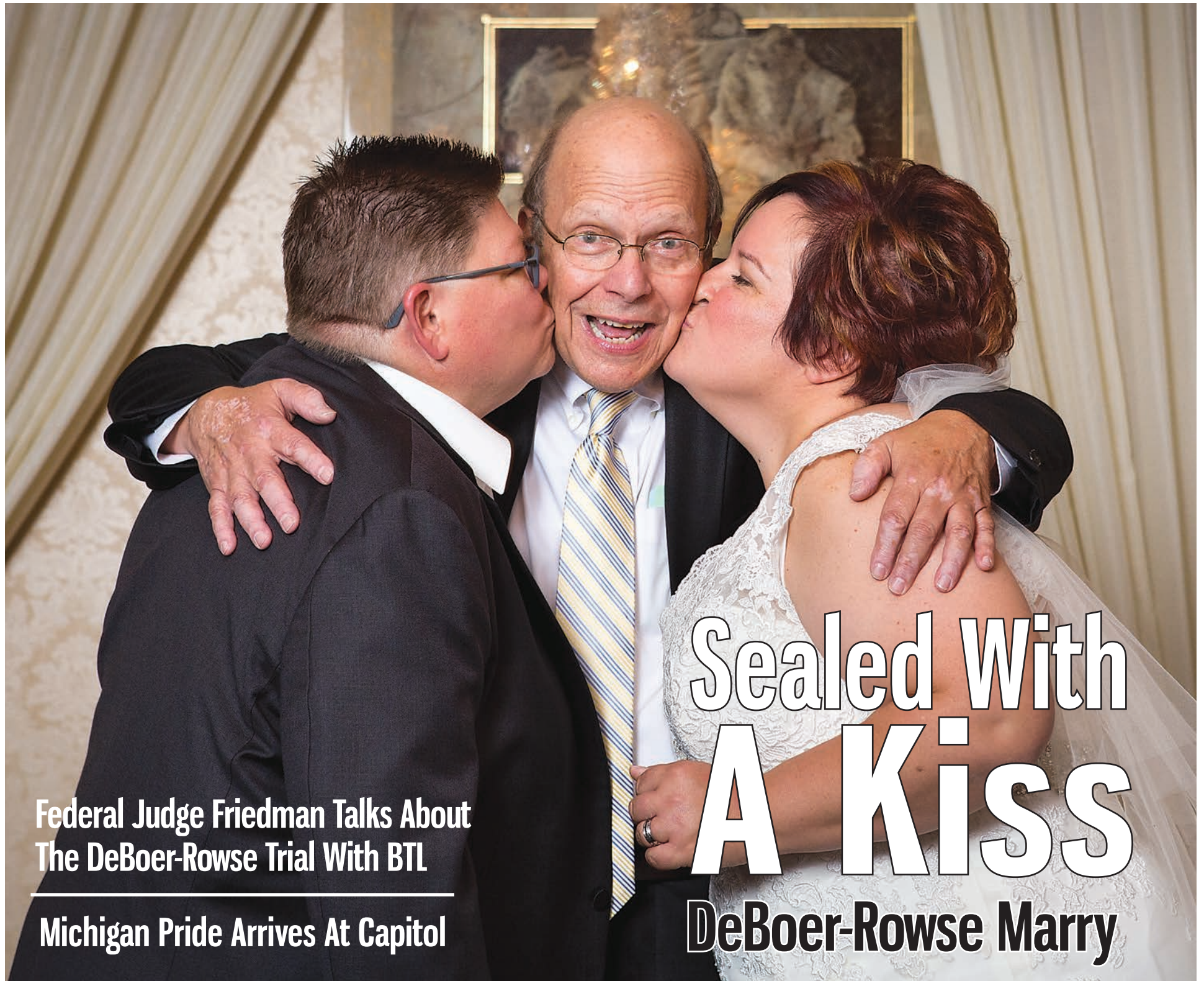


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THEY ARE,' TALKS MARRIAGE & LACK
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The DeBoer-Rowse Trial With BTL

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- The DeBoer-Rowse children, Aug. 22 during their parents vows.
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MIDLAND

Planet Fitness Seeks To Dismiss Trans Locker Room Policy Lawsuit

Planet Fitness is asking for a dismissal of a lawsuit involving the company's trans-friendly locker room policy, claiming it promotes discrimination against transgender people.

Yvette Cormier, a 48-year-old cis woman from Midland, is suing Planet Fitness for more than \$25,000 following an incident that occurred Feb. 28, claiming an invasion of privacy, multiple violations of the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, breach of contract, intentional infliction of emotional distress, exemplary damages and a violation of the Michigan Consumer Protection Act.

Planet Fitness cancelled Cormier's membership to the Midland Planet Fitness after she "warned" other gym members for several days after seeing a trans woman in the locker room.

The company's "Judgement Free" policy is very clear. "Planet Fitness is committed to creating a non-intimidating, welcoming environment for our members," read a statement released by the company in early March. "Our gender identity non-discrimination policy states that members and guests may use all gym facilities based on their sincere self-reported gender identity. The manner in which this member expressed her concerns about the policy exhibited behavior that management at the Midland club deemed inappropriate and disruptive to other members, which is a violation of the membership agreement and as a result her membership was cancelled."

The complaint filed July 31 by Kallman Legal Group PLLC on behalf of Cormier states that the locker room policy "enabled and encouraged possible criminal activity, including potential indecent exposure, disturbing the peace and child abuse criminal actions." There were also claims of endangerment to women and children.

"Noticeably absent from the complaint is any allegation that the transgender woman engaged in any inappropriate conduct, other than merely being present in the women's locker room," states the motion for dismissal filed on behalf of Planet Fitness.

