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Promise Change**

**Is Violence Increasing Towards
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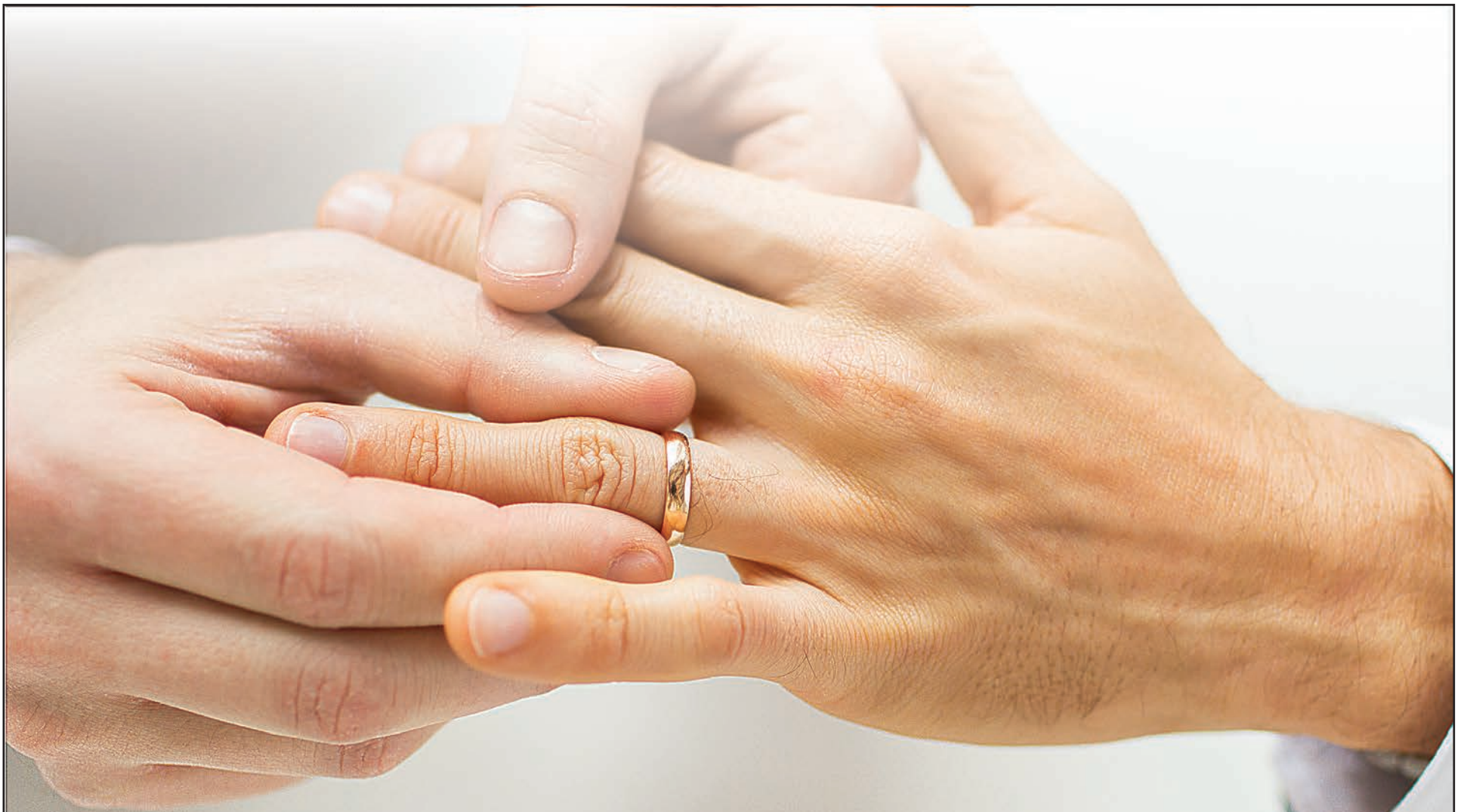
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“When we have crimes in the LGBT community – and it’s no secret we just had a homicide, a case that we are still actively working – we need information. We know that the streets talk. And the only way we are going to get that information is if we have relationships.”

- Detroit Police Chief James Craig
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DPD Promises Change, LGBT Community To Hold Police Accountable

BY AJ TRAGER

PALMER PARK—Over a hundred people gathered in Palmer Park Aug. 12 for an LGBT community conversation with the Detroit Police Department, leaders from Detroit based LGBT organizations and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

In the second LGBT community conversation with the DPD, the LGBT community around Palmer Park raised grievances, gave thanks and shared their struggles in dealing with the police. Most notable were the voices of the trans woman of color who call that area home and say that they have negative, and often times harmful, interactions with on-duty deputies.

The conversation began with a moment of silence, led by LGBT Liaison Officer for the DPD, Dani Woods, for the recent victims of LGBT targeted homicide in Detroit: Amber Monroe, 20, lost to a gunshot wound Aug. 8 and Ashton O'Hara, 25, lost to a stabbing July 14.

Joining the conversation was Detroit Police Chief James E. Craig who assumed leadership of the DPD in 2013; Barbara McQuade, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan; Mark Chutkow, chief of public corruption for the U.S. Attorney's Office; Patrice Young, homicide coordinator for Crime Stoppers of Michigan; Yvonne Siferd, director of victim services at Equality Michigan; Rhiannon Chester, LGBT Detroit program coordinator; Lydia Ahlum Hanson, Affirmations interim director of programs; Lilianna Reyes, youth program coordinator for Affirmations; and Pamela E. Alexander, program director for Ruth Ellis Center.

The DPD held its first LGBT community conversation last year, but Craig says that they lacked robust attendance.

Craig came to Detroit after working as the police chief in both Los Angeles and Cincinnati. After establishing a relationship with the LGBT community in those areas, Craig says that reports of LGBT related hate crimes went up because there was then an effective relationship and the incidents were finally being reported. Eventually that number diminished because the communities were no longer fearful of reporting crimes of violence.

When Craig arrived, Detroit lacked an LGBT coordinator and an active relationship



Detroit Police Chief James Craig, representatives from the U.S. Attorney's Office and Pamela Alexander from Ruth Ellis Center addressing community concerns Thursday in Palmer Park. BTL Photo: AJ Trager

between the force and the LGBT community. One of the first things he did was promote Woods as LGBT Liaison.

The DPD wants to be committed to sustaining relationships and maintaining open dialogue with the LGBT community and plans to start an advisory board in mid to late September.

"When we have crimes in the LGBT community – and it's no secret we just had a homicide, a case that we are still actively working – we need information. We know that the streets talk. And the only way we are going to get that information is if we have relationships. We want to make sure that we have it so that that way, when we do get information, someone can reach out and touch Dani and be comfortable talking to our homicide investigators," Craig said.

#OurOwnLivesMatter

"In every aspect of #AllLivesMatter, we must keep in mind that in the LGBT community, and in our community as a whole, we have a responsibility as citizens to love, care and protect each other and the community in which we live and work. There is something going on every second, every hour and every minute that we are living and breathing. To make a difference, we must work together to maintain order," Woods said before introducing the activist

and grassroots panelists for the discussion. "I would like to reiterate the importance of reporting information."

Detroit has had 15 cases of LGBT related crimes so far this year – a number that more than doubled from the seven reported cases in 2014.

"I know that there are many more (crimes) than that. Because I also know that there are many who will not report crimes in the LGBT community. We want to change that," Craig explained.

According to the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, in 2014 barely half of LGBT survivors of hate violence reported their incidents to the local police. Those that did not report cited that their reason for not doing so was due to mistrust of law enforcement.

"I deal with the trans community around here more personally than a lot of people," said one man at the event who went by Joshua. "Everybody knows what kind of community this is. There's a lot of stereotyping still that comes from the police because I have seen the police call over the loudspeaker, call these girls men, 'Niggas get off the street'; it's the tone that you guys set. If the dope boys can hear you screaming over the loudspeaker, calling these girls trannies, drag queens ... do you think they're not going to come out and rob them? You are a reflection of the way they (the Palmer Park community) respect. There isn't respect from the police to begin with."

Craig responded to Joshua's statement by suggesting that those incidents get reported to the DPD, where Craig said they will open up a complaint in their "very robust complaint process," and that the issue will get investigated.

Of those that did report their incidents to the police, 27 percent reported hostility from the police, 25 percent reported indifference, 57 percent reported being unjustly arrested and 33 percent reported excessive force.

LGBT people reported insults, intimidating language and anti-LGBT slurs when reporting crimes against them. Rhiannon Chester, of LGBT Detroit, encourages members of the LGBT community to join the community advisory board brought up by Craig, and wants to see more of the community come to the mic.

"What does it mean to make our own lives matter and what does that look like? What does that mean? It means being at the table, it means being present," Chester said. "If we want to build a relationship with the police, then we have to say what we want and stop being afraid and not let the bad blood that we've had be the determining factor of what happens to us. It's time for us to step up and talk about what we want."

Woodward and John R are known for the prominence of prostitutes, with some claiming there is a high number of trans prostitutes. The 2009 National Transgender Discrimination

See Police, page 8

INFO

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Is Violence Increasing Towards Trans Women Of Color?

BY AJ TRAGER

DETROIT – Three of Detroit’s own trans people of color have been reported murdered or significantly harmed in the last month. Since January, 17 trans women have been found murdered throughout the nation, the majority being trans women of color. Not much is known about the motive behind these killings, but national statistics show that the trend is not regional to Detroit.

The LGBT community faces more challenges than its straight-identified counterparts and none more so than trans women of color. Trans women who survive hate attacks are six times more likely to experience physical violence when interacting with the police than are other LGB survivors, according to the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs. According to the National Center for Transgender Equality, 41 percent of trans and gender nonconforming people have attempted suicide. And that’s just the beginning of the overwhelming number of statistics showcasing how many systems harm the trans community.

During the first two months of 2015, seven trans women of color were murdered, a rate of almost one per week, in the U.S. The Detroit police investigated three hate crimes, including a murder, against transgender people in the Palmer Park area last year.

In 2013, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs reported that 72 percent of anti-LGBT homicide victims were trans women and that 67 percent were trans women of color. In 2014, they reported that trans women were 5.8 times more likely to experience police violence and 6.1 times more likely to experience physical violence from the police.

Amber Monroe

Amber Monroe, 20, a trans Wayne State University student, was found shot and killed on the city’s west side Aug. 8 near Six Mile and Woodward. Monroe is the 13th transgender woman murdered in the U.S. this year and the 10th trans woman of color.

“Our hearts are heavy with grief that we have lost another vibrant member of our community too soon. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of Amber’s family and friends whom she clearly loved deeply. We have no idea yet whether this attack was fueled by transphobia,” Yvonne Siferd,

director of Victim Services for Equality Michigan, said. “Transgender women, and especially transgender women of color, are disproportionately affected by violence. Her life was just beginning; I know that this loss will leave so many people with a hole in their lives and with more questions than answers. Let’s come together to celebrate her life, and work for real change so that our transgender sisters can be free from persecution. I know we can do better. We have to do better.”



Amber Monroe

According to Equality Michigan, Monroe loved her friends and vogueing.

The funeral for Monroe was held Aug. 16 at Caver Memorial Funeral Home in Detroit. Monroe had many friends at Ruth Ellis Center, and in honor of her memory REC accepted donations to Ruth’s Angels to help pay for the funeral.

Name Not Disclosed

A trans woman of color was hospitalized Aug. 11 after sustaining injuries in her hand after being attacked near the intersection of John R and Nevada around 3:50 a.m. Her name has not been released.

