time to cut back on the booze – or go cold turkey for a week (I did it for four months; it's not that hard!) – and find more productive activities in which to engage that don't involve inebriation.

### Replace go, go, go with no, no, no

Along with all those parties, there's a million other things you probably enjoy during the summer – like exercising outside, taking the dog on adventures, hitting the beach and shopping summer sales – but every now and then you need to slow down. Life doesn't have to move



## ► Frivolist

Continued from p. 20

a mile a minute from May to September just because it's warm out. Believe it or not, it's perfectly acceptable to tell your friends that you won't be going out for the fourth night in a row. They'll survive your absence – trust me – and you can enjoy time to yourself catching up on your DVR, reading your magazines, or whatever it is you like to do to unwind when you're alone. Perv.

## Sit back, relax and listen to soothing music

This summer has produced a few hot bangers – tracks from The Weeknd, Demi Lovato, Fetty Wap and Silento are among my faves – but one can take only so much bass pounding their face. When the volume turn up too much, flip the switch and find a new, more demure Spotify station. Create a low-key playlist of smooth jazz; classical summer (look it up!); boutique hotel lounge; or the “Most Chilled Songs Ever,” which, based on the title, should mellow you right out.

## Stick to clean eating as best you can

Personally I find it much harder to eat clean in the summertime than I do the winter because I'm out and about more often. During the winter months, I'm generally nesting at home, and since I cook for myself, I'm able to make healthy choices on a regular basis. Fast-forward to summer and my eating habits get a bit iffy with more junk food thrown in the mix.

Some of that junk is a result of those poor food choices I mentioned as a result of being hungover, but I also find it hard to resist the burgers, hot dogs and other cookout goodies that are readily available most weekends. Because you want to eat a boring salad when there's a bacon cheeseburger calling your name? At some point, however – like when your abs start to fade into one summer gut – you've got to put down that bag of potato chips and remind yourself that it's easier (just not tastier) to get laid on a diet of lean protein and produce. What more motivation do you need?



## Turn off the electronics and catch more Zs

Studies show that our addiction to technology and electronic devices are negatively affecting our sleep patterns – when we let it. If you're feeling run down, overwhelmed or like you're about to implode from social-media overload, turn off your devices for a while. One night won't kill you, and you can use the disconnect to catch up on some much-needed rest without any pings, whistles or chirps interrupting your nappy time.

## Schedule a Massage or a Yoga Class

Now that you've successfully reduced your alcohol intake, cut the crap food and had a good night's sleep, it's time to purge your body of all those toxins you've been filling it with over the past several weeks. One perfect feel-good way to do that is with a massage or a yoga class that'll help the mind and body come together as one. If you go to a halfway decent gym, yoga classes are likely offered, so check the schedule for a session. As for the massage, well, you can go about that however you'd like, though I'll always recommend a happy ending.

Smiles for everybody – that's my motto.

*Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and LGBT lifestyle expert whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world. He splits his time between homes in New York City and the Jersey Shore with his dog Jaxon. Connect with Mikey on Twitter @mikeyrox.*