The motion for dismissal filed by Pla-Fit Franchise, LLC argues there had been no alleged illegal behavior during the incident in February and that the lawsuit is not legally sufficient to continue.

"Throughout our nation's history, the denial of access to restrooms has been used as a means to degrade and demean persons of color, to exclude women from traditional male jobs and to exclude persons with disabilities from access to public accommodation and employment," reads the motion filed by Jaffe, Raitt, Heuer & Weiss, P.C. on behalf of PF Fitness-Midland LLC. "In this case, Plaintiff attempts to promote denial of restroom access as a way to discriminate against transgender people."

Two motions have been filed for the defendants – Planet Fitness' parent company and the Midland franchise – and claim that all four claims of Elliott-Larsen violations listed within the lawsuit and five other claims are invalid for many reasons. These reasons include a lack of any sexual or harassment activity and thus should be dismissed, including the calling for the reversal of the inclusive locker room policy.

A hearing in the case is scheduled for Sept. 25 and will be overheard by Midland County Circuit Court Judge Michael J. Beale.

Cormier will be represented by the Kallman Legal Group, PLLC. Attorneys for defendant PF Fitness-Midland LLC will be represented by Jaffe, Raitt, Heuer & Weiss, P.C. and the Kemp Klein Law Firm. Attorneys for defendant Pla-Fit Franchise, LLC will be represented by Arthur Pressman and Troy Lieberman of Nixon Peabody LLP.

State Dems Introduce Bills To Overturn Adoption Discrimination Proposal Treats All Families Equally, Ends Faith-Based Right To Discriminate

BY BTL STAFF

LANSING – Legislative Democrats introduced legislation Aug. 20 that would modify the adoption discrimination bills signed into law earlier this year. The new laws allow faith-based adoption agencies to refuse placements with same-sex couples, unmarried couples and any other couple or person based on the agency's religious beliefs. Bills introduced this week would change the law by allowing the state to remove funding for agencies that use their own faith as a reason to discriminate against otherwise qualified applicants.

"Creating a legal loophole that allowed adoption agencies to discriminate was a mistake," said Rep. Jon Hoadley, D-Kalamazoo. "When it comes to adoption, what's good for the child should always be the primary concern. Instead, the adoption discrimination laws put the interests of the agency ahead of the child. That was wrong, and it's time to fix it."

The adoption discrimination bills were signed into law in early June. Later that month, the U.S. Supreme Court decided that marriage is a right available to same-sex as well as straight couples. In addition, Michigan's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of marital status.

"I am Catholic, I am divorced and I am the proud father to my adopted son," said state Sen. Curtis Hertel, Jr., D-Meridian



“Recently passed bills that allow adoption and foster care agencies to deny services based on ‘religious beliefs or moral convictions’ are not only discriminatory and outdated, but keep thousands of children needlessly waiting for good homes.”

- State Sen. Rebekah Warren, D-Ann Arbor.

Township. "What a child needs most is a safe home with a family who loves them. Michigan has 13,000 children in foster care. No church, and no state, should stand between them and a forever home."

Michigan's adoption discrimination bills were signed into law despite a public outcry against them, and the American Civil Liberties Union has said that it is considering avenues to challenge the constitutionality of the laws.

"Michigan should always put the needs of a child waiting for adoption ahead of the desire of an adoption agency to discriminate," said Rep. Alberta Tinsley-Talabi, D-Detroit. "In our state, we have approximately 3,000 children waiting for adoption at any given time. We should be doing all we can to place these children in

permanent homes, not creating laws that turn away people who simply want to give a child a loving family."

Bills in the package are House Bill 4840, sponsored by Rep. Wittenberg, D-Oak Park; HB 4841 sponsored by Hoadley; and HB 4842, sponsored by Tinsley-Talabi.

"Recently passed bills that allow adoption and foster care agencies to deny services based on 'religious beliefs or moral convictions' are not only discriminatory and outdated, but keep thousands of children needlessly waiting for good homes," said state Sen. Rebekah Warren, D-Ann Arbor. "This legislation will put our kids first and ensure that foster and adoption agencies are acting in their best interests."

State House Business Office Probe Finds Wrongdoing By Gamrat, Courser

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Tea party darlings and self-admitted adulterers Reps. Todd Courser, R-Lapeer, and Cindy Gamrat, R-Plainwell, have been cited for "misconduct" and "misuse of taxpayer resources" in a draft report from the House Business Office handed over to Speaker Kevin Cotter, R-Mount Pleasant.

That report could lead to the duo being expelled from the body.

Cotter is withholding the report until outside counsel can review the findings of Tim Bowlin, director of the House Business Office, the Detroit News reported.

"After completing the investigation, we have preliminary findings of both misconduct and the misuse of taxpayer resources by both representatives," Director Tim Bowlin said in a statement Monday afternoon.

In addition, the House voted to create a special committee to investigate the actions of the two lawmakers last week.

That select committee will have subpoena power. Cotter has not yet announced who will serve on the committee, which could ultimately recommend expulsion of the two.

The investigation was triggered two weeks ago when the Detroit News published audio secretly recorded by Ben Graham dealing with the two lawmakers. There were two recordings, and during the recordings an email designed to throw supporters off the track of their affair was discussed. That email was sent out to top GOP leaders and activists and alleged Courser was a "bisexual porn addicted sex deviant." Courser is heard on one recording saying the email would "inoculate the herd" against rumors the two were engaged in an extramarital affair. He called it a "controlled burn," as well.