The 29-year-old victim was walking in the area when someone drove up and fired a shot from inside the vehicle striking her hand.

“We are extremely relieved that today’s shooting did not result in fatality, still, we are incredibly concerned for the safety of trans women in the Detroit area. This is the second

See Violence, page 8

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ACLU Renews Call For Trans Legal Protections Following Recent Attacks

In the wake of recent attacks against transgender women in Detroit, the ACLU of Michigan is again calling on legislators to update state civil-rights protections and hate-crime laws to include safeguards for gender identity and sexual orientation.

Jay Kaplan, staff attorney for the ACLU of Michigan LGBT Project, issued the following statement Aug. 13:

“We are both grief-stricken and outraged over separate shooting incidents, one of them fatal, involving two transgender women of color in the city of Detroit in the past week.

On the morning of Aug. 8, 20-year-old Amber Monroe, a student at Wayne State University, was shot and killed in the Palmer Park area. Three days later, on Aug. 11, an unidentified transgender woman of color was also shot in the city. She is currently recovering from her injuries.

Amber’s death makes her the 13th transgender person reported killed this year, according to the National LGBTQ Taskforce. In 2014, four trans women of color were killed in Detroit, including three in the Palmer Park location.

We want the killings to end and for justice to be served.

But true justice extends beyond finding the perpetrators of these horrible crimes. With this in mind, we also are calling on our state legislators to amend Michigan’s Ethnic Intimidation Law to include gender identity and sexual orientation. We also urge our leaders to update our state civil-rights laws to protect transgender people from discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations.

And in a nation where a quarter of trans women experience violence and where 25 percent are forced to live on less than \$10,000 a year, we need more programs that educate Michiganders on what it means to be transgender and how to work to assure the dignity and safety of all transgender people.”



Ruth Ellis Center Seeks Backpack Donations

The Ruth Ellis Center currently needs 80 backpacks with supplies for youth in need. REC provides both a short-term and long-term residential safe space as well as support services for runaway, homeless and at-risk LGBT and questioning youth.

Backpacks should be large enough for 15-18 year olds. Items specifically requested include men’s and women’s underwear, bras and socks.

Donations can be brought to Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit at 2441 Pinecrest, Ferndale by Aug. 31. For more information, call 248-399-7741.

► Violence

Continued from p. 7

transgender woman that has been shot in three days. While we do not know whether this incident is related in any way to Amber’s (Monroe) murder, we want to remind everyone to remain vigilant and look out for one another,” Equality Michigan wrote on their Facebook page.

“We have a lot of work to do to improve the safety and well being for trans women in Detroit, and all of Michigan. Today, and every day, we call on our legislators to amend Michigan’s hate crimes statute, the Michigan Ethnic Intimidation Act, to include sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. Our communities are disproportionately at risk for violence based on hatred. It is time that our legislators recognize our humanity.”

If anyone has any information about either shooting, please report to Detroit Police Department’s anonymous tip line at 1-800-SPEAK-UP or call Equality Michigan at 313-537-7000 x 114.

Ashton O’Hara

Ashton O’Hara, 25, identified as transgender and was genderfluid and was using male pronouns at the time of his death. His body was found brutally murdered in a field in Detroit on July 14. He was the 14th reported murder of a trans person this year, the 12th trans person of color.

“I know Ashton is with God, but every



Ashton O’Hara

day is a challenge. I hope speaking about this might help save somebody – even just one person saved will be worth it. A lot of people find it hard to be themselves in this world, but Ashton was always uniquely him. It’s time for everyone to be respected,” said O’Hara’s mother, Rebecca.

By all accounts, Ashton was full of love for his family and friends and lived life on his terms. He loved kids, to dance, to perform at clubs and he loved doing hair (he taught himself how to braid extensions at the age of 4). He reportedly told his mother at the age of 2, “Mama, you are so pretty, I want to be just like you when I grow up.”

Even though Ashton had so much love in his life, he often felt alone, and that no one really loved him.

“Maybe the kind of love he was searching for was to love himself,” Rebecca said.

After Rebecca found out the news, a candlelight vigil was held. She was overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and support by friends and family at the funeral on July 20. Her one request of those in attendance was to wear bright colors, “because my son lived.”

The Detroit Police Department recently earned high praise from Rebecca at an LGBT community conversation, held Aug. 12, for its treatment of her and Ashton.

“They have been so considerate. I was shocked that they actually care about who he was. They were so sincere. I feel like things are different with this chief. I think he really cares, and I never felt that way about any of the other chiefs. I’m glad I got to thank him in person,” she said.

The Detroit Police Department has suspect, Larry B. Gaulding, in custody and a first-degree murder trial is set to begin on Sept. 24.

“For the third time in less than seven days, we have had to report on violence against a trans person of color in our community. I cannot begin to express the outrage and sadness that we are experiencing,” said Siferd. “I am so grateful, that through this grief, I have had the pleasure of talking with Ashton’s mom about who he was, how he lived and how he loved. Out of respect for Rebecca, we ask that all inquiries be focused on Ashton’s life, rather than on the gruesome details of his murder.”

► Police

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Survey, conducted by the National Center for Transgender Equality and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, found that 27 percent of trans respondents made \$20,000 or less a year with 15 percent reporting only making \$10,000 or lower. Overall, 13 percent were unemployed and of those that were employed, 47 percent experienced an adverse job action because they are transgender – they did not get a job, were denied a promotion or were fired – that directly impacted their employment status.

“I understand this is a start, but my sisters are dying in the streets,” said Yaya, a black trans woman of color. “I need accountability, and I need something that we can do. If we are going to work with the police, whether it’s trainings or whatever, we can do so that the community can hold you guys accountable for the violence that is inflicted upon trans women of color in the city of Detroit.”



Rebecca O’Hara, mother of recently deceased Ashton O’Hara, speaks directly to the DPD, thanking them for their continuous work and dedication to finding a suspect in her son’s murder. Ashton was a trans person of color who was lost his life July 14. BTL Photo: AJ Trager

“As a beautiful trans woman of color we have to be real about this conversation. We have to make the police and ourselves accountable. LGBT people of color are afraid to go to the police for what could happen to them for petty crimes. We’re

asking that the police understand the privilege that is happening,” Reyes said. “They have the privilege because they can lock us up. They can eradicate us. You can only have a conversation when everything is equal, and it’s not.”

Gamrat And Courser Scandal Continues To Run Its Course

BY TODD HEYWOOD

The Unholy Trinity – freshmen Reps. Todd Courser, R-Lapeer; Cindy Gamrat, R-Plainwell; and Gary Glenn, R-Midland – is breaking up. Seems Glenn couldn't brook the hypocrisy of his own family values caucus.

The trio came into the state House wielding heavy rhetoric and little legislative experience. But using their combined powers for the good of the tea party agenda, they forced a showdown over the speakership then seemingly went their separate ways.

Glenn went off to do everything in his power to stop being the president of the American Family Association of Michigan (which he still is, incidentally) by attacking worker rights. Gamrat and Courser set a bolder course in social conservatism. They introduced a raft of bills – none of which has even gotten a hearing – assaulting a woman's right to choose and requiring marriage licenses in Michigan to be signed only by clergy. Gamrat got booted from the GOP caucus meetings for leaking confidential information; Courser joined her in outraged protest.

Then two weeks ago the secret that had been whispered about in every hall around the state Capitol became front page news: Gamrat and Courser, both married to other persons and with children of their own, were having an affair. But these two crazy kids couldn't stop with just an affair. Nay, as it became clear the affair was going to be exposed, Courser hatched a plot to send an email to top GOP leaders throughout the state accusing himself of being a bisexual, porn addicted pervert and Gamrat of being less-than-virtuous.

Audio recordings made secretly by a former staffer show Courser intended to use the email to inoculate the herd in preparation for the ultimate revelation of his affair. Gamrat has since held a press conference and denied knowledge of that email plot, except that in the audio, according to the Detroit News, Courser can be heard calling Gamrat and getting the final approval to send the email out.

For Glenn, infamous for his own stack of half-truths and misrepresentations targeting the LGBT community, this all was a bridge too far. Last week, he joined a growing chorus of lawmakers and leaders calling for the duo to resign.

Of course, the duo is standing strong. There's a vile conspiracy of big government

supporters aligned against them. Courser claims there was a blackmail plot which forced him to send out the gay defense email – except he apparently didn't bother to report the blackmail until a week after his plot was uncovered and reported by the Detroit News. That's when he decided to walk into the Lapeer state police post and file the complaint. That was, of course, after releasing a 27 minute audio tape responding to the News piece, which he characterized as a "hit piece."

A week after the story broke, Gamrat held

For Gary Glenn, infamous for his own stack of half-truths and misrepresentations targeting the LGBT community, this all was a bridge too far. Last week, he joined a growing chorus of lawmakers and leaders calling for the duo to resign.

a press conference at the office of Lansing attorney Andrew Abood. She was tearful. She was flanked by her husband, Joe. She admitted to the affair, but denied involvement in the cover up or any wrong-doing – either as broken House rules or criminal laws. She forgot to note that admitting to adultery was an admission to the commission of a felony in Michigan. She is not, however, planning to resign.

Oh, and then earlier this week, former staffer Joshua Cline, who said he resigned from the combined office operations of the two lawmakers to preserve his integrity, confirmed a long standing rumor about the Courser/Gamrat affair. Apparently Joe Gamrat caught the two pro-traditional marriage supporters in a hotel room at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Lansing. Between The Lines had heard about this incident, which as is wont to happen with rumor and gossip, had been expanded to include Lansing Police being called. The incident didn't happen according to police records.

The duo have their supporters. Isabelle Terry, a right-wing fanatic closely aligned with Dave Agema, the GOP National Committeeman from Michigan, took to RightMI.com to defend them. She declared she was glad they were not resigning.

Her thinking? The two are being punished by big government supporters.

"Deals over taxpayer money suddenly

See Courser/Gamrat, page 11

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Oct. 25: Detroit LGBT Chamber Hosts Pride Day At Upcoming Lions Game

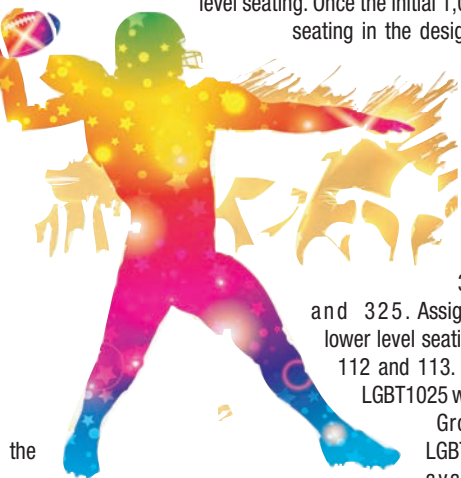
Lions Player DeAndre Levy Signs On As Ally

The Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce will host an LGBT Pride Day at Ford Field on Oct. 25.

DeAndre Levy, an ally Lions player, has donated 100 tickets for the event. Twenty-five tickets will be donated to each of the following LGBT organizations in southeastern Michigan: Affirmations, LGBT Detroit (formally known as KICK) and Ruth Ellis Center. The free tickets will be distributed via the chamber approximately one week prior to the game.

The Detroit Lions will play against the Minnesota Vikings at 1 p.m. The Chamber has secured a minimum of 1,000 tickets for LGBT Lions fans starting at \$55 for upper level seating and \$100 for lower level seating. Once the initial 1,000 are sold out, seating in the designated Chamber

assigned sections may not be guaranteed. Assigned areas for the upper level include: 322, 323, 324 and 325. Assigned sections for lower level seating include: 100, 112 and 113. Use promocode LGBT1025 when purchasing. Group tickets for LGBT section will be available online



through Oct. 5. However, as demand for game day tickets increases the amount of allotted seats may sell out.