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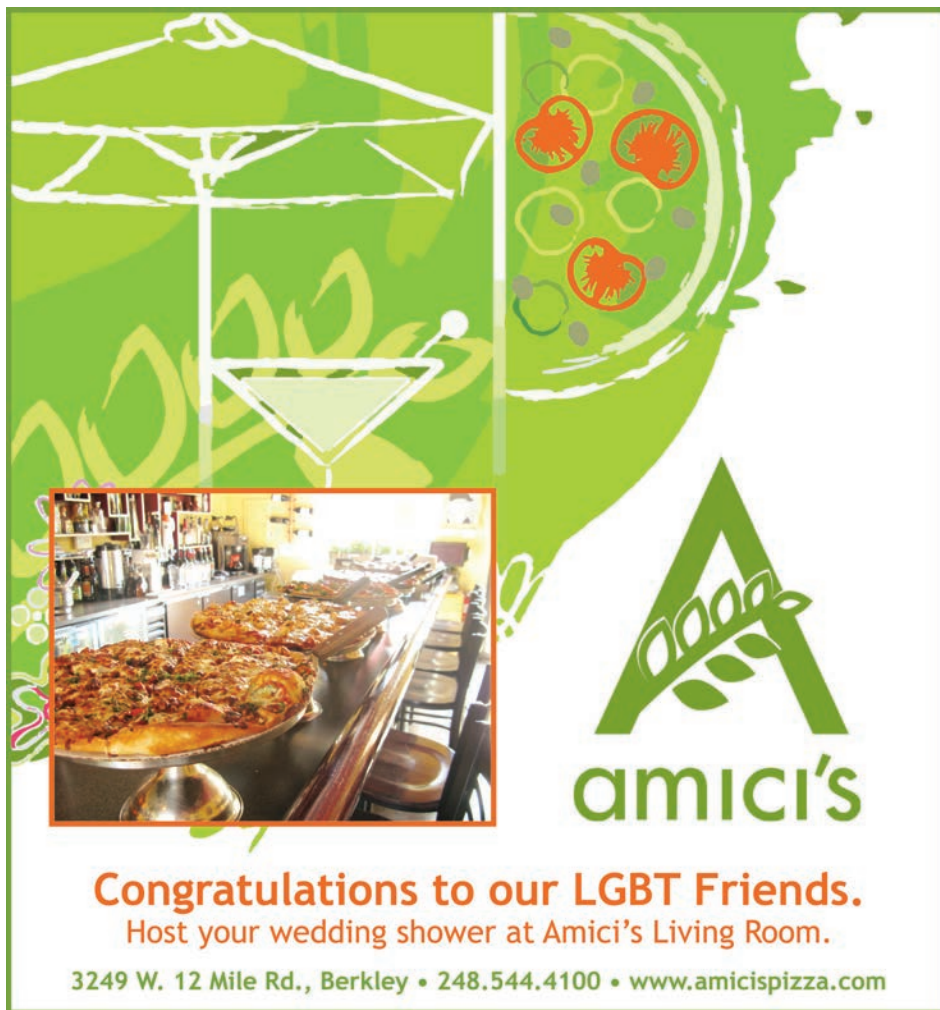
**Center: Rhonda L. Kobold, DO, FACOG**

**Left to right: Hina Javaid, MD, Teresa C. Kuz, MSN, WHNP-BC, Beth K. Mutch, MSN, FNP-BC, Tanya M. Vaughn, MS, CNM, FNP-BC, Angela Viviano, FNP**

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## Editor's Pick



Pop sensation Howie Day will hit Ferndale this week with special guest Olivia Millerschin. Howie Day's emotionally resonant lyrics and inventive melodies have earned him both critical praise and a legion of devoted fans. He is known for his energetic, heartfelt shows, where he connects with audiences through the strength of his songwriting and his quirky sense of humor.

Day is currently immersed in the recording process of his fourth studio album, which he is crafting with the help of longtime friend and producer Mike Denneen. "There is a sense of inherent creativity and imagination to these

sessions," Day says. "Everything seems to be in perfect balance, and I want to capture that energy as it's happening. Nothing is over or under thought; it's just in the moment."

Day and Millerschin perform at 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8 at the Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Tickets are \$20. For more information, visit [www.themagicbag.com](http://www.themagicbag.com).

# Happenings

## OUTINGS

### Thursday, Aug. 6

**Trivia with Terry and Thirsty Thursday** Half off beer and well drinks with student ID. \aut\BAR, 315 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-994-3677. www.Autbar.com

**MAC Health** 2 p.m. Mondays by appointment only. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), Ferndale. www.MichiganAIDScoalition.org

**Alyssa G. Smith, Ninth Annual Percussion Recital Benefiting the Komen 3-Day** 6 p.m. A lovely evening of percussion music, including works for marimba, ragtime xylophone, multiple percussion and more! Special guests include Rob Kratz, Sara Potter, Thomas Cushing and Dave Piontkowski, percussion Miriam Lynch, voice and Kelli Creamer, bass. FREE. Flint Institute of Music, 1025 E. Kearsley St., Flint. asmith3day@gmail.com www.Smithmarimba.com/the\_3-day

**MAC Health** 11 p.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), Detroit. www.MichiganAIDScoalition.org

### Friday, Aug. 7

**Bistro Fridays** Special menu. \aut\BAR, 315 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-994-3677. www.Autbar.com

**Forum Foundation's Riverboat Cruise** 8 p.m. Support the GLBT scholarship mission. Tickets: \$45+ The Forum Foundation, Detroit. 586-573-9932. www.Theforumfoundation.org/djc2014.pdf

**Culture Club** 9 p.m. Tickets: \$55+ Canadian. Caesars Windsor, 377 E. Riverside Dr., Windsor. 800-991-7777. www.Caesars.com/caesars-windsor

### Saturday, Aug. 8

**turnI** \aut\BAR, 315 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-994-3677. www.Autbar.com

**Transgender Pride in the Park** 12 p.m. All Trans-people and Allies Welcome. Free food, free fun, great friends. Transgender

Michigan, Pinecrest Ave & Earl Blvd., Ferndale. 855-345-TGMI. info@transgendermichigan.org www.Transgendermichigan.org/events/pride.html