Both lawmakers have since admitted to the affair, but Courser has claimed the email was meant to smoke out an unidentified person attempting to blackmail the couple into resignation. Courser

originally accused former staffers of participating in that blackmail ring, but Gamrat's private investigation team has since claimed to have found the source, and that it is not a former staffer or family members of the two, MLive reported.

Last week, former staffer Joshua Cline held a press conference in Metro Detroit to tell his side of the story. During that event, he said Courser would often sleep on Gamrat's office floor, and she would get a pillow and blanket and "tuck him in." The two lawmakers, with districts 130 miles apart, were sharing staff and office space as a cost saving measure, they claimed. Cline also confirmed a long standing rumor that the duo had been caught in the Radisson Hotel by Joe Gamrat, the husband of Cindy. He said it was not "an urban legend."

Between The Lines heard about that incident in which the rumor mill alleged the Lansing Police had been involved. A FOIA to the LPD, however, was denied because there were no records.

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Judge Friedman Discusses DeBoer v. Snyder Trial

BY SUSAN HOROWITZ AND AJ TRAGER

On the eve of the April DeBoer-Jayne Rowse wedding which he officiated, Federal Judge Bernard Friedman sat down with BTL to discuss his historic role on the path to marriage equality in the U.S.

Friedman was the deciding judge in the 2014 DeBoer v. Snyder trial that took an in-depth look at the legalities of same-sex marriage and whether the 2004 voter-approved Michigan Marriage Amendment (MMA) was unconstitutional. Friedman presided over nine days of testimony from national statisticians, psychologists, sociologists, law professors, historians, county clerks and economists and ultimately ruled in favor of the plaintiffs.

The state had argued that the MMA provided an optimal environment for child-rearing and upheld “tradition” and “morality” in the establishment of marriage, cautioning against altering the traditional definition of marriage as between “one man and one woman.”

But for DeBoer and Rowse, the heart of the issue was less about definitions and more about the lack of legal protections partnered LGBT parents are provided under Michigan law. The couple sought to co-adopt their (now) four children, but because the MMA defined marriage as between “one man and one woman,” they were prevented from filing for second-parent adoption. The adoption prohibition left each of them a “legal stranger” to the other’s children.

DeBoer and Rowse sought relief from the court from the beginning of 2012 through 2013. Friedman knew that the only course of action open to the couple was pursuing a challenge to the constitutionality of the MMA. He had no legal path when it came to ruling on state adoption law. Friedman wrestled with whether or not to recommend a trial or simply dismiss the case, knowing how under-resourced the plaintiffs attorneys were and what a burden a trial would be. In the end, though both the plaintiffs and state requested

summary judgment, he moved to hold a trial, only the third in the history of the marriage equality movement.

Friedman told BTL he had no idea in advance of the trial what the evidence might look like for either party. In the end his decision slammed the state’s witnesses, describing the testimony as “entirely unbelievable and not worthy of serious consideration” in discredited sociologist Mark Regnerus’ case, and the other state’s witnesses as being “unable to accord testimony of Marks, Price and Allen any significant weight.”

On March 21, 2014 Friedman wrote what LGBT citizens long waited to read: “After reviewing the evidence presented at the trial, including the testimony of various expert witnesses, the exhibits, and stipulations, and after considering all of the legal issues involved, the Court concludes that the MMA is unconstitutional and will enjoin its enforcement.”

Over the next six months federal courts

across the country ruled in favor of marriage equality until Nov. 6, 2014 when the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals broke the cycle, overturning Friedman’s decision which created a circuit court split. A few months later the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments regarding the constitutionality of same-sex marriage bans, and on June 26 SCOTUS ruled that bans on same-sex marriage were, in fact, unconstitutional.

Some experts postulate that if it were not for Friedman’s decision, the path toward marriage equality would not have been as swift.

While humbly claiming only to be doing his job, with no eye necessarily to a future SCOTUS ruling, Friedman’s decision to hold a trial provided extensive testimony from experts that would not have been available had he declared summary judgment in the case in October 2013. Establishing precedent became establishing a path to history for LGBT equality.



Federal Judge Bernard Friedman with Jayne and April after officiating their wedding Aug. 22. The couple hold up their marriage license, the legal document they pursued in order to adopt one another's children. Annie O'Neill Photography/ZUMAPRESS.com

Judge Friedman was appointed by President Ronald Reagan as a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan in June 1988. He was elevated to Chief Judge in June 2004 and served in that capacity until 2009 when he became a senior judge. Prior to his position at the U.S. District Court, Friedman served as judge of the state of Michigan 48th District Court for six years. Friedman was born in Detroit in 1943 and received his legal training at the Michigan State University/ Detroit College of Law. Friedman received an alumni scholarship for excellence in the study of law and became a felony trial attorney for the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office. He is married to Rozanne Friedman, a psychologist, and together they have two children and five grandchildren.

What was the journey for you personally in accepting gay people?

I grew up in a family where everybody was equal. My dad was a very liberal Democrat. I grew up in a family where we were Jewish. My dad was very much aware everybody had to be treated equally. He treated everybody that way. He was a physician. He had a practice that had a very large, minority African-American, black patient load. And he was discriminated against himself because of a couple things. One, as you know in those days, Jewish doctors had to go to Jewish hospitals – that is why Sinai Hospital was

“ I grew up in a family where injustices just weren't tolerated and everybody was equal. ”

formed – or they had to go to small little hospitals. Two, he got discriminated against because he had black patients.

I grew up in a family where injustices just weren't tolerated and everybody was equal. So he did a lot of things in his life to get rid of (inequality) and that's how he taught us. That's how I grew up. So in terms of the issue of being gay or black or anything it just wasn't an issue for me, ever, in my life.