The Chamber's official Pride Day shirt for the event is \$15. Proceeds from the sale will benefit several local LGBT nonprofit organizations. The shirt can be purchased at {URL <http://www.booster.com/lionsprideday>}.

With the purchase of the Pride night T-shirt, Lions fans will be entered into a drawing to win tickets to the game and/or Lions gear. Winners will be announced Oct. 2. The chamber will also be giving away Pride items outside the arena for game attendees and is seeking out several locations for a tailgate.

The DRLGBTCC hosted three other successful pride events at local sports games including the Detroit Pistons in December 2014, the Red Wings in April and the Tigers on June 3.

"We have received a ton of support for this event. Companies, organizations and even an ally Lions Player have reached out to show support. We hope the community will come out and support us as well. This is the fourth pride night we have done within one year. We have had major successes this year and growth opportunities for next year," said Kevin Heard, a board member for the LGBT chamber.

The Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of commerce strives to break down the barriers of the LGBTQ+A community and create inclusive places where all walks of life can enjoy, build businesses and be "OUT."

"By identifying yourself, you make the life of everyone else who is LGBT a little easier because you are a business owner standing in your truth," Heard said. "People can't do anything but respect that. You will have a sense of freedom and nothing can hold you back by admitting to the world it is part of who you are."

To purchase tickets go to <http://bit.ly/1K4mgks> and type in LGBT1025.



A group of Roman Catholic parents and allies of LGBTQ people, gathered Aug. 11 at the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth to protest the messages of Catholic leaders as they addressed LGBT Catholics. Photos courtesy of Fortunate Families

Fortunate Families Protest Program For Gay Catholics

BY AJ TRAGER

PLYMOUTH – Fortunate Families Detroit, a group of Roman Catholic parents and allies of LGBTQ people, gathered Aug. 11 at the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth to protest the messages of Catholic leaders as they addressed LGBT Catholics.

Fortunate Families held a quiet, peaceful protest on the second morning of a three-day conference titled "Welcoming and Accompanying Our Brothers and Sisters with Same-Sex Attractions," presented by Courage Apostolate, the only Church-sanctioned ministry for LGBT Catholics.

Even though they had very little contact with conference participants as they were driving into the parking lot, Fortunate Families was greeted with several waves and two thumbs up from cars driving down Five Mile, and reported no negativity from passers-by.

Organizers of the conference describe the mission as "designed for bishops, priests, religious, school superintendents and diocesan personnel who minister to those with same-sex attraction and for all those who want to be welcoming and to accompany those who have same-sex attraction." However, Fortunate Families believes that the conference sought to

make it clear that the Church's position on sexual relationships between LGBT people cannot be considered morally acceptable.

"They use the phrase, 'same-sex attracted person.' It's a good way of sterilizing," said Patrick Brewis, a member of Fortunate Families. "The Catholic Church refers to themselves as the bride of Christ. If the bride of Christ

"They use the phrase, 'same-sex attracted person.' It's a good way of sterilizing."

- Patrick Brewis, a member of Fortunate Families.

is not acting in concert with its groom, then clearly there is a marital squabble between the happy couple. The bride of Christ is becoming more and more exclusive, saying that 'we must include our LGBT members,' but what they're doing is saying, 'I know love is family,

but I don't unconditionally love you."

The conference featured testimonies of those who experience same-sex attraction on how chaste friendships and the Church have helped them on their journey toward chastity and sanctity; experts on Christian anthropology, natural law, the psychology of homosexuality, scripture and chastity; discussions on how pastors, family and friends can best love those who experience same-sex attraction; and tools for communicating the Church's teaching on homosexuality in schools, parishes and students as an integral part of the New Evangelization.

"If you could focus your Christian religion on Christ, then you mimic Christ. Christ was inclusive to all," Brewis said.

Brewis is a Cradle Catholic, Metro Detroit native. He spent some time living out of state but has returned to Michigan to take care of his mother. Brewis knew that he was a little different his whole life but didn't come out as gay until his 30s. After coming into his own and realizing his true self, Brewis struggled with his Catholic identity, wanting to affirm his faith but live authentically as himself.

"I questioned the goodness of God," Brewis began. "If God somehow made me gay and the world saw me as

See Fortunate Families, next page

► Fortunate Families

Continued from p. 10

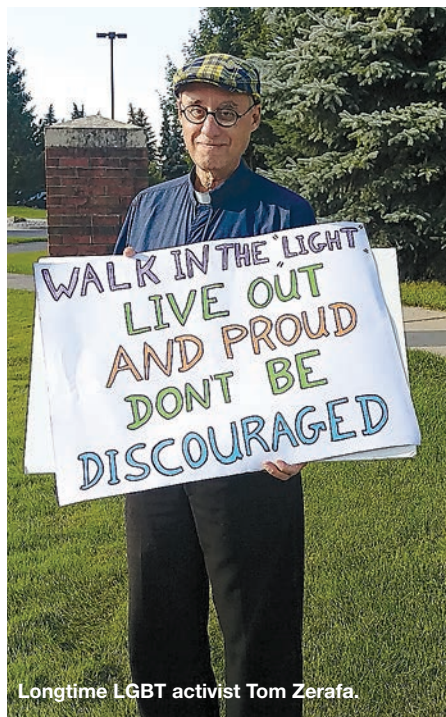
intrinsically not good, then how do I trust the creator who created me in such a way? That was the first part of the process. Then I shifted the focus outward to society and realized how phobia filled it is in gay communities and in society in general.”

Directly following the release of the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling on marriage equality, bishops representing Michigan’s seven Catholic dioceses signed a letter that said the Court’s ruling “will create inestimable conflicts between the state” and the Church. A message that does not sit well with LGBT Catholics in the state.

Despite not feeling completely included in his faith and having conflicts with faith leadership in the Church, Brewis reports having a good time protesting the conference directed at his LGBT peers.

“It was inspiring to be a part of a group who were willing to have the courage to stand in front of St. John’s and say they are peaceful, but also say where they want the Church to change,” Brewis said.

“They have this whole idea that I can be a child of God, created out of love by God. But yet I am not considered a full member of the



Longtime LGBT activist Tom Zerafa.

community in the Catholic Church if I am a sexual person and I chose to express my sexuality,” Brewis said. “The Church needs to look at its own dysfunction.”

► Courser/Gamrat

Continued from p. 9

turn to deals over acts of heterosexual sex, homosexual sex (likely more rampant than the heterosexual sex judging by the huge numbers of effeminate men romping around the MIGOP) and drugs use,” (sic) she wrote. “The politicians are sluts in money, power and physical highs. Players play, secrets are kept. That is ... unless you are speaking the truth.”

So, we have Gamrat and Courser admitting to committed the crime of adultery, an investigation by the House Business Office as to whether or not House rules may have been broken by the duo and now a Michigan State Police investigation. The FBI has thus far declined to comment if that organization is also investigating.

It appears Terry’s political orgy is actually an orgy of scandal related investigations. And the sad thing is that this scandal is likely to bring the legislature to a grinding halt. If there is wrong-doing found, the House will have to empanel a committee to hear evidence for expulsion. That will be referred to the House floor. A vote will be taken.

The Legislature was on vacation when this story broke, and the scandal is only two weeks old, but continues to play out in dueling Facebook statements and press conferences.

If the only expulsion of a sitting member of the Legislature is an indication, this scandal threatens to shut down everything. When the state Senate threw Former State Sen. David Jaye out, the Legislature was frozen for nearly



In this Jan. 14, 2015 photo, Rep. Cindy Gamrat, R-Plainwell, and Rep Todd Courser, R-Lapeer wave to reporters in the House of Representatives in Lansing. A Michigan House leader on Friday, Aug. 7, 2015 requested an investigation into allegations that Courser orchestrated the distribution of a fictional email claiming he had sex with a male prostitute in a bid to conceal an extramarital relationship. In audio recordings obtained by the Detroit News, Courser said the email was designed to create “a complete smear campaign” about him and Gamrat so a revelation about their relationship would seem “mild by comparison.” Dale G. Young /Detroit News via AP

six weeks as the process played out.

Here’s hoping the duo does the right thing and resigns. Then, if Cline’s stories of working in the combined offices of the two lawmakers is accurate, Gamrat can get Courser a pillow and a blanket and tuck him in to sleep – on the sidewalk outside the House Office Building.



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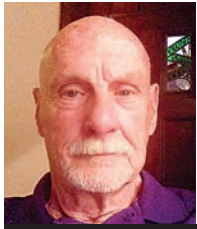


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Pitwool, Peter Is 7 Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

He lives with his mommy, Wanda Jean Buttercup. His daddy, Darnell Prince Pitwool. And a dog named Nebuchadnezzar. Nezzar, for short.

Peter's home schooled. Living in Topelulu, Alabama, famed sin-free domain of Lou "Lulu" Seldom's Fracas in the Family Foundation. An America-First town noted worldwide for exporting biblically blessed peanut sandwiches and gluten-free communion wafers.

Little Peter knows his ABCs. Can tell Inferno Red from Damnation Pink. Knows his shapes. Mostly manly. He can – after a fatherly paddling or two – crayon color inside narrow, straight lines. A good child – if perhaps slightly menaced, but nonetheless parentally encouraged – he says his prayers at night. Or else.

"God bless Mommy. Daddy. Little Nezzar. May our misguided President Obama see the light and leave the White House (which it's really not) ASAP (the sooner the better.) Amen!"

The lad is the model/subject of a kiddie book that's sparking a helluva lot of controversy. It's thoughtfully called, "Little Peter Has Two Gay Thrashers," written, illustrated, blessed-oil anointed by Rev. Dred Felch.

Rev. Felch – who raised his own totally obedient, totally Onward-Christian-Soldiers militant, 12 kids to gay thrash, starting with potty training ("as the spirit moves") – says "Thrashers" is written in second grader's Basic Word Vocabulary. Has lots of action pictures. A punchy story line.

“ God bless Mommy. Daddy. Little Nezzar. May our misguided President Obama see the light and leave the White House (which it's really not) ASAP (the sooner the better.) Amen! **”**

"My book's designed to counter the horrific harm done by 'Arthur Has Two Papas,' 'Molly Has Two Mamas,' 'Bruce Has Six Neutered Poodles.' While I'll admit that I'm a no-brainer at religious story telling, I do know how to cast the first stone at fag propaganda.

"I call chapter one, 'Slingshotting Goliath's Gay Agenda.' Other chapters – with content suitable for kids under 5 – are 'Finding Someone Special to Bully,' 'Gay Playmates Won't Go To Heaven' and 'Don't Let Mommy Dress You as A Nun (or Be Friends With A Touchy-Feely Priest)."

While some gospel reviewers find Rev. Felch's book piously repetitious, the Southern Comfort Baptist Goodness Only Knows Library Journal reports, "The pictures will make a lasting and indelible impression on Christian toddlers."