### Sunday, Aug. 9

**Creative Monologue: A Solo Exhibition by Timothy Oriki** Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.Goaffirmations.org

**Fifth Annual Detroit Improv Festival** \$5-40. Detroit Improv Festival, Ferndale. www.Detroitimprovfestival.org

**Northalsted Market Days** Special guests Salt-N-Pepa, Aaron Carter, En Vogue, Jack & Jack, All 4 One and Who Is Fancy. Bud Light and Northalsted Business Alliance, Detroit. www.Northalsted.com

**Salsa Night** Salsa lessons. \$1 tacos. \aut\BAR, 315 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-994-3677. www.Autbar.com

**Windsor-Essex Pride Fest** Windsor-Essex Pride Fest, Windsor. www.Wepridefest.com

**Yoga and Pilates in the Garden** 12 p.m. Tickets: \$0-10. The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. 313-831-1250. www.Scarabclub.org

### Tuesday, Aug. 11

**Karaoke and Half Off Wine** \aut\BAR, 315 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-994-3677. www.Autbar.com

**MAC Health** 2 p.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), Detroit. www.MichiganAIDScoalition.org

### Wednesday, Aug. 12

**Free Pool and \$1 Off Beer** \aut\BAR, 315 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-994-3677. www.Autbar.com

**MAC Health** 6 p.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.MichiganAIDScoalition.org

### Thursday, Aug. 13

**MAC Health** 11 p.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), 928 McNichols Road W, Detroit. 313-863-3934. www.

MichiganAIDScoalition.org

### Friday, Aug. 14

**Michigan Lean Consortium 2015 Annual Conference** The conference will feature several exciting keynote speakers including Rich Sheridan, CEO of Menlo Innovations; Darrell Rogers, CCO-Chief Continuous Improvement Officer at Britten Studios and Mike Zimmer, Director of the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA). Michigan Lean Consortium, Traverse City. www.Michiganlean.org

**The Business of Art** 6 p.m. Free and open to the public. Refreshments provided. Wayne State University, Detroit. Events.wayne.edu/rsvp/bofa/

**MAC Health** 11 p.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), Detroit. www.MichiganAIDScoalition.org

### Saturday, Aug. 15

**Annual White Party** 6:30 p.m. West Shore Aware, Saugatuck. www.Westshoreaware.org

### Sunday, Aug. 16

**LGBT Parenting Support Group** 1 a.m. The purpose of the group is for LGBT families to have a monthly opportunity to get together to get to know one another and to discuss topics of interest. Free. Organization Name, 318 W. Nine Mile, Ferndale. 248-955-3219. info@naturesplayhouse.com www.Naturesplayhouse.com/

**Bisexual Peer Group** 4 p.m. Our group meets monthly on the third Sunday & discussion relates to bisexual identity. Building is handicap accessible using ramp to rear entrance. Bisexual Peer Group, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. paylor9@icloud.com Facebook.com/groups/110918256984/

**An evening of Broadway at the Aut Bar** 6 p.m. Local tenor and music educator, Jeffrey Willets, joins forces with ACLU LGBT attorney and tenor, Jay Kaplan, to present an evening of songs from 21st century musicals and reprisals of musicals in the 21st

See Happenings, page 24



# LGBTQ-Inclusive Sex Ed Book For Kids Affirms And Empowers

BY DANA RUDOLPH

“Sex Is a Funny Word: A Book about Bodies, Feelings and YOU (Seven Stories Press)” continues a groundbreaking, LGBTQ-inclusive series for young people on human sexuality – and should have many cheering at its thoughtful, empowering and accurate approach. The book does not merely include all LGBTQ identities, but celebrates them as equal parts of the human spectrum.

The book is the second of a planned trilogy by sexuality educator Cory Silverberg and illustrator Fiona Smyth. Aimed at 8-10 year-olds, it follows their 2013 book for the very youngest children, “What Makes a Baby,” which tackles its topic in a way that works for all family structures, types of family creation and parents’ gender identities. The planned third volume will be aimed at children starting to hit puberty.