I was certainly not exposed to the gay community. I didn't know the difference. Very frankly, in those days nobody came out so you wouldn't know if they were gay or not gay, but certainly it wouldn't have made any difference. And I guess my first real exposure to the gay community was through (Judge) Judy Levy. Judy applied for a position and I knew she was gay. That was my first experience and we went through a lot. She had all her babies when she was working with me and we've been friends ever since.

People understand it and they talk about it now. I think the most important thing is people are now more aware of it. It's no longer coming out of the closet, instead it's, 'Hey, we're all equal.' That's our lifestyle, you have your lifestyle. It's not (totally) that way yet, but hopefully that's the trajectory.

Why was it important to have a trial? A lot of people wondered why you didn't just issue summary judgment.

I thought (the trial) was very important. It started off on the adoption part of it. And then I realized that I couldn't decide what they wanted me to decide on the adoption request because the adoption itself was not unconstitutional. It was very clear that it was about marriage. But marriage was defined somewhere else. I knew that I had one of two choices. I agonized for a long time, you know, 'What should I do?' The easiest thing was to dismiss the case. My law clerks and I talked about it. It was a no-brainer dismissing it, because they didn't have a case because they didn't challenge marriage. It wasn't unconstitutional. I agonized, do I just dismiss the case because I knew that their issue was not really marriage – their issue was their children. And they're totally committed to that. So very frankly I didn't know what to do until the last minute. I talked with my law clerks and I said, 'The only fair thing to do is to tell them exactly what is going on.' And that's what I did. I said, 'You have to challenge marriage or you are going to lose.' And that's why I gave them time. I had never seen that expression on somebody's face, because I knew that is not what they

“ I wouldn't have stayed the decision because I didn't think it was constitutional. Why would I stay something that wasn't constitutional. ”

went into it for. They went into it, they're in love with each other, they already had a nice relationship and they already have nice jobs. They went into it, and I knew it, because of the issue with the children and what will they do if something happens to one of them. I looked at the expression on their face and I knew that wasn't what they had bargained for.

What came out during the trial that was important?

I thought a trial was important for me because I had to rule on marriage. The state took a position, which I now understand, that, one, it was a state issue and not a federal issue. They also took the position that only they can define marriage and that the way they defined it was perfectly legal and, the thing that got to me was that by defining it any other way, it was not in the best interests of the children. And that this was an adoption case as the plaintiffs saw it. (Attorney) Carole (Stanyar) always, until we finally got into the case, it was always an adoption case for the plaintiffs. I don't think it was ever a marriage case for the plaintiffs. All their pleadings and everything else, it was always, 'My children, my children, we're protecting our children.' And the state then kind of bit on that. I say bit, because they then made it the issue of the health of the children and they lost terribly at the trial. There wasn't any evidence that (the state) brought forward that would substantiate their position. I said it in my opinion and the record is very clear. The state was forced into that issue by Carole and her team because that was the (state's) issue, but they couldn't substantiate it, there was no way to substantiate it.

And that is why I thought (lets) have a trial. I didn't know they couldn't substantiate it at the time. I knew nothing about the statistics or what any of those witnesses were going to say because there was no other trial. No other trial had taken place so I had nothing to go by. I had no idea how they were going to prove their cases. None whatsoever. So it unfolded for you, if you were sitting there every day, the same way it unfolded for me, because I had no idea. They were good lawyers so they were able to go through this whole thing without a lot of disputes. When there are a lot of disputes then I know what witnesses say because they are arguing about hearsay, lawyers on both sides. I give the individual lawyers for the state much, much credit because they conducted, and I think Carole and her team will tell you that, they were good lawyers conducting themselves in a very honorable way to represent their client.

Did anything surprise you during the trial?

I got surprised everyday. And if you noticed in the courtroom there were always people that were my guests in the witness box. People that called me and said, 'I'd like to see the trial. Can I come down and see the trial?' My wife was there many, many days. It's funny who really got involved in the case. My wife came everyday because she was very, very interested. But some of the other people... that surprised me.

Why didn't you issue a stay?

I didn't issue a stay because I didn't think a stay was appropriate. I ruled that it was denial of equal protection. How can I stay something knowing (that) in my own mind and writing an opinion, and we spent a long time on that opinion to make sure that what I wanted to say was said although I wanted to say a lot more that I didn't say. I wouldn't have stayed it because I didn't think it was constitutional. Why would I stay something that wasn't constitutional?

Did you expect the ruling from the 6th Circuit?

I didn't know. I really didn't know. I don't study the Court of Appeals. I'm not one of those judges. I do my thing and I can't tell you who most of the judges are. I don't sit there. A lot of judges like to go up there and sit. I sit in other places across the country. I don't study them.

When you wrote your decision were you thinking about SCOTUS in terms of helping to lay out the groundwork?

I was thinking about this case. I thought that the plaintiffs had such a strong case in terms of every argument that the state made, that all I was thinking about was this case. I was flabbergasted to be honest with you. I didn't know what the testimony was going to be. I didn't know who the witnesses were going to be. I didn't know how they were going to prove the case. I assumed that since the state raised these issues in terms of outcome, that they had some phenomenal, great data and witnesses. I mean you have to assume that. I had no idea until I started listening to the case and it unfolded. But no, I thought only about this case. That's how I always do it. Whether it is this case or any other case that is before me, I never think about what the Court of Appeals is going to do. I do think about precedent because I have to. I am sworn to that.

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- C. stuff
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DeBoer-Rowse Children Share Vows At Wedding

BY AJ TRAGER

SOUTHFIELD – After 15 years of devoted love, changing diapers, balancing two overnight shifts and challenging the state’s ban on same-sex marriage, April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse have finally tied the knot.