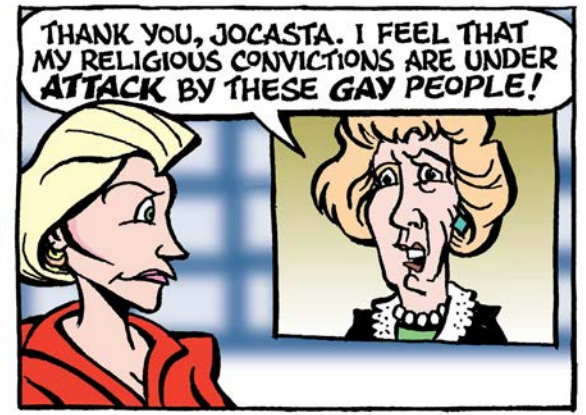
Two illustrations are singled out for evangelical merit: "Sinful Molly Gets Parboiled" and "Abandoned Arthur Meets the Iron Maiden."

Topelulu's gay activists are upset. They've been secretly checking out copies. Or stealing them. Snarls one, "Rev. Felch can write anything he damn well pleases, but I wouldn't read thrash trash like this – no matter how many Bible quotes it has – to a 5-year-old, even if he or she has his or her own library card."

"I'll admit it's something of a problem," says Topelulu head librarian Priscilla Red-Marker Renfrew, 89. "These gay agenda types have no respect for decent, church-going, fully dunked baptized readers. So far, 25 copies of this simple sentence gem have disappeared. Poof!

"In the interest of fair play, we've taken to keeping 'Gay Thrashers'

See Parting Glances, next page



Transmissions



Cruel Summer

OPINION BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

We're coasting into the end of summer. The days are hot and humid, and where I am sitting the smoke of distant wildfires tinges the sky. Everyone is sated on the political machinations of way too many candidates for an election that is still more than a year away.

In the transgender community, we have the start of both the "I Am Cait" and "I Am Jazz" reality shows, both featuring eponymous transwoman. You'd think it would be a nice time to relax in front of the air conditioner and reflect on how great things are going here on the other side of the "transgender tipping point" that Time Magazine proclaimed last year.

I feel, however, the need to drop a dose of reality.

Back in the late 1990s, I created the Transgender Day of Remembrance, a project that each autumn seeks to raise awareness of anti-transgender murders. With that in mind, I need to tell you about this summer.

It was shortly after Memorial Day weekend, which many in the U.S. consider the start of summertime grilling and swimming, that Mercedes Williamson's body was discovered buried in a field in Rocky Creek, Alabama. Josh Vallum had stabbed her to death on May 30. She was 17 years old.

On July 21 – just after midsummer – the body of a

black transgender woman by the name of India Clarke was found outside of the University Area Community Center in Tampa Bay, Florida. The 25-year-old was beaten to death.

Two days later, K.C. Haggard was found dead, stabbed to death in the street in Fresno, California. CCTV in the area not only recorded the crime, but other residents ignored K.C.'s cries for help. She was 66 years old.

In Dallas, Texas, on July 29, the body of Shade Schuler, a 22-year-old black transwoman, was discovered in a field off Riverside Drive. Her body was so badly decomposed that it took an additional two weeks for the police to identify her. It's unknown when she was killed.

And then there's August.

The body of Elisha Walker was discovered in a poorly constructed grave in Johnson County, North Carolina. She had been reported missing on Nov. 11, 2014. The burial site was 100 miles from where Walker lived.

Amber Monroe was shot as she left a car at Six Mile and Woodward in Detroit on Aug. 8. She was 20 years old, black and known by her friends as someone who

See Cruel Summer, next page

► Cruel Summer

Continued from p. 12

always had a smile on her face.

Late in the evening on Aug. 11, Kandis Capri, a 35-year-old black transwoman from Phoenix, Arizona, was shot several times outside an apartment block.

Finally, a little over a week past Monroe's death, information revealed that Ashton O'Hara's body had been discovered in a field in Detroit. Ashton was a black transgender/genderfluid person.

Now, that is simply the summer months. Let's talk for a moment about the rest of this year. If we count from January, those eight names above are added to nine more:

- Papi Edwards, Jan. 9
- Lamia Beard, Jan. 17
- Ty Underwood, Jan. 26
- Yazmin Vash Payne, Jan. 31
- Taja Gabrielle de Jesus, Feb. 8
- Penny Proud, Feb. 10
- Bri Golec, Feb. 13
- Kristina Grant Infiniti, Feb. 15
- London Chanel, May 18

Seventeen names. Sixteen if you only focus on those killed during this year, given Elisha Walker missing since last year.

Let's not miss this, too: as many people as that is who were murdered, this is only the known cases within the U.S. If you include the rest of the world, the numbers go well past a hundred.

Oh, and one more thing about these numbers. Yes, 17 is high this year for the U.S., but 12 died in the country last year, and 15 here in 2013. These deaths have been happening at a high level for many years: the difference is our awareness of them.

When I first started examining anti-transgender violence in 1998, many cases were not covered in the media. If they were, it would often be a nameless "man in a dress" you might read about.

I'm sure that plenty of cases were treated like that of Papi Edwards earlier this year, where a presumably transphobic investigator chose to call her a male and ignore her identity

► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 12

under lock and key in our Mature Reader's Lounge & Alcove, along with 'Well of Loneliness,' 'Lolita,' 'A House is Not a Home,' and 'Fifty Shades of Gay,' er, 'Grey.'

"As a God-fearing woman who makes every Dewey Decimal count, I'll say this: as Heaven above is my witness, it's to the credit of the Topelulu Freefall Baptist Church – conveniently located where Falwell Street crosses Robertson Avenue at Billy Graham Cul-de-sac – that church's members have

This sort of violence is not so simply cured by "educating people about transgender people," or some such. This is violence that is born out of transphobia, sure, but homophobia is also an element. Many of those who kill us are not making a distinction between gay and transgender, and are acting out of an anti-gay view.

and her appearance at death.

So if we've always seen violence at these levels, you may ask, then how do we change things for the better?

My initial response is a simple one, born out of the frustration of someone who has, quite frankly, seen way too many people murdered due to anti-transgender violence: burn it all down and start over.

This sort of violence is not so simply cured by "educating people about transgender people," or some such. This is violence that is born out of transphobia, sure, but homophobia is also an element. Many of those who kill us are not making a distinction between gay and transgender, and are acting out of an anti-gay view.

For some, too, this is as much about trans as it is anti-woman. The transgender women killed are women, and their deaths make them victims of misogyny.

Beyond that, it's racism we're looking at. Most of those killed are people of color, and more so were black. This should not – can not – be ignored.

We need to work together, and work on every "-ism" to start to see change.

Until then, get used to many more cruel summers.

Gwen Smith isn't tired of writing about death so much as the deaths themselves. You'll find her on Twitter at @gwenners.

lovingly replaced every friggin' gay-agenda swiped copy taken by those fruitcake fags."

"The gospel truth is," says Freefall pastor Emmett K. Monsooner, "those pervy clunkheads don't want anybody, especially kids, to think for themselves. While my church load prevents spending time for a quality, down-home, soul-saving gay trash-in, if others want to do it, it's between them and the Big Guy Upstairs.

"Just don't mess up my choir robes. Speak in LGBT tongues. Or, do it in the pews."

Charles@pridesource.com



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Equality Michigan is working with state legislators to update the Ethnic Intimidation Act to include proper protections for the gay and transgender community.

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Creep of the Week

Kim Davis

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI



Once upon a time, when I was a teenager, I worked at a video store. One very busy night, a woman and her young son asked me for the bathroom key. It was store policy to unlock the bathroom for customers, so I took them to the back, unlocked the door and ran back to the counter to continue checking out customers. The woman and her son soon came to find me. “Um, someone had a problem in there,” the woman said.

An understatement, as was soon discovered. Shit was everywhere. On the toilet, the walls, the sink. There was even a pair of men’s underpants left behind on the floor. After closing, while I restocked videos and counted out the register, my boss was mopping up an E. coli crime scene and dry heaving into the ally behind the store.

I’m lucky my boss didn’t ask me to clean it, because he saved me from a moral dilemma. There is no way I would have cleaned that bathroom. Such a thing was not in my job description and they didn’t pay me enough. I would have had to quit.

Which leads me to Kim Davis, a county clerk in Kentucky who has refused to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples because

“*(My refusal) was thought-out and, you know, I sought God on it.*”

she says it violates her religious freedom to hate homosexuals. Davis has since sued, and lost, for the right to not do this part of her job, but she’s still not doing it at press time.

You see, she sees issuing a license to two men or two women as akin to a video rental store bathroom covered in feces. It’s totally disgusting and not something she’s willing to touch. Unfortunately for her, issuing licenses is what she does. It is in her job description and it’s exactly what she gets paid for. It’s like a video store clerk rushing around with stacks of VHS tapes under her chin, reshelving movies as they’re checked in. It’s an expected part of the job and if you don’t want to do it, or claim that Jesus told you not to, then you should be fired or you should quit.

Instead, Davis is stomping her feet and asking that the county go to great lengths to save her the trouble of having to interact with the gays while still keeping her job.

U.S. District Judge David Bunning has told Davis to suck it up. “Her religious convictions cannot excuse her from performing the duties that she took an oath to perform as Rowan County Clerk,” he wrote.

Davis has appealed and, as of press time, ain’t nobody getting married in Rowan County.

According to the Associated Press, “Until the case is resolved, no new wedding can be legally recognized in Rowan County unless the couple obtains a marriage license somewhere else.” Davis stopped issuing licenses on June 26, the day of the Supreme Court ruling in favor of marriage equality.

Davis testified in federal court that her refusal “was thought-out and, you know, I sought God on it.”

Ah, yes. Very well thought-out. Good work Davis and God. It’s God’s best work yet.

Davis is being represented by the virulently anti-gay Liberty Council, a group that is advocating mass civil disobedience in the face of marriage equality.

“Christianity is not a robe you take off when you leave a sanctuary,” said the Liberty Council’s Mat Staver. This is especially true, it seems, when the robe of Christianity is being used to mask bigotry.

Reluctant Kentucky Clerk Gets Time For Gay Marriage Appeal

BY ADAM BEAM

MOREHEAD, Ky. (AP) – A Kentucky county clerk who objects to same-sex marriage will not have to issue marriage licenses while she takes her case to a federal appeals court.

Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis is being sued by two gay couples, and U.S. District Judge David Bunning ordered her last week to issue them licenses despite her objections.

But on Monday, he granted her request to stay his decision while she pursues her case before the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Davis has refused to grant marriage license to anyone in Rowan County since the U.S. Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage nationwide. Kentucky’s governor ordered her to issue the licenses immediately, or resign. She told the judge that after consulting

God, she decided she couldn’t comply.

Bunning said Monday that Davis is not entitled to more time before complying or resigning, but with “emotions are running high on both sides of the debate,” he delayed his order anyway.

The ruling imposes more delays on the efforts by two couples to get marriage licenses in the county where they live, work and pay taxes following the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision to legalize same-sex marriage nationwide in June.

Davis stopped issuing all marriage licenses after the high court’s ruling, saying it would violate her Christian beliefs to issue a license to a same-sex couple that has her name on it.

“It is comparable to forcing the religious objecting nurse to perform an abortion, the religious objecting company or non-profit to pay for abortions or abortion-

related insurance coverage, the religious objecting non-combatant to fire on an enemy soldier, or the religious objecting state official to participate in or attend the execution of a convicted prisoner,” Davis’ attorney Jonathan Christman wrote in a motion asking Bunning to delay his order.

Stays of court orders are common to maintain the status quo pending an appeal, but in this case, the delay enables the continuation “of an unlawful policy,” the plaintiffs’ attorneys complained.

Davis wants Kentucky lawmakers to pass a law allowing county clerks to opt out of issuing marriage licenses for religious reasons. Democratic Gov. Steve Beshear, who went around Kentucky’s Democratic attorney general to defend the state’s ban on same-sex marriage in federal court, has declined to call a special session on the issue.