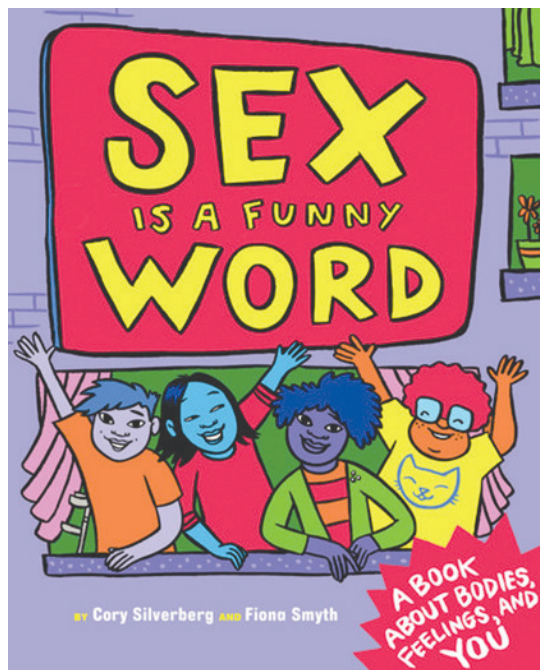
“Sex Is a Funny Word” picks up where its predecessor left off, covering bodies, gender, touch and types of relationships, as well as an overall exploration of the many meanings of the word “sex.” Throughout, it encourages children to be confident of their own bodies and feelings, and to respect those of others.

Silverberg, who self-identifies as queer and has worked as a certified sexuality educator for 20 years, explained in an email interview that his motivation for making the books so inclusive starts close to home: “My commitment to diversity doesn’t come only from a political ideal. My community includes an incredibly rich and diverse group of people, not only in terms of gender and sexual identity, but also in terms of race, ethnicity, family background and, to some extent, class. I want to write books that fit for my family and my friends, which means books that fit for a very wide range of people and experiences.”

He and Smyth have succeeded. In bold, colorful, comic-book style, they reassure readers that learning about sex can be “fun and strange and sometimes a little scary,” and invite them to “go exploring.” Accompanying them on the journey are four young characters of different attitudes, gender identities, races and physical abilities, who offer

various responses to scenarios young readers may have encountered. These characters also pose open-ended questions, such as, “How do you feel about your body growing and changing?” Interspersed with these dialogues are more informational but jargon-free pages, creating a work that feels both fun and useful without ever talking down to readers.

They begin with the many meanings of and ways of talking about “sex,” although the only sexual behavior discussed is masturbation. They emphasize that the



concepts of respect, trust, joy and justice are useful to keep in mind while learning about the topic.

Notably, the book talks about bodies and their parts in a way inclusive of intersex and transgender people, saying, for example, that “having a penis isn’t what makes you a boy.” It handles gender similarly, noting that while words like “boy” and “girl” fit most people, “For some of us, they don’t.” The authors urge readers to “trust yourself to know what words feel right and fit for you.” While the main text avoids identity labels, a glossary at the end may help readers understand various terms they may have heard elsewhere.

A section on “Crushes, Love, and Relationships” is also broadly inclusive. At no point does it position different-sex relationships as the default. Silverberg

said that he did not want the book to be “80 percent about straight people” while “20 percent of the text explains that there are also gay, lesbian and bisexual people.” He also wanted the book to reflect “what families and adult relationships actually look like,” which includes families with same-sex parents as well as “blended families, single-parent families and intergenerational families.”

The book stands out for more than just its LGBTQ inclusion, however. Silverberg said he and Smyth made an effort “to undo the sexist science that underpins most mainstream sex education material.” He explained that the book offers “information about our bodies in a way that works for very young kids but that is also informed by a certain kind of feminist critique of the science of sexuality.” To be more specific, “This book gives the clitoris its due, and makes it very clear that the vagina and the vulva aren’t the same thing.”

Regardless of body parts or identity, the book reminds readers that they are in control of their own bodies. This is most obvious in the section on touch, which encourages readers to think about when they do and don’t like to be touched and when others do and don’t. More somberly, it talks about unwanted “secret touching,” or sexual abuse — an important message carefully conveyed.

More than just a book to be read, “Sex Is a Funny Word” should be a conversation starter. The authors suggest parents read it before giving it to or reading it with children, in order to be prepared to discuss it and answer questions. For parents and other adults who want a little more help on how to do so, there is a free reader’s guide available at [corysilverberg.com](http://corysilverberg.com).

This is sex education as it should be — affirming and inclusive, engaging and interactive. All children, not only those with LGBTQ parents or who are LGBTQ themselves, will benefit from having such a volume on the topic.

*Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory for LGBTQ parents.*

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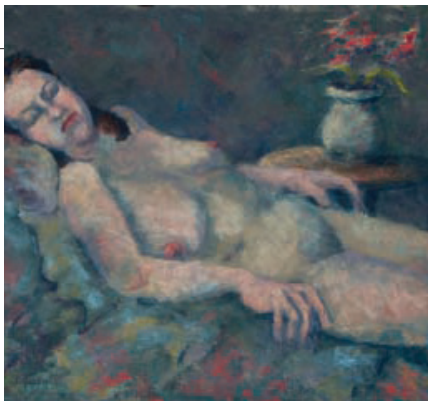
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## Editor's Pick

Try and catch The Scarab Club's presentation of "Cool & Warm," an exhibition of paintings by Scarab Club members Scott Dolan and Jeanne Ruzzin. The exhibition includes smaller works in oil, pastel and watercolor. The works are affordable and for sale.