Michigan’s plaintiff couple in the case against the state’s ban on same-sex marriage exchanged their wedding vows before over 200 people Aug. 22 at Pi Banquet Hall in Southfield. Witnesses to the ceremony and signing of the license were Carole



The DeBoer-Rowse couple arrive in the reception hall on the way to marrying Aug. 22. Annie O’Neill Photography/ZUMAPRESS.com

“Little did I know, 15 years ago when I met you, that you would have brought me four beautiful kids and dragged me into the U.S. Supreme Court. I love you with all my heart.”

– April DeBoer-Rowse reciting her vows.

Stanyar, Ken Mogill, Dana Nessel, Bob Sedler and Mary Bonauto, the lawyers who have represented them throughout the four year journey which began in 2011 when the couple sought second-parent adoption for their kids. The couple and their attorneys were joined by U.S. Rep. Debbie Dingell, County Clerks Lawrence Kestenbaum from Washtenaw County and Lisa Brown from Oakland County, Federal Judge Judy Levy, Gloria Allred, family, friends and longtime, local LGBT activists. Federal Judge Bernard Friedman, who issued the ruling in the 2014 trial that overturned Michigan’s voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage, officiated the wedding.

“Little did I know, 15 years ago when I met you, that you would have brought me four beautiful kids and dragged me into the U.S. Supreme Court,” April began. “I love you with all my heart. I didn’t know that day when I met you that you would be the rest of my life, but you are. I am honored to soon be your legal

“I (Rylee, Ryanne) take you, Momma, to be my legal Mommy. And I love you forever.” Nolan, 6, and Jacob, 5, were next, addressing their promises to April. “Momma, we take you to be our legal Momma and we love you forever.”

wife. I’ve been your wife for many years now and being your legal wife means everything to me and everything to our kids. I don’t know what to say. You’re my best friend. I promise to love you forever. I promise to keep fighting with you in whatever mess we kind of stumble ourselves into; whatever our brilliant attorneys decide we should do. I can’t imagine my life without you and my life without our kids. And I promise to stand by you no matter what.”

Next it was Jayne’s turn to exchange her vows. The two of them had decided to not have their vows pre-written to allow their words to flow freely.

“April, I knew by the second date – well, maybe the third, that we were destined to be together. And though it took a few years to convince you, I think I did. And we helped each other through so many things: nursing school, children, just everyday life. I honestly can’t imagine my life without you; without all of these guys. I love you with all of my heart. I promise to be the best possible wife to you, the best possible parent to our kids, the best possible daughter-in-law to my fabulous in-laws. I promise to take care of both of us forever and always,” Jayne said with tears in her eyes.

Just before Friedman was able to declare the couple lawfully wed, April and Jayne had their children make a vow to the mother who is soon to become their legal mother. Rylee, 3, and Ryanne, 5, went first, speaking directly to Jayne.

“I (Rylee, Ryanne) take you, Momma, to be my legal Mommy. And I love you forever.”

Nolan, 6, and Jacob, 5, were next, addressing their promises to April.

“Momma, we take you to be our legal Momma and we love you forever.”

“By the power vested in me by the state and the U.S. Constitution, I hereby pronounce you lawfully married spouses,” Friedman said as “All You Need Is Love” rang through the speakers and the newlyweds exchanged a kiss before a standing ovation.

The fight for marriage equality has been a long one for April and Jayne, who will soon change their their last names to DeBoer-Rowse to match that of the kids. Over the course of the last four years, they have been at the center of the marriage equality fight in Michigan and have appeared on major TV and radio

stations as well as in countless print media articles – a journey which has consumed much of their time and compromised their sense of normalcy. They eagerly await a return to the normal habits in life like going to school, making dinner, taking baths, doing homework, sharing stories and to “not have a camera crew following us around or (have) people asking me questions like ‘define normalcy.’” April said in the press conference held directly after the ceremony.

In a not so surprising move, April, Jayne and their kids are taking a vacation to Florida, in what Jayne describes as a “family-moon” instead of enjoying a traditional “couple only” honeymoon.

The fight and motive has all along been to achieve and obtain equal protections under the law for their children. Even on a day where many couples focus on themselves, Jayne and April were right next to their kids for the entire ceremony and thought of them in an evening reflection.

“I think there was quite a bit of anxiety,” April said, thinking about how things will change once her and Jayne have legal rights over all their children. “Every day started off with, ‘What if this happens today. What if that happens today?’ Even now, we still are living with that until the second-parent adoption does go through. Our wishes are not necessarily set in stone. We are still living in that what-if.”

The next step for them after they return home from the familymoon and get their approved marriage license is to finally file for second-parent adoptions.

Countless businesses and community leaders stepped up over the last two months to donate a total of \$60,000 in services for April and Jayne’s wedding including: April’s dress, Jayne’s tuxedo, rings, flowers, invitations, DJ, photos, hotel stay, and the venue, Pi Banquet Hall, which could not be featured in a previous BTL article about the donated services due to privacy rules.

“Everybody, not only in this room but everybody under the Constitution, every citizen of the U.S. that appreciates what our forefathers had done, and the equal protection, everyone owes you a big debt of gratitude,” said Friedman.