Couples Sue To Overturn Mississippi Ban On Gay Adoptions

BY JEFF AMY

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) – Susan Hrostowski remembers when Mississippi passed its law in 2000 banning same-sex couples from adopting children.

It hit home for her because her partner, now wife, Kathryn Garner, was nearing the birth of their son, and it meant Hrostowski wouldn’t be able to adopt him as a second parent.

“It took years for Kathy to talk me into having a child because I was afraid he would be bullied,” Hrostowski said, saying the law “was a big blow that was devastating to us.”

Wednesday, Garner and Hrostowski became one of four lesbian couples to sue Mississippi in federal court in Jackson, seeking to overturn its law banning gay couples from adopting or taking children into foster care.

The suit, assigned to U.S. District Judge Daniel Jordan, alleges that the ban is unconstitutional in the wake of recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions legalizing gay marriage and legal benefits for gay couples nationwide.

“The Mississippi adoption ban

is an outdated relic of a time when courts and legislatures believed that it was somehow OK to discriminate against gay people simply because they are gay,” states the lawsuit, which was filed with assistance from the Campaign for Southern Equality and the Family Equality Council.

Gov. Phil Bryant, a Republican, said he still supports the ban. “I hope the attorney general will vigorously defend the State of Mississippi against this lawsuit,” he said in a statement.

Attorney General Jim Hood, a Democrat facing a tough re-election challenge, declined comment, saying his office was still examining the lawsuit. Mississippi is the last state to ban adoptions by same-sex couples. Lawmakers in Florida and Michigan reversed bans earlier this year, while courts in Louisiana and Nebraska struck down rules or laws in those states.

The University of California, Los Angeles, found last year that 996 same-sex couples were raising 1,401 children in Mississippi. 2010 Census data showed that 29 percent of same-sex couples had children at home, the largest share of same-sex households in any state.

While Bryant still supports the law, Ronnie Musgrove, a Democrat at the time the suit was enacted, has said he now regrets signing it.

Legislators passed the law in the wake of a 1999 state Supreme Court decision that awarded custody of a son to a woman on the grounds that her former husband was in a gay relationship. Baptists, Methodists and the American Family Association supported the ban, while the American Civil Liberties Union, Episcopalians, social workers and college professors opposed it.

“The Mississippi Legislature was clear in its sole intention to express fear and moral disapproval of gay people and their families,” the lawsuit says of the ban.

Spokesman William Perkins said the state’s Southern Baptist churches oppose any change.

“The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board holds firm to the view that a traditional, Bible-based, monogamous relationship is the best atmosphere to raise a child,” Perkins said.

He also said that current state law allowing single people to adopt, regardless of sexual orientation “is not the ideal way to raise children.”

Transmitting Transition Or Travesty

Toledo Area Billboard Mocks Caitlyn Jenner

BY HANNAH HARTLEY

Many readers will more than likely already be familiar with a billboard that has come under fire for mocking Caitlyn Jenner. This advertisement was launched and hoisted in the sky and onto a billboard in the metro Toledo area where a transgender woman was brutally attacked one year ago and suffered serious wounds.

The host of the radio show, Schaffer, who has said he would never DJ at a gay wedding, said it was just a 'parody of a magazine cover' and described Jenner as a 'hero.' Huh?

As a marketing professional and transgender spokesperson for the community, I sat back to think about how I felt about this. What is the big deal, right? Well ... this is actually a really big deal when you sit back and think about what this represents.

Caitlyn Jenner's ascent to the transgender media spotlight that she has earned post-transition represents the public arrival of telling a transgender story in the mainstream media in a way that had never been seen before today. The interest from the public in her story and social engagement online is not only indicative of the star power which she yielded as Bruce, but more importantly represents a societal shift forward toward a greater universal acceptance of the transgender population and larger interest in the subject.

I am not stating that Caitlyn's arrival is representative of the average transgender person's journey, but her story has similar themes and struggles as many transgender people and could be used as a teaching moment to help align. As I sat and talked about this billboard advertisement with friends and acquaintances outside the community, I began to uncover a common theme in regards to what the real problem was with this advertising campaign for me, even if hidden at first glance.

Transgender people are currently fighting for their basic human rights to simply survive and reach a basic standard of living in this country. The transition process and the transgender population is commonly misunderstood and the butt of many jokes which further stigmatizes a population of people that are not asking for special rights – we would just like

equal rights!

As I had conversations with friends and acquaintances outside the community, I heard again and again how the billboard was great, he looked a lot like Bruce, gotta love those trans drag queen guys

advertisement about anti-aging skin lotion?

■ What about posthumous Christopher Reeve in a wheelchair mockingly played by a gymnast with new running shoes that are so comfortable you won't know



Transgender people are not a joke, comic relief or an epic lampoon for a laugh. Although we may be misunderstood, we are teachers, parents, executives, children, police officers, military personnel, writers, musicians, pilots and ... regular people just like everyone else on the planet.

and you know ... they didn't even make the radio jockey that funny or stupid looking. This really made me stand back and think to myself ... hmmm.

Transgender people are not a joke, comic relief or an epic lampoon for a laugh. Although we may be misunderstood, we are teachers, parents, executives, children, police officers, military personnel, writers, musicians, pilots and ... regular people just like everyone else on the planet.

In order to reframe why this billboard is harmful to the community and making a joke out of something that simply isn't funny, let me pose a controversial billboard campaign for your consideration.

Would these types of billboards or messaging be beneficial for their representative minority groups?

■ Downtown NYC, giant billboard using a white person in black face mocking a famous black gold medal winning Olympic athlete? Ummm ... I think not!

■ How about national tragedy burn victim with severe scarring in a parody

you have them on? I mean that would be alright ... what, no?

I will save everyone the long-winded explanation of why these campaigns might or might not be OK and simply say, as a larger community of one human race, we can and we must do better. Thank you to all of the groups that have come together in standing to help bring this billboard and messaging down.

When we openly mock and parody the identity of the transgender community and transition process, we will only continue to propagate the misunderstanding and hatred that surrounds so many transgender individuals. People learn through teaching moments and in this instance, the teaching moment is to simply bring the billboard down.

Hartley is the president of the Gender Identity Network, a nonprofit organization aimed to create positive social change and support all forms of gender identity and expression through charitable, educational and service works. Learn more at www.gnausa.org.

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JUDGMENT

The Bird and The Bee On How They're 'Amazed' By The Gays, Casual Sex & Not Being Lovers

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Greg Kurstin and Inara George, collectively known as the Bird and the Bee, are standing at the doorway of Webster Hall in New York City, where they're about to take the stage. Kurstin, 46, raves about the free chocolates he's about to take full advantage of, and George, 41, will probably have a glass of wine. "I'm the booze bag of the group," she readily admits.

Best known for their 2006 dance hit "Fucking Boyfriend," Los Angeles-based Bird and the Bee is on tour to promote their first album in five years, "Recreational Love," yet another synthpop pleasure from the duo that will have you wishing you were sipping a summer cocktail in the sun.

You're about to hit the stage – do you expect there to be a big gay turnout?

Inara George: What we love about our shows is we have people from all over the place, and yeah! I feel like we do have a pretty good gay following.

Greg Kurstin: Hey, we're happy if anyone shows up! We've been away for five years, so we're just happy that people are still coming out. When you go away for that long, you just hope people remember you.

When in your career were you first aware of a gay following?

Inara: I just had a flashback. I remember having an interview with a gay magazine right after "Fucking Boyfriend" – the dance track version – and thinking, "Oh my god,

that's amazing." I've always felt like the gay community has pretty good taste, so I was obviously excited about it. "The Bird and the Bee" (in 2007) was the first record where I kind of got it.

What's the significance of the title of your new album, "Recreational Love"? What does "recreational love" mean to both of you?

Inara: I came up with the title of the record before I really knew what it was about. I think of it as a play on words: recreational drug / recreational love. As a young woman, I always have the sense that I could have recreational love; for me, it really exists without some emotional attachment.

Greg: (Laughs) I can't say that I have a lot of recreational love now that I'm married.

I've definitely done my share of dating, and I'm just happy that I don't have to date anymore because it's so nerve-racking. But I'm married, and so it's like, "Ahh, finally; I don't have to worry about it." It was a lot of stress for me! But yeah, the song is a fantasy song in a lot of ways.

Inara: It's not like that's what I'm doing anymore; it's a commentary on how I miss it.

You guys have been making music together for a decade. How does such an enduring relationship influence the music over time?

Greg: We've just been good friends for a long time, so I feel like we feel comfortable around each other. It's great to work with someone who you feel comfortable around, and you can really experiment in the studio

and not worry about doing something ridiculous where someone's gonna judge you. I feel very free with Inara, so we can just explore and try different crazy things. If we wanna do something that's a funny '80s love ballad or a disco song or whatever, we can. We can go in any direction and we won't judge each other because we're friends.

How does that relationship compare to other female artists you work with, such as Kelly Clarkson or Pink?

Greg: Everyone's different, but I'm lucky. I've narrowed it down to working with only people I do feel comfortable with, that I really do get along with. If I worked with someone and it didn't feel natural, then we probably wouldn't work together. With Inara, and because I'm a member of the group, there's a certain kind of freedom where we can do whatever we want. We don't have to make a commercial record if we don't want to. When I work with certain artists, there's a big label behind it, and I feel like I really need to deliver.

Do you try to separate the sound you bring to Bird and the Bee from other artists you produce?

Greg: Yeah, I definitely consider that and try to keep the Bird and the Bee consistent. When I started doing the Bird and the Bee, I didn't really have other stuff going on, so I'm very aware of that, and I want the Bird and the Bee to have a special place and a consistent sound. I have to kind of compartmentalize a bit.

Inara, do you have a favorite song that Greg's produced outside of Bird and the Bee?

Inara: I love that new Beck one he just did... what's it called again?

Greg: "Dreams."

Inara: And I love the stuff he did with Sia – it's amazing. I thought that Christmas record with Kelly Clarkson was really good. He does a lot. I'm always really impressed. It's funny, when a song comes on the radio, I'm like, "Is this Greg?!" The thing that's so amazing about Greg is he can be a chameleon and he has so many different styles. Unless you come see him play live, I don't think anyone quite knows how good of a player he is.

As a gay man, I couldn't help but read into the line, "I don't care if people stare / People stare at all the wrong things" on "Will You Dance," as pertaining to the LGBT community. What inspired that?

Inara: I think you're right about that line. I think the things that are most beautiful, like two gay men together dancing or somebody dancing for just the joy of it – people stare at all the wrong things. Why aren't we staring at the homeless person on the street when you walk on by them? The joyful things are sometimes the things that people are most judgmental about.

The title track alludes to the fact that love is

a universal human need. It especially struck me given the recent Supreme Court ruling on marriage equality. What prompted you to explore the universality of love on that track?

Inara: When I was a 20-year-old girl, there was the prospect of casual love, like you can be so intimate with someone and yet have no idea who they are. I think that was the thing. We all need this love and we all want to end up feeling secure and open. It's all about pushing against being vulnerable, I suppose.

How often have people confused you for a couple?

Greg: It happens. We've been doing interviews for this record and Inara is like, "and we have kids..." and then she's like, "... but separately!"

Inara: (Laughs) There was one guy who would not believe us.

Greg: A writer from England was like, "Are you sure?!" We could not convince him we were not a couple!

Obviously you both share a mutual adoration for music. What don't you have in common, though?

Inara: We're pretty much like Chip 'n' Dale.