For over 100 years, the Scarab Club has been active in the Detroit arts community. Thanks to the efforts of so many dedicated people, the history and mission of the organization have been carefully preserved over the decades. As the Scarab Club forges its way into the new

century, it is committed to bridging its treasured past with a bright future.

The exhibition runs through Saturday, Aug. 29. The Scarab Club is located at 217 Farnsworth in Detroit. Regular gallery hours are 12-5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. For more information, call 313-831-1250 or visit [scarabclub.org](http://scarabclub.org).

## ▶ Happenings

Continued from page 22

century, at the Aut Bar Patio. The event is free and open to the public. Pianist Elisabeth Wagner and Mezzo Ruth Ann Wagner guest star in this presentation. Come early, as chairs go quickly! Aut Bar, 315 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-994-3677. [jvincen44@yahoo.com](mailto:jvincen44@yahoo.com) [www.Autbar.com](http://www.Autbar.com)

## MUSIC & MORE

**The Magic Bag** "Howie Day" Tickets: \$20. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Nov. 8 - Aug. 8. 248-544-3030. [www.Themagicbag.com](http://www.Themagicbag.com)

## Concerts

**Chene Park Ampitheater** "Jazzy Nights". Chene Park Ampitheater, 2600 Atwater, Detroit. May 6 - Aug. 12. 313-393-7128. [www.Cheneparkdetroit.com](http://www.Cheneparkdetroit.com)

**Quicken Loans** "Free Summer in the Parks" Running through Sept. 2, will be held in: Campus Martius/Cadillac Square, Capitol Park, Grand Circus and Paradise Valley. Four historic parks, Detroit. June 4 - Sep. 2.

**Sound Board** "American Idol Live!" Tickets: \$39-64. Sound Board, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Aug. 7. 800-745-3000. [www.Soundboarddetroit.com](http://www.Soundboarddetroit.com)

**The Ark** "50th Anniversary Reunion".

The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 5 - Aug. 9. 734-761-1800. [www.Theark.org](http://www.Theark.org)

**The Ark** "Kasey Chambers" Tickets: \$25. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 11. 734-761-1800. [www.Theark.org](http://www.Theark.org)

**The Ark** "May Erlewine" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 7. 734-761-1800. [www.Theark.org](http://www.Theark.org)

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

**The Fillmore** "Charli XCX". The Fillmore Detroit, Detroit. Aug. 11.

## Dance

**Motor City Tap Fest** "Motor City Tap Festival". Wayne State Campus, Detroit. Aug. 12 - Aug. 15. [www.Motorcitytapfest.com](http://www.Motorcitytapfest.com)

## THEATER/PLAYS

**UNclub open mic** Suggest Donation: \$5. Emergent Arts, The Yellow Barn, 416 W. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through Aug. 23. 734-635-8450. [www.Emergentarts.com](http://www.Emergentarts.com)

## Civic/Community Theater

**School for Scandal** Tickets: \$5-15. The Brass Tacks Ensemble, Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Aug. 6 - Aug. 8. 734-763-4186. [www.Kerrytown.com](http://www.Kerrytown.com)

## Professional

**A Midsummer Night's Dream** In Royal Athens, the conventions of tradition, archaic law and patriarchy rule the day; in the forest, magic, mystery and mischief rule the night. Tickets: \$16-40. Michigan Shakespeare Festival, The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. Through Aug. 16. 734-394-5300. [www.cantonvillage theater.org](http://www.cantonvillage theater.org)

**All's Well That Ends Well** Love, war, seduction, betrayal and bed-hopping all come together in this comedic love story. Tickets: \$20. Water Works Theatre Company, Star Jaycee Park, 1301 West 13 Mile Rd., Royal Oak. Through Aug. 9. [www.shakespeareroyal oak.com](http://www.shakespeareroyal oak.com)

**As You Like It** An abbreviated and family-friendly version of Shakespeare's most luscious love comedy. Tickets: \$10. Water Works Theatre Company, Star Jaycee Park, 1301 West 13 Mile Rd., Royal Oak. Aug. 1 - Aug. 9. [www.shakespeareroyal oak.com](http://www.shakespeareroyal oak.com)

**Banana for Turtle** A set of vignettes that involves five animal friends: Monkey, Python, Parrot, Elephant and Turtle. Created in the style of classical marionette, the performance speaks humorously to issues of early childhood. Tickets: \$5-10. PuppetART, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. Through Aug. 15. 313-961-7777. [www.puppetart.org](http://www.puppetart.org)