On Behalf Of All Of Us At **Between^{THE} LinesTM**

Congratulations April & Jayne DeBoer-Rowse

And sons Nolan and Jacob DeBoer-Rowse and daughters Rylee and Ryanne DeBoer-Rowse

Please join all of us at BTL in thanking these vendors who generously donated everything for the wedding ceremony and reception

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donated all the photography and videography



B. Ella Bridal
Brittany Blasé, Owner
570 S. Main St., Plymouth
734-459-0000

donated wedding gowns and dresses for April, her mom and their two daughters

Blossoms
Norm Silk and Dale Morgan, Owners
33866 Woodward Ave., Birmingham
248-644-4411

donated flowers, centerpieces and accent décor

Candlewood Suites Detroit Troy
Kevin Dombrow, Sales Manager
2550 Troy Center Dr., Troy
248-269-6600

donated six hotel suites for two nights for the entire wedding party

DJ A-MAC
Amy McLoughlin-McKee
Ann Arbor
734-972-0477

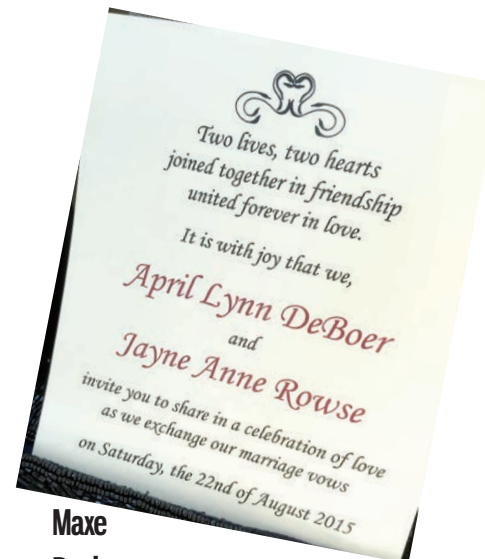
donated the sound system for the ceremony and DJ'd the dance floor

The Gourmet Cupcake Shoppe
Carrie Fisher, Owner
Midland, Saginaw, Bay City
989-631-4103

donated the wedding cake, desserts and table favors

Marx Layne Communications
Michael Layne, Owner
Michael Odom, SVP
31420 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 100
Farmington Hills
248-855-6777

donated public relations support and coordination of press at the event



Maxe

Designs

Molly Axe, Owner
1394 Taylor St., Jenison
616-633-2060

donated creation and production of invitations

Miner's Den
Thomas Schowalter, Owner
Kyle Burns, Manager
3417 Rochester Road, Royal Oak
248-585-6950

donated the wedding rings

Pi Banquet Hall
Jill Yenkel, General Manager
28847 Franklin Road, Southfield
248-358-3355

donated the banquet hall, all the catering, an open bar and all the linen

Satisfaction Limousines
Maria Hamilton, Owner
5820 Country Line Road, Lenox
586-725-7799

donated limo service for the wedding party

The Tux Shop on Woodward
Jeff Nelson, Owner
33423 S. Woodward Ave., Birmingham
248-644-5055

donated tuxedos for Jayne, April's father and their two sons

With A Little Help!
Amanda Laidlaw, Owner
1115 Dewey St., Plymouth
734-306-4387

donated wedding planning services, orchestrating the entire ceremony and reception



THE WEDDING DEBOER-ROWSE

The BTL Facebook Page lit up as soon as the couple married. Here are just some of the reactions:

Ken Brancheau: "Your courage is only eclipsed by your love ... Bless you and your children."

Wendy Tamaroglio Richardson-Prentice: "Congratulations and thank you for paving the way for our young people, my son included. I have goosebumps! May your lives be filled with nothing but good health, happiness and joy raising your children together."

Holly Weasel: "Congrats and thank you! Because of you I could adopt my daughter!"

Lynnette B. Rich: "Thank you for so many reasons and bless you both and your family forever. We credit your action, your courage and determination with the passage of the law. We never thought, after 28 years, that we would be able to marry in our own state, but that all changed for us on Aug. 8. Again, wishing you all every happiness."

Terri Sue Dinsmore: "How very fitting that the judge that set it all in motion in Michigan, marry the couple that stood out front and fought for us all! Congratulations to the two of you and your beautiful family!"

Kevin Sharp: "What a magical evening."

Teia Zischke: "Congratulations!! What a beautiful day to get married, and a beautiful family too. Thank you for fighting so hard for this right. You deserve to enjoy a lifetime of love and that is my wish for you."

Connie Webb: "Congratulations to this amazing family! Thank you."

Joseph Defore: "Finally, what is all that fuss about marriage? Love is for everyone. God bless them both."

Community Reacts To DeBoer-Rowse Wedding



Left to Right: Front: Attorney Mary Bonauto, newly weds Jayne DeBoer-Rowse and April DeBoer-Rowse, Judge Bernard Friedman. Back row: DeBoer Rowse legal team: Robert Sedler, Carole Stanyar, Dana Nessel and Kenneth Mogill. Annie O'Neill Photography/ZUMAPRESS.com



Washtenaw County Clerk Lawrence Kettenbaum, Federal Judge Judy Levy and Federal Judge Bernard Friedman. BTL photo L AJ Trager



The DeBoer-Rowse family. Annie O'Neill Photography/ZUMAPRESS.com



Callie and Amy McLoughlin-McKee provided the music for the evening. BTL photo: Susan Horowitz

Lori Randlett-Chrebtow: "May you and your growing family live happily ever after!!!!"

Cheryl Brand: "Congratulations and thank you for standing up for what's right and fighting that fight."

Bill Owens: "Thank you ladies for changing America in a very positive way. I wish you many years of continued happiness as a married couple."

Stacy Risner: "Congratulations ladies! And thank you for fighting for us all!"

Dorian Johnson: "Congrats and Thank you!"

Diane Nolan: "Congrats!"



First married couple from California, Robin Tyler right, and her wife. BTL photo: Susan Horowitz

Gerry Banister: "How many times can I hit LIKE LIKE LIKE LIKE....."