Greg: You listen to more podcasts than I do! You're like, "Check out this podcast, check out this podcast!" I have a list of, like, 30 podcasts.

Inara: (Laughs)

Greg: I listen to more music. I think Inara might read more than me?

Inara: No – that's not true at all. I pretend. I leave all the music stuff up to Greg. I can't keep up with music today, so I've sort of given up. I let Greg keep up with all the current music, and I keep up with all the podcasts!

You notably did a Hall and Oates tribute album called "Interpreting the Masters Volume 1: A Tribute to Daryl Hall and John Oates." Who will you cover for Volume II?

Inara: Well... we have decided on one, but we are not telling anyone yet.

Greg: We have to leave the particulars to ourselves. I get a lot of suggestions of things we should cover. We talked about maybe covering different eras, like an '80s kind of thing or '70s rock.

Inara: We talk about it a lot.

Greg: We have something in mind. It's a person, but we don't want to say who because...

Inara: It doesn't always work out. But as soon as we have time, then we'll start on it.

So 20 years from now?

Inara: No! We have a standing date every Friday for a couple of hours.

If you could be any creature apart from a bird and a bee, what would you be?

Inara: I like dragonflies!

Greg: Maybe some sort of bird... a tropical bird...

Inara: The Dragonfly and the Toucan.

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7 Positive Ways to Get Out of Your Big Gay Rut

The Frivolist



BY MIKEY ROX

Feeling more Marilyn Manson than Marilyn Monroe lately? Trade in that rut for swagger and strut with these seven positive ways to shake things up when your spirits are down.

Diversify your group of friends

I've never been keen to surround myself by mostly gay friends, yet I see it all time within the gay community, especially those in urban areas – which, of all places, offers the most diversity. The inherent problem with this practice, as you might image (or experience, if you've fallen into this trap), is that when everyone has similar interests and tastes and personalities, it makes it hard to feel like an individual who brings value to the group. If I'm talking about you, maybe it's time to take a break from the Broken Hearts Club and spend an evening or two with a few folks who are vastly different from yourself. You don't have to give up your gay besties for good, of course, but enjoying conversation and activity with equally fantastic friends who don't want to yammer on about last night's Grindr conquest might help put your friendships in better perspective.

Self-impose a hook-up app hiatus

I have a love/hate relationship with Grindr and other hook-up apps, as I'm confident most LGBT people do. On one hand, they help you satisfy those cravings for instant gratification when all goes according to plan, but on the other, they're a catalyst for feelings of loneliness, self-loathing, and sadness when nothing pans out. Especially when someone in whom you're interested is being way harsh (no

need to be rude, gentlemen!) – and who the hell needs that? If your constant presence on these apps is keeping your head hung low – for reasons that aren't physically satisfying – take a break and roll your dice in the real world for a while.

Ditch the toxic bang buddies

We've all had that bedroom buddy, at some point in our lives, who's always down, always has something negative to say, and, as a result, always tries to bring you to their very unhappy level. If there's a person in your life currently that fits these characteristics – and it's adversely affecting your own attitude – you've got to cut your losses. Talk to the person first and explain how they're coming off – maybe they just don't realize it. But if this is a chronic issue that doesn't improve, make a clean break and move on with your life. Pessimism begets pessimism, and that's no way to wake up every day.

Give yourself a mini getaway

When I'm at my breaking point, fed up, had enough, I know it's time for a vacation. It doesn't have to be a grand getaway or an expensive escape, but a change of scenery is sometimes required. In some cases I like to check into a nearby hotel to veg out and relax while other times I'll head back to my old stomping grounds to kick it with my homies. If you don't have that much time to spare, at least set aside a few hours to treat yourself, like with a massage or just silent time at home, for instance. Either way, a mini-getaway helps me put the pressures of life aside for a minute, de-stress, and think of healthy solutions on how to address whatever issues I'm experiencing.

Reevaluate your adult priorities

What do you want in life – and are you pursuing those goals in a way that doesn't compromise your integrity, morals, finances or future? It's easy to get caught up in all the noise of the world – like relationships and careers that are going nowhere, binge drinking and drugs, and lamenting missed opportunities – but, trust me when I tell you, in hindsight it's all a waste of energy. Considering that, then, why not just skip the BS and focus on what actually matters – your own wellbeing. Learn to love yourself and you'll be less susceptible to making poor decisions, both personally and professionally.

Step up your fitness game

It's scientifically proven that exercise makes you feel better, think more positively, and enhances your own body image – the latter of which, whether we like it or not, is helpful in the gay community. Over the past year, I've completely transformed my body from a sedentary lump into a tight-and-fit powerhouse with confidence to spare. It's quite incredible, actually, how your perspective on life changes when you commit to your own health. Winks from sweaty, built boys don't hurt either.

Present your best self in every way

Aside from your physical and mental fitness, there are other ways you can boost your self-confidence, including how you dress and how well you keep up your personal hygiene. A fresh haircut can go a long way to help you stand taller, as can a great outfit. Further improve your appearance by keeping facial and body hair trimmed (if that's what makes you happy), clipping nails, splashing on cologne and tanning safely (I prefer professional spray-on versions). When you greet the world feeling awesome, everyone around you will notice. Play on, playah.

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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Michigan AIDS Coalition Announces Expanded STD Testing

Michigan AIDS Coalition formally is conducting its Integrated Testing Pilot Project, which now will include chlamydia, gonorrhea and hepatitis C in addition to their longstanding screenings for HIV and syphilis.

“For many years, we had been serving high-risk populations including white, African-American and Latino men who have sex with other men, providing counseling and testing services for HIV and syphilis,” said MAC CEO Terry Ryan. “The same modes of transmission provide opportunities for other STD infections, including chlamydia, gonorrhea and hep C.

“It made sense that we could better serve our clients, but also help stop the spread of other sexually transmitted diseases as well.”

Michigan AIDS Coalition is conducting its Integrated Testing Pilot Project, which now will include chlamydia, gonorrhea and hepatitis C in addition to their longstanding screenings for HIV and syphilis.

This two-year pilot project, one of the first in Michigan, will operate under the banner MAC Health, and represents Michigan AIDS Coalition’s strategy of offering expanded health services to those communities most in need. The project is funded by the Gerstacker Foundation, the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation and The Jewish Fund, providing almost \$60,000 per year in support.

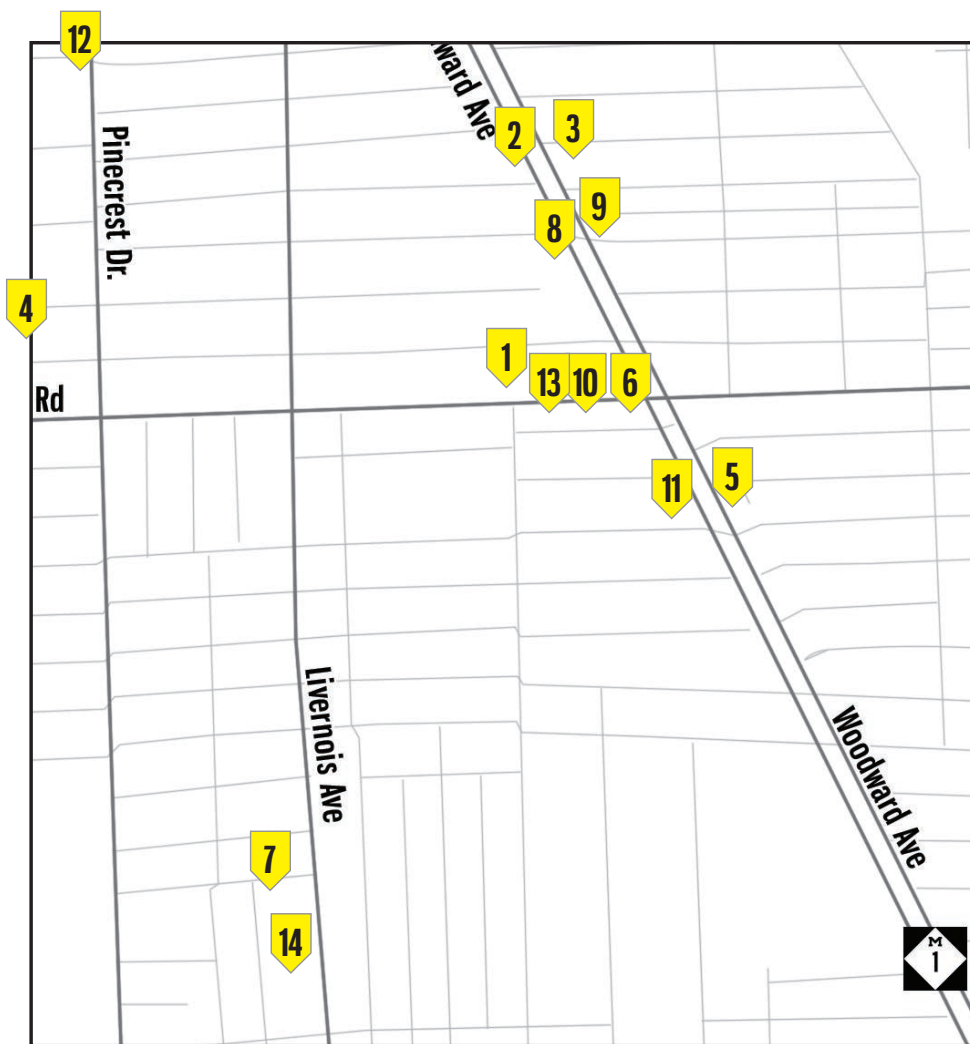
“These grants also allow us to expand testing to high risk heterosexual African-American men and women as well as other groups that current funding does not allow,” Ryan said. “We are very gratified by the continued support of the foundation community, and in particular these three long-time partners.”

The Michigan AIDS Coalition (merged with former MAF and MAPP) is one of Michigan’s largest nonprofit, community-based organizations dedicated to health promotion, harm and risk reduction, HIV and sexually transmitted disease prevention education, grant making and public policy. MAC has conducted thousands of workshops and trainings, reaching more than a half a million people – 30,000 in the last year alone. With more than 30 years of combined experience in HIV/AIDS advocacy, education and outreach, MAC will continue its mission until it is no longer necessary.

Other participating partners are the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and the Center for Urban Studies at Wayne State University, which will provide evaluation of the project.

Expanded testing services are offered at the MAC office in Ferndale, its MPowerment Detroit site in New Center, and the various bars, clubs and soup kitchens where MAC testing and outreach teams meet clients in their own communities.

For more information on these services, contact MAC CEO Terry Ryan at 248-545-1535, ext. 123 or at tryan@michiganaidcoalition.org.



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Editor's Pick

Get ready for Ann Arbor's "The Northern Writers' Project," a week-long playwriting intensive where four plays are workshopped with the playwrights, directors, actors and audience. The Performance Network Theatre hosts the event, which gives playwrights a chance to develop their plays more thoroughly while showcasing their talent. There will be a full week of rehearsal for each play leading to two public readings of each play with talkbacks after each reading

Performance Network is an award-winning professional nonprofit theater located in the heart of downtown Ann Arbor. The Network offers

holiday performances, youth programming and is producing regional theater with a subscription season of established and new works. A cultural leader in the Midwest, the Network is the home of dark night programs such as musical acts, comedy, film, poetry, concert readings and is a cultural destination for all ages.

The 2015 Northern Writers' Project will be held Aug. 31-Sept. 6. For more information, visit www.pnththeatre.org.

Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, Aug. 20

MAC Health 1 a.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), **Detroit**. www.MichiganAIDScoalition.org

Faith Alliance Meeting 12 p.m. Welcoming new members who would like to be involved with the intersection of faith, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 2208 Winchell Ave., **Kalamazoo**. www.Kglrc.org

The Parent Network 6 p.m. This group aims to assist parents in understanding their child's identity, while also giving parents

the opportunity to socialize with other adults who have LGBT children Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. www.Kglrc.org

A Night for James: A Concert Tribute to James Taylor 7:30 p.m. Private Music Network and GW Staton, 120 E. Huron St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-663-0681. www.Pnththeatre.org

Friday, Aug. 21

22nd Annual Benefit on the Bay 5:30 p.m. Music by John Dickson & the C-Notes, The Key Suspects, and special musical guests, the Capuchin Soup Kitchen Choir!

100 percent of the events profit benefits the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. \$65 ticket includes appetizers, dinner, dancing, beer, wine and desserts. There will be both a live auction and a silent one, the latter featuring over 100 items. Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 30675 North River Road, **Harrison Charter Township**. 313-579-2100. www.Cskdetroit.org/events/22nd_annual_benefit_on_the_bay

LGBT Dinner 6:30 p.m. Lansing Association for Human Rights, **Lansing**. www.Lahronline.org/

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

Saturday, Aug. 22

Man Alive 2015 11 a.m. Free symposium and health services. A4C, MHAC, MAC and more, 5555 Conner St., **Detroit**.

Lansing Mitten Mavens vs. Ann Arbor Bruising Company 7:30 p.m. Lansing Mitten Mavens take on the Ann Arbor Bruising Company in their fifth home bout! Tickets: \$10. Free for 12 and under. Lansing Capital Roller Derby, 7868 Old M-78, **Lansing**. marketing@mittenmavens.net www.Mittenmavens.net

Sunday, Aug. 23

M.C.C. Detroit Trip to Toronto Cost: \$335 per person. Includes hotel in downtown Toronto, roundtrip motor coach and show on Saturday evening. Friday evening will include a group activity. Breakfast is included for Saturday & Sunday. All payments for trip are to be made to Step

on Bus Tours, 215 W. Troy St., Ste 2046, Ferndale, MI 48220 or call Rose at 248-619-6692 with credit card. MCC Detroit, **Ferndale**. 248-613-2513. coxie331@aol.com

TransCend TransCend provides support and resources to the Southwest Michigan transgender community, their significant others, family, friends, and allies. Meetings occur twice per month on the 2nd Wednesday and 4th Sunday. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. www.Kglrc.org

Monday, Aug. 24

Artists' Market 3 p.m. All products handcrafted in U.S. and Canada. Market benefits Leon & Lulu's AIDS Walk Detroit Team. Leon & Lulu, 96 W. 14 Mile Road, **Clawson**. 248-288-3600. www.Leonandlulu.com

Tuesday, Aug. 25

Sing-A-Long Mary Poppins 7 p.m. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-668-8397. www.Michtheater.org

Wednesday, Aug. 26

MAC Health 10 a.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), **Detroit**. www.MichiganAIDScoalition.org

Queer People of Color 6 p.m. QPOC hopes to be a supportive radical environment for people of color that are part of the LGBTQIA+ community. The coalition will support conversation about issues that face our community, build friendships and, furthermore, serve the greater Kalamazoo area. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. www.Kglrc.org

Thursday, Aug. 27

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

Connections 6 p.m. Open to all LGBTQ and Ally youth from 13-18. Join us to meet other LGBTQ and Ally teens and socialize in a safe space. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. www.Kglrc.org

Throwing Shade 8 p.m. Tickets: \$12+. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. 248-544-3030. www.Themagicbag.com

Friday, Aug. 28

Bistro Fridays Special menu. \aut\BAR, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann**

Arbor. 734-994-3677. www.Autbar.com

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

White Party 7 p.m. White or silver attire. Featuring performance by Steve Grand to kick off party. Tickets: \$20-25. Michigan Pride, **Lansing**. www.Michiganpride.org

Saturday, Aug. 29

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

Taking Strides for Healthy Minds 5K Walk/Run 9 a.m. Benefiting REC. Tickets: \$40. Ruth Ellis Center, **Auburn Hills**. www.Takingstridesforhealthyminds5k.brownpapertickets.com/

Factory Direct Sale & Party 10 a.m. Kids activities, food & beverages and more. Urban Ashes, 713 W. Ellsworth, **Ann Arbor**. www.Urbanashes.com

Michigan Pride - March Michigan Pride, **Lansing**. www.michiganpride.org

Michigan Pride - Festival 1 p.m. Featuring CeCe Peniston. Michigan Pride, **Lansing**. www.michiganpride.org

Sunday, Aug. 30

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

Wine & Dine Weekend Music by Neenuh and Nikki (and their boys). Campit Resort, **Saugatuck**. 269-543-4335.

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

Queer Women's Community 4 p.m. All lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and ally women are welcome. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 3636 Lowden, **Kalamazoo**. www.Kglrc.org

Pride NA 6:30 p.m. Confidential and anonymous. Open to all individuals impacted by addiction. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. www.Kglrc.org

Monday, Aug. 31

LGBT Sexual Assault Survivors Groups 5:30 p.m. Any member of the LGBT community, age 13-24, who is a survivor of sexual assault is welcome. This group is open to all LGBTQIAP individuals who have experienced any form of sexual assault in their lifetime. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer

St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-345-5595. nschneider@ywcakalamazoo.org www.Kglrc.org

Tuesday, Sep. 1

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

Leon & Lulu's Girls Night Out 6 p.m. Various events with wine, goodies and more for women. Leon & Lulu, 96 W. Fourteen Mile Road, **Clawson**. 248-288-3600. www.Leonandlulu.com/girlsnightout

Wednesday, Sep. 2

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

MUSIC & MORE

Concerts

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.

SHELTER "Zella Day". SHELTER, Detroit. Aug. 29.

The Ark "Concert for Kevin Ransom: The Best House Concert Ever" Tickets: \$20-25. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 24. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

The Ark "Robin Spielberg" Tickets: \$25. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 22. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

The Ark "Josh White Jr." Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 21. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

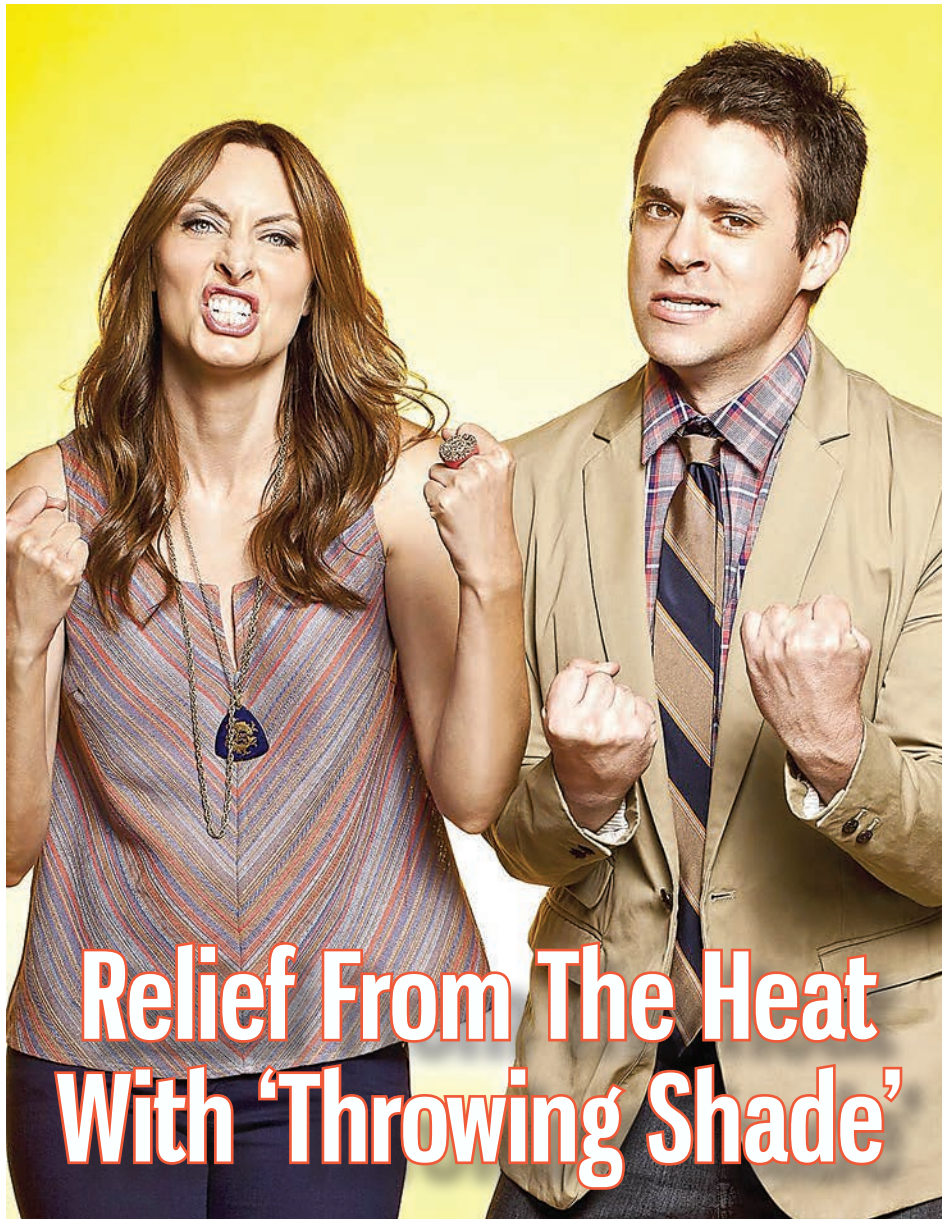
The Ark "Deep Fried Pickle Project Concert & Workshop" Tickets: \$10-12. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 6:30 p.m. Aug. 23. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

The Ark "Thunderwuede" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 27. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

The Ark "Cold Tone Harvest" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 20. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

See Happenings, page 24

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Between The Lines Newspaper



Relief From The Heat With 'Throwing Shade'

Comedy Duo Promises 'Gross Things' In Ferndale

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

"I feel icky," says Erin Gibson, self-described "feminasty," while discussing what topic she won't talk about on her and "homosensual" Bryan Safi's irreverent "Throwing Shade" podcast. "I'm having a real hard time discussing campus rape, sex trafficking; it's hard to interject jokes about that. I don't know - I feel icky doing it on the show."

"Anytime I hear some horrible, heinous hate crime, I think I can tackle the root of it - the

homophobia - but our podcast has always been comedy first, message second," adds Safi. For a comedy duo that riffs on the Duggars, abortion, tampon taxation and more, there are very few topics they've found to be off limits.

The podcasters, who bring their live and interactive show to the Magic Bag Aug. 27, spoke with BTL while driving through North Carolina to their next tour stop. "It's really nice, because everything's alive, and everything in California's dead," jokes Gibson. "We can't wait (for Michigan)."

"I'm going to take 45-minute showers every day," Safi says.