**Buyer & Cellar** Twenty-something Alex More is a struggling L.A. actor

until he takes an intriguing "odd job." Tickets: \$36-43. Mason Street Warehouse, Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. Through Aug. 9. 269-857-2399. [www.sc4a.org](http://www.sc4a.org)

**Hatfield's & McCoy's** We have all heard of this feud, but who knows the truth! No one, really. This musical comedy adaptation is sure to help you pick sides. Tickets: \$43.50; includes meal and show. Cornwall's Dinner Theatre, 18935 15 1/2 Mile Rd., Marshall. Through Aug. 22. 269-781-4293. [www.turkeyville.com](http://www.turkeyville.com)

**Hay Fever** A retired diva of the stage, her novelist husband and their two adult children have all invited house guests for the weekend. As they indulge their artistic eccentricities, the guests begin to wonder if they've landed in a madhouse and if they can survive the weekend with their own sanity intact. Tickets: \$15-24. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through Aug. 6. 616-395-7890. [www.hope.edu/hsrt](http://www.hope.edu/hsrt)

**Henry IV** A powerful, commanding father despairs of his errant, unruly eldest son; an heir questions his own fitness for the rank he's been groomed to inherit in a production that combines Henry IV, parts 1 and 2. Tickets: \$16-40. Michigan Shakespeare Festival, The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. Aug. 1 - Aug. 15. 734-394-5300. [www.cantonvillage theater.org](http://www.cantonvillage theater.org)

**Invasive Species** Earl Hobbs doesn't like people. Alone with his secrets, he continues this tradition in a little private fishing hole by his house - until one summer night he reels in something that leaves him speechless. Tickets: \$27-32. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through Aug. 23. 248-347-0003. [www.tippingpointtheatre.com](http://www.tippingpointtheatre.com)

**Jihad Jones and the Kalashnikov Babes**, by Yussef El Giundi - Michigan Premiere! Ashraf is an actor who has just received rave reviews for his performance of Hamlet at a struggling theater in Los Angeles. But he's having trouble paying the bills - and he needs his big break. And that's just what his smarmy agent is offering! Tickets: Pay-what-you-can; suggested donation \$20. Theatre Nova, The Yellow Barn, 416 W. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through Aug. 16. 734-635-8450. <https://www.artful.ly/theatre-nova/store/events/6413>

**Jingle ARRGH the Way!** A mysterious message left in the crow's nest of their ship brings Captain Braid Beard and his pirate mates back to North Beach to seek out young Jeremy Jacob to help solve a riddle and find the Christmas treasure. Tickets: \$15-24. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through Aug. 7. 616-395-7890. [www.hope.edu/hsrt](http://www.hope.edu/hsrt)

**Junie B. Jones: The Musical** It's Junie B.'s first day of first grade, and a lot of things have changed for her. Tickets: \$15. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, DeWitt Studio Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through Aug. 7. 616-395-7890. [www.hope.edu/hsrt](http://www.hope.edu/hsrt)

**Rock of Ages** A big-city rocker and small-town girl head to the coast to chase their dreams of making it big and falling in love. Tickets: \$37. Barn Theatre, 13351 West M-96, Augusta. Through Aug. 9. 269-731-4121. [www.barntheatreschool.com](http://www.barntheatreschool.com)

**Smokey Joe's Cafe** Come out for a journey through rock 'n' roll history: Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller graced the charts with their unforgettable music and lyrics, and now you can hear nearly 40 of their hits all together in a musical revue that illuminates the golden age of American culture. Tickets: \$15-30. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through Aug. 7. 616-395-7890. [www.hope.edu/hsrt](http://www.hope.edu/hsrt)

**The Art of Murder** In a remote estate in the countryside of Connecticut, Jack Brooks, one of the most accomplished and eccentric painters of his generation, and his devoted wife Annie await the imminent arrival of Jack's art dealer. But the visit is not a standard one. Tickets: \$15-35. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. Through Aug. 23. 517-655-SHOW. [www.williamstontheatre.org](http://www.williamstontheatre.org)

**The Great American Trailer Park Musical** In this Michigan premiere, Betty, Lin and Pickles are back with a new cast of residents at North Florida's most exclusive manufactured housing community, Armadillo Acres. Tickets: \$34-36. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Through Aug. 16. 269-343-2727. [www.farmersalleytheatre.com](http://www.farmersalleytheatre.com)