Karen Affinito: "Congratulations and many thanks. I hope you have a long and happy marriage."

April Childs: "Congratulations, you two look so happy. And thank you. The two of (you) helped make it possible for me and my wife to finally be married."

John Coates: "Congratulations Ladies! Thank You! Because of everything you have done I can now marry the Love of my life after a long 15 year wait!!! May you be blessed with many years of Love, Joy and happiness"

Ryan Fowler: "Like times a million! Congratulations!"

Vicki Reidelberger: "The fruits of a fight for Freedom - A moment for so many to embrace."



Texas marriage plaintiffs Vic Holmes and Mark Phariss with Frank Colasonti, Jr. and husband Jim Ryder. BTL photo: Susan Horowitz



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Center: Rhonda L. Kobold, DO, FACOG

Left to right: Hina Javaid, MD, Teresa C. Kuz, MSN, WHNP-BC,
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Billboards For Caitlyn J Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Two months ago it was a Caitlyn Jenner's transgender media triumph presented by Vanity Fair magazine. High fashion photos – public, private, family commentary, details of important M-to-F, F-to-M harbingers, interlaced with a concise review of sex change history. 134 pages. \$12.99. No doubt, a publishing first.

Also jumping on the publicity, sellout readership bandwagon, just a week ago People magazine hit the stands with Caitlyn, again cover featured; and 142 photos highlighting “her emotional journey.” 96 pages. \$13.99 US. \$16.99 CAN. Surely, a publishing second.

People's tell-it-like-it-is coverage includes: “Inside Her First Days as a Woman”; “A Bold New Style”; “Plus: Meet Caitlyn's Proud Mom!” (Hard to believe her lovely daughter Caitlyn's 65.)

Lest it be forgotten that Caitlyn was once 1976 Olympic winner Bruce, there are dozens of pictures of him as a boy, young athlete and a fit, muscular stud. Included too are shots of Bruce with his three wives and his, eventually, eight kids.

“Keeping Up with the Kardashians” features him as a member of “the first family of Reality TV.” (Need one be reminded.) Key quote: “At the end of her third marriage, Jenner started on the path to becoming Caitlyn.”

“Many agree Jenner's prominence is a good thing but could it send the message to the straight, middle America's heartland that Jenner is anything close to representative of the trans experience?”

For gay male readers of this issue of People, a swimming pool photo – page 51! – with Bruce in blue, pre-Speedos, sporting his hairy treasure trail is hot. Captioned, quote from 1977: “Now for the rest of my life I can be my own boss. I can determine what I'm going to do.”

In contrast to the Vanity Fair and People fanfare for Caitlyn as comely transgender hero (or, more correctly, heroine), not all media commentary or activists for the transgender community have been so straight forward in PR support and applause.

An editorial in the Washington Blade sums it up: “Some transgender activists have approached the situation with a raised eyebrow. Posing in high-end fashion gowns and corsets in Vanity Fair, for some, highlights the huge gulf that exists between Jenner and the kinds of homeless transgender women of color.

“Many agree Jenner's prominence is a good thing but could it send the message to the straight, middle America's heartland that Jenner is anything close to representative of the trans experience?”

Hoping to capitalize on the groundbreaking PR publicity of Vanity Fair and People magazines for Caitlyn's “Bold New Style,” a tri-county Christian coalition – Helping Transgenders to Transform – is considering sponsoring dozens of I-75 billboard signs featuring Caitlyn at her lovely and seductive best.

“If enough positive exposure happens, more than likely the hundreds and hundreds of yearly murders of trans women will cease by half,” says HT2T spokesperson Rev. Newton Sphincter. “Americans respond to heavenly, fashionable glamour. A real plus is that Ms. Caitlyn also has remarkable Republican political sensibilities.”

Charles@pridesource.com. See recent billboard issues with Caitlyn Jenner at www.pridesource.com (www.pridesource.com/article.html?article=72805).



‘I Will Love You Forever’ BTL Editorial

The DeBoer-Rowse wedding Saturday night was simply magical. The excitement and energy was contagious as each guest arrived, grinning and enthusiastically supportive of the remarkable family that was about to be legally joined. People journeyed from across the country: plaintiffs from Texas, the first married couple from California, lawyers and judges, friends and family, all there to share in the love and the history of the evening.

The children expressed the essence of the marriage ceremony when they each said to their new legal parent, “I take you to be my legal mommy and I will love you forever.” This case was always about the children for April and Jayne, so it was totally fitting that the kids be the ones to speak for themselves and their now legally secure family.

The event itself was flawless – from the organization, the décor, music, right down to the table favors. Even the one unscripted moment when little Jacob interrupted April's vows by needing an emergency potty break just added to the sweetness of this extraordinary gathering.

Event planning began in early July when April called BTL publisher Jan Stevenson to say she and Jayne were getting married Aug. 22. The

Pi Banquet Hall in Southfield had called them offering to donate the hall, all the catering, linens and open bar. But they needed invitations. Did Stevenson know anyone who could help?

Stevenson said she knew invitation vendors, but what about all the other elements of the event – flowers, dresses, hotel, limo, etc.? After several seconds of silence, April said, “I have five kids. I haven't thought about any of that.”

Stevenson asked if she could call April back, and that's when the BTL staff got on the phone calling exhibitors from the Ultimate LGBT Wedding and Anniversary Expo, a BTL event produced each March since 2010. The staff asked them to donate their services for the DeBoer-Rowse wedding. “No one we talked to even hesitated,” said Stevenson. “To a person, each business owner said ‘absolutely – count me in – whatever they need.’”