The California-based comics further discussed what they were expecting when coming to Michigan. Safi, who expressed confusion on the distinction between Detroit and Ferndale on an episode of the podcast, tweeted that it was "sweet, adorable and pathetic" that he didn't know the difference between the cities. "Listen, I don't even know

PERFORMING

Throwing Shade

Doors at 8 p.m.
Thursday, Aug. 27
Tickets: \$12 in advance
The Magic Bag
22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale
www.themagicbag.com

See *Throwing Shade*, page 25





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► Happenings

Continued from p. 22

Shows

The Berman Center for the Performing Arts "Steppin' Out With Ben Vereen" The evening features a reception, dinner on stage and a private performance from Ben Vereen. Tickets: \$1,000/couple (minimum donation). The Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 6:30 p.m. Aug. 25. 248-661-1900. www.Theberman.org

THEATER

Oklahoma! Tickets: \$15-18. Heart of the Hills Players, Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. Aug. 20 - Aug. 23. 586-286-2222. www.Macombcenter.com

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

Professional

A Midsummer Night's Dream A classic tale that reminds us that love can truly make fools of us all. For ages 12 and above. Tickets: \$12-18. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Through Aug. 23. 810-237-1530. www.thewhiting.com/tickets

Ernie Tickets: \$32. The Wharton, Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. Aug. 19 - Aug. 22. 800-WHARTON. www.Whartoncenter.com

First Date MSW's fun, flirty show takes place in a modern day New York restaurant, where a blind date virgin and a serial dater experience the hopes, fears and awkward pauses that follow the ups and downs of today's dating world. Tickets: \$36-43. Mason Street Warehouse, Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. Through Aug. 30. 269-857-2399. www.sc4a.org

Godspell The gospel according to St. Matthew comes alive in a powerful way! Tickets: \$26. Riverbank Theatre, 358 S. Water St., Marine City. Through Aug. 30. 810-278-1749. www.riverbanktheatre.com

Hands on a Hardbody A "good ol' boy" in Longview, Texas decides to compete in an infamous, annual contest in which 10 people vie to keep at least one hand on a truck. Tickets: \$37. Barn Theatre, 13351 West M-96, Augusta. Through Aug. 23. 269-731-4121. www.barntheatreschool.com

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. Cornwell's Dinner Theatre, 18935 15 1/2 Mile Rd., Marshall. Through Aug. 22. 269-781-4293. www.turkeyville.com

Into the Woods While everyone is familiar with the traditional fairy tale ending of happily ever

Editor's Pick



Emergent Arts presents "The UNclub Open Mic" with emcee Mark Sweetman at 9 p.m. Aug. 23 at The Yellow Barn in Ann Arbor. This is an ongoing event, frequently on Sunday nights at The Yellow Barn. Every week is fun and features different performers.

Mark Sweetman has performed in L.A., New York, Detroit and Las Vegas, and colleges all over the country. He has appeared on A&E's "An Evening at The Improv" and "Comedy on the Road" (for which he received an Ace Award), and FOX's "Comic Strip Live" and "Comedy Express."

The Yellow Barn is located at 416 W. Huron, Ann Arbor. There is a \$5 suggested donation at the door. Refreshments will be served.

Visit www.emergentarts.com, email info@emergentarts.com or call 734-985-0875 for more information.



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after, this musical follows these stories even further to explore the consequences of the characters' wishes and quests. Tickets: \$28-32. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Through Aug. 30. 734-268-6200. www.theencoretheatre.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

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

The Cat in the Hat A comedy of errors featuring that infamous, mischievous feline in the middle of it all! Tickets: \$12-18. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Through Aug. 22. 810-237-1530. www.thewhiting.com/tickets

Urinetown Set in a Gotham-like city, a private company forces the citizens to pay to pee. Tickets: \$8-15. Thunder Bay Theatre, 400 N. Second Ave., Alpena. Through Aug. 23. 989-354-2267. www.thunderbaytheatre.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.

MOCAD "Interchange Art + Dinner Series" Tickets: \$200+. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit.

June 18 - Sep. 24. 313-832-6622. www.Mocadetroit.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.

Smiling Eyes Studio "Hazel Park Art Fair" FREE to attend!. Green Acres Park, 620 W. Woodward Heights, Hazel Park. 10 a.m. Aug. 22. www.Hazelparkartfair.com

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

The Scarab Club "Third Thursday". The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. March 19 - Aug. 20. 313-831-1250. www.Scarabclub.org

UMMA "Jem Cohen: Life Drawing". University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 15 - Nov. 29. 734-763-4186. www.Umma.umich.edu

UMMA "Julian Schnabel". University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. July 1 - Sep. 27. 734-763-4186. 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

“Now that same-sex marriage is legal, (I’m) talking about how people are trying to tell gay people how they should have their weddings.”

– Bryan Safi

► Throwing Shade

Continued from p. 23

the difference between the east side and the west side of Los Angeles,” he says.

Safi, in particular, was “obsessed” with the local-gone-national news story of the affair and the exposed “gay” cover up between State Reps. Cindy Gamrat and Todd Courser. “I forgot he was from there!” Safi exclaims when the topic comes up. “Such a ‘Gone Girl’ move. It’s so crazy, like ‘Gay Girl’ instead of ‘Gone Girl.’”

Gibson laughs. “I was kind of impressed. Doesn’t he have a job? That seems like a full-time job ... using tax-payer letterhead and computer time.”

“So many lies,” adds Safi.

“This is so tired,” Gibson continues. “All these assholes with this anti-gay, anti-woman rhetoric: they’re monsters. They’re just hiding their evil insides. I’m never shocked when this stuff happens.”

“I do applaud this guy for putting a fresh spin on all of it – very 2015 of them,” snarks Safi.

For those unfamiliar with the podcast, Gibson and Safi describe the process that goes into their highly improvisational, topical show. “We figure out what we want to talk about separately, and then we kind of spring it on each other. Outside of our research, the podcast is 100 percent improvised,” Gibson notes.

“We do about an hour of research,” Safi says. “The (live) show is very different in that it’s about 80 percent set, 20 percent improvised.”

“Our live shows are very energetic,” says Gibson. “We kind of handle it like it’s two-person stand-up. It does follow the format of the podcast, where we do light, pop-culture, prance-around fun. Then we each talk about an issue. And then we play a game at the end called, ‘Would You Rather?’ The audience members write ‘would you rather’s’ in a bag and we’ll bring people up and we’ll answer them together. We’ve had a lot about Donald Trump. And it’s usually some terrible sexual situation with him. It’s a way for us to interact with people who are fans of the show.”

“We each tackle an issue,” continues Safi. “I’m, in a nutshell, now that same-sex marriage is legal, talking about how people are trying to tell gay people how they should have their weddings.” Gibson’s topic? “I’m kind of talking about the state of women in STEM careers and the obstacles they’ve had and still have.”

The interactive quality of their live show mimics a set up from the podcast, where guests occasionally come on. “We haven’t had a bad guest, and here’s why,” Gibson remarks, “we choose everybody. We’re not really interested in having someone on who isn’t going to be fun and play around with us.” Safi refers to a recent guest, gay TV personality Ross Mathews: “It’s so much fun to have Ross Mathews come on and just talk about Palm Springs and ‘House Hunters.’ We also just had Richard Lawson on from Vanity Fair. We usually just get people that we know.”

The podcast has reached a surprisingly diverse fanbase, as well. “Joel Stein, a journalist for Time Magazine – I ran into him somewhere and he said, ‘Oh my god, I’m such a fan of the show. You make such good points,’” says Safi, “and I was like, ‘I’m garbage.’ Entertainment Weekly and Rolling Stone also put us on their Top 15 list for podcasts they listened to this year. It never feels anything but extraordinary.” “And Playboy put us on their Top 10 list, too!” exclaims Gibson. “I’m flabbergasted that they would put a feminist podcast on their ‘Listen To’ list.”

“Throwing Shade” opens each podcast with the disclaimer that they “take a weekly look at all the issues important to ladies and gays ... and treat them with much less respect than they deserve.” That feeling will remain very true during their Ferndale appearance. As Safi says, “We actually take respectful things and make them gross.”

To listen to “Throwing Shade,” visit www.maximumfun.org/shows/throwing-shade.
New podcasts are out every Wednesday.



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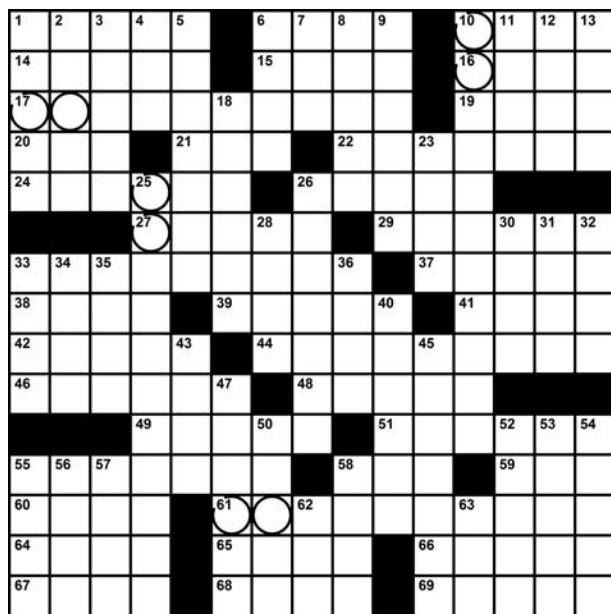
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Q Puzzle



- 39 In a state, in southern states
- 41 Pound of verse
- 42 Word before "ass"
- 44 Like a tiny, limp member?
- 46 Novelist Miller
- 48 Queen in Kings
- 49 Went up
- 51 Truant Bueller
- 55 Kurtz of "More Tales of the City"
- 58 Women's patriotic org.
- 59 Mouth-to-mouth pro
- 60 Blades of grass, collectively
- 61 Active partner that you want to see?
- 64 Made a hole-in-one, to Sheehan
- 65 Russian river
- 66 Ex of "The Donald"
- 67 Major or minor, to Bernstein
- 68 What you lie on with burning desire?
- 69 Pester, as Albert to Armand
- 12 Colorful computer
- 13 Barney's event
- 18 Over the top
- 23 Rod attachment
- 25 Elle Woods into S&M?
- 26 He spreads your cheeks
- 28 Day, to Caligula
- 30 Greek liqueur
- 31 Big name in soft balls
- 32 "Nuts!"
- 33 Italian wine city
- 34 Frida's half-dozen
- 35 Student org. for "family" and friends
- 36 The like
- 40 Ready for final assembly
- 43 Patty Sheehan's supporters
- 45 College town in Ohio
- 47 Out of commission
- 50 Fruity explorer?
- 52 Raise the price of, at Barney's
- 53 Words before "roll" or "budget"
- 54 Patron of O. Wilde's homeland, briefly
- 55 It may be grand, to Glenn Burke
- 56 Home of the Baylor Bears
- 57 Got a little behind
- 58 James, who filed suit to be reinstated as a scoutmaster
- 62 It tops many roads
- 63 NASA outing

Down

- 1 Warhol's range?
- 2 Blowhard's words
- 3 One from the heart
- 4 CBS forensic drama
- 5 Where bitches hang out
- 6 Senator Trent
- 7 Latin I verb
- 8 Home for Troy Perry
- 9 Practices heterosexuality
- 10 Dismissal order to Julius?
- 11 One-time Atlanta arena

Take Him Back

Across

- 1 To the rear
- 6 Mary's little pet
- 10 "___ and Clark"
- 14 It may slip over one's head
- 15 Poet Khayyám
- 16 Sculptor Stebbins
- 17 Bold color choice by Frida?
- 19 Greek
- 20 Hrs. in Key West

- 21 "Village Voice" columnist Hentoff
- 22 First shot, for Amelie
- 24 More cut and dry
- 26 "Fiddle-___!" (Scarlett)
- 27 Skip a syllable
- 29 Minute part
- 33 Sondheim musical
- 37 Matt, who once dressed as J.Lo
- 38 Sailors cruise on them



Solution on this page

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 or open the digital edition.

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