**The Rivals** In Bath, the center of fashion and culture in 1770s England, Lydia Languish wants to marry only for love; her mother, the famed Mrs. Malaprop, wants her to marry for status and fortune. Tickets: \$16-40. Michigan Shakespeare Festival, The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. Through Aug. 14. 734-394-5300. [www.cantonvillage theater.org](http://www.cantonvillage theater.org)

**To Kill a Mockingbird** Through courage and compassion, lawyer Atticus Finch seeks truth and justice, while his feisty daughter, Scout, learns what it means to be an instrument of hope. Tickets: \$15-24. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through Aug. 8. 616-395-7890. [www.hope.edu/hsrt](http://www.hope.edu/hsrt)

**Urinetown the Musical** Set in an admittedly absurd dystopian future where one must pay to pee, the show

lampoons corporate bureaucracy, pie-in-the-sky optimism, revolution without a plan and the musical theater genre itself. Tickets: \$10+. Penny Seats Theatre, West Park Band Shell, Seventh Street between Miller and Huron Rds., Ann Arbor. Through Aug. 15. 734-926-5346. [www.pennyseats.org](http://www.pennyseats.org)

**Wiley and the Hairy Man** A spine-tingling tale based on an old American folktale. Tickets: \$5-10. Open Book Theatre Company, The Market Center Park in the Southgate Shopping Center, Eureka and Trenton Roads, Southgate. Aug. 1 - Aug. 9. 734-288-7753. [www.openbooktc.com](http://www.openbooktc.com)

## ART 'N' AROUND

**N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art** "Susan Aaron-Taylor: Journeying". N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, 52 E. Forest, Detroit. June 12 - Aug. 22.

**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. [www.Flintarts.org](http://www.Flintarts.org)

**N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art** "Sam Gilliam: Prints". N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, 52 E. Forest, Detroit. June 12 - Aug. 22.

**N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art** "Gregory Coates: Minutes". N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, 52 E. Forest, Detroit. June 12 - Aug. 23.

**Riverwalk Theatre** "Mary Jobin, Oil Painted Landscapes". Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Aug. 1 - Sep. 30. 517-482-5700.

**robert kidd gallery** "Tom Parish: Venezia". robert kidd gallery, 107 Townsend St., Birmingham. July 17 - Aug. 15. 248-642-3909. [www.Robertkiddgallery.com](http://www.Robertkiddgallery.com)

**The Scarab Club** "Jerome Ferretti". The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. July 1 - Aug. 15. 313-831-1250. [www.Scarabclub.org](http://www.Scarabclub.org)

**The Scarab Club** "Cool & Warm: Scott Dolan & Jeanne Ruzzin". The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. July 1 - Aug. 29. 313-831-1250. [www.Scarabclub.org](http://www.Scarabclub.org)

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

## Puzzle on pg. 26

M	A	S	H		L	A	S	S	O		S	P	E	D	
A	L	P	O		E	T	H	E	L		C	O	V	E	
E	M	A	G		A	M	I	G	O		E	W	E	S	
	A	C	T	I	V	E	P	A	R	T	N	E	R		
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I	M	P	E	I		M	R	S			O	R	D	I	E
B	I	R	D	S		A	E	C		T	Y	R	O	L	
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G	A	B	E		D	I	A	N	A		G	L	A	M	
	H	E	T	E	R	O	X	E	X	U	A	L	S		
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I	N	D	I	R	E	S	T	R	A	I	G	H	T	S	
M	A	R	C			N	O	W	A	Y		E	U	R	O
A	S	E	A			N	O	I	R	E		T	R	A	M
Y	A	W	L			E	N	T	E	R		S	T	Y	E

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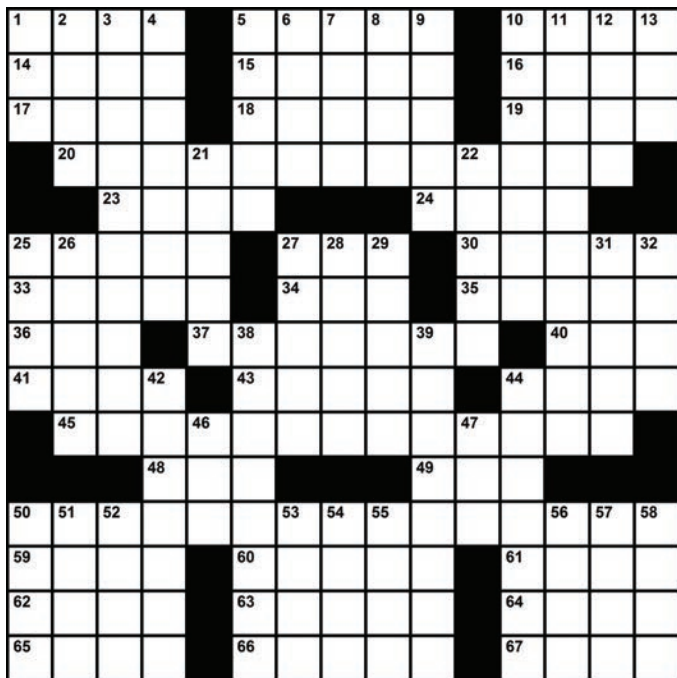


@michiganhotline

Volunteer Opportunities - Want to help improve the health of your community? Volunteer with the hotline today!  
 The Michigan HIV/STD Hotline is a program of AIDS Partnership Michigan



# Q Puzzle



- is an \_\_\_\_ ...
- 23 Wilde country  
24 Go-getter  
25 Philip Johnson contemporary  
27 Doubtfire's title  
30 Do-\_\_\_\_ (desperate)  
33 Chicken hawk and falcon  
34 Old nuclear power org.  
35 Alpine Austrian region  
36 "The Name of the Rose" writer  
37 "\_\_\_\_ Ghost" (Mailer novel)  
40 It changes a se or's gender  
41 Kaplan of Kotter fame  
43 "Candle in the Wind" subject  
44 David Bowie genre  
45 ... who wants to seduce desperate \_\_\_\_?  
48 Yokohama yes  
49 Mail order abbr.  
50 Answer to the riddle  
59 Fashion designer Jacobs  
60 "In your dreams!"  
61 Shared coin  
62 On an Olivia cruise  
63 Like Baldwin in Paris  
64 Amsterdam transport  
65 Two-master
- 66 Penetrate  
67 It may get pussy
- 6 Melissa Etheridge's "Don't Look \_\_\_\_"  
7 Place for your first mate  
8 Nintendo rival  
9 Mild oath  
10 Thespians may chew it  
11 Penetrating tool  
12 Green beginner?  
13 \_\_\_\_ Moines, Iowa  
21 Like Emma Donoghue  
22 Traffic noise  
25 Self-description from one's knees?  
26 Book after Jonah  
27 Racer Andreotti  
28 Hang loose  
29 Triangular treat  
31 Vowels of Sappho  
32 Jack of old oaters  
38 That's Rich!  
39 John Q. Public  
42 Morally upright  
44 Inspector's gizmos in a Rupert Everett flick  
47 AP rival  
50 Noncommittal words  
51 Gemini org.  
52 Barrymore of \_Boys on the Side\_  
53 Shakespeare's "anon" updated  
54 Boob, to a Brit  
55 Way to have one's meat  
56 "Kiss of the Spider Woman"'s William  
57 Carhop's carrier  
58 "\_\_\_\_ Like it Hot"

# Top-sy Turvy

## Across

- 1 Sitcom with a cross-dressing corporal  
5 Wonder Woman weapon  
10 Moved one's ass  
14 Food on the floor, maybe

- 15 Waters of the sound?  
16 Where pirates moor  
17 Web info source  
18 Friend of Ricky Martin  
19 Fleecy females  
20 Where do you find a gay man who

## Down

- 1 Rita's second name  
2 \_\_\_\_ mater  
3 Alien's anal insert?  
4 Bound, at a gay rodeo  
5 Hit the road



Solution on pg. 24

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# Classifieds

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS - COMMUNITY SERVICES

### Michigan LGBT Resources

Find hundreds of resources around the state online and in our digital edition of PrideSource Magazine. Visit [www.pridesource.com/directory.html](http://www.pridesource.com/directory.html) or open the digital edition.

### LGBT-Friendly Wedding And Party Planning Vendors

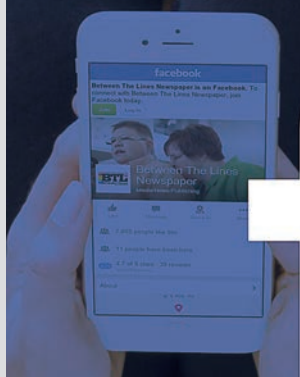
Find hundreds of resources to plan your event with supportive businesses. BTL has produced the Ultimate LGBT Wedding and Anniversary Expo for five years. Find what you need at [www.btlweddingexpo.com](http://www.btlweddingexpo.com)

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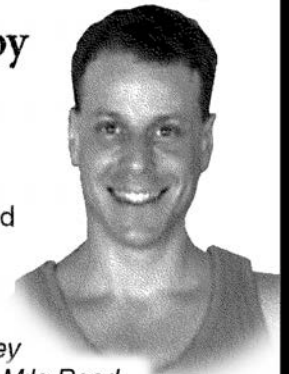


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