U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman, interviewed in this issue, donated his time and authority to officiate the wedding ceremony. By ordering a trial in April and Jayne's case against the state of Michigan, Friedman launched the legal process that culminated at the U.S. Supreme Court earlier this year. It was the

SCOTUS ruling on June 26 that granted full marriage equality to everyone across the country. “I am elated,” said Friedman when asked Saturday night how he felt about joining Jayne and April in matrimony.

Community is about connecting, about taking care of each other, about knowing when to step up – and then doing it. Our community stepped up for these women in a way that said we are strong, we understand we need each other and we are willing to do what is right and good. BTL is proud to be part of such a powerful, compassionate community.

And we are grateful to each of the businesses who donated their goods and services. They are all listed on page nine of this issue. Each went above and beyond to create a wonderful experience for everyone in attendance.

We also want to thank April and Jayne for allowing Between The Lines to help them with this historic event. Although BTL has followed their story since its inception four years ago, our relationship is more professional than personal and we are honored and humbled they trusted us to recruit most of the vendors for their special day.

Illinois Enacts Gay Conversion Therapy Ban For Young People

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

ILLINOIS – Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner signed legislation Aug. 20 banning therapists from trying to change a young person's sexuality.

Under the new law, those under 18 years old can get counseling to discuss concerns or thoughts about their sexuality, but professionals licensed by the state may not try to change the minor's orientation.

"These so-called 'therapies' treat homosexuality as a disease," Evanston Democratic Sen. Daniel Biss said in a statement after Rauner signed the bill Biss sponsored with state Rep. Kelly Cassidy, a Chicago Democrat. "They're out of date and can be deeply destructive to youth. Outlawing these practices is a small step in our pursuit for LGBT

rights, but it's an extremely important step in protecting young people in Illinois."

Backers of the measure were unsure how Rauner, a first-term Republican who has kept his stance on several social issues private, would act. Rauner has refused to discuss his views on same-sex marriage.

After announcing the bill's signing, spokeswoman Catherine Kelly said Rauner has no social agenda and believes the measure protects the children's interests.

"The administration carefully reviewed this legislation to ensure it would not prohibit or otherwise interfere with religious freedom or family access to religious counseling," Kelly said in a statement.

State Rep. Kelly Cassidy, a Chicago

Democrat, has said Rauner met with a "survivor" of such therapy and appeared moved by what he heard.

The measure also adds the therapy to the Illinois Consumer Fraud Act, giving people more ability to take legal action. Cassidy has contended that provision makes Illinois' ban stronger than other states.

Supporters of the measure have argued conversion therapy has been discredited and can be harmful to young people. But opponents have questioned whether therapists would be punished unfairly and say a ban limits parents' treatment decisions.

Similar legislation has been enacted in California and New Jersey. Earlier this year, President Barack Obama conveyed his support for such bans.

Islamic State Claims 30 Killed For Sodomy, UN Meeting Told

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED NATIONS – The Islamic State extremist group has claimed responsibility for executing at least 30 people for sodomy, the head of an international gay rights organization said Aug. 25 at the first-ever U.N. Security Council meeting spotlighting what organizers called the "barbaric treatment."

"It's about time, 70 years after the creation of the U.N., that the fate of LGBT persons who fear for their lives around the world is taking center stage," said U.S. Ambassador Samantha Power, who organized the meeting on violence and discrimination against lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender people with Chile's U.N. envoy.

Jessica Stern, executive director of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, told the council that courts established by the militant group

in Iraq and Syria claim to have punished sodomy with stoning, firing squads and beheadings and by pushing men from tall buildings.

Fear of the Islamic State group has fueled violence by other militias and "private actors" against LGBT individuals, she told the closed-door meeting.

Stern, whose remarks were released publicly, stressed that persecution of LGBT people in Iraq and Syria began long before the emergence of Islamic State militants, and "murder is only the most extreme form of violence."

"In addition to men perceived as gay, trans-identified people and lesbians are among those who have been raped and killed," she added.

The Islamic State group is now in control of about a third of Syria and Iraq.

Stern called for specific strategies to combat LGBT attacks, including U.N. action to relocate those most in need and

bringing the gay community into broader human rights and humanitarian initiatives.

President Barack Obama has strongly supported LGBT rights, and Monday's meeting follows the June 27 U.S. Supreme Court ruling legalizing same-sex marriages in all 50 states. Chile's President Michelle Bachelet declared in April 2013 that she supports same-sex marriage and would seek to legalize it, though that hasn't happened yet.

According to a report in June by the U.N. human rights chief, at least 76 countries retain laws used to criminalize and harass people on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, including laws criminalizing consensual same-sex relationships among adults.

France's U.N. Mission tweeted during Monday's meeting that, "Violence, discriminations based on sexual orientation by (hash)Daesh (hash)ISIS

Williams Institute, Target Partner To Conduct Research On LGBT Law And Public Policy

LOS ANGELES – The Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law announced Aug. 19 that Target has signed on as the institute's newest premier corporate partner. Celebrating its 15th anniversary, the Williams Institute is the leading research center on LGBT law and public policy.

"We are thrilled to have Target join our growing list of corporate sponsors. With this generous sponsorship, Target allows the Institute to continue tackling research on critical matters including LGBTQ youth, employment non-discrimination, transgender people and our growing

international work," said Brad Sears, executive director of the Williams Institute. "It is gifts like these that allow us to respond quickly to research requests when legislation is considered at local, state and federal levels or when bills are under review by our state and federal courts."

Williams Institute scholars were included in the U.S. Supreme Court's majority opinion legalizing marriage for same-sex couples in all 50 states, and the institute's research was cited in more than half of the briefs filed in the case.

"Target aims to champion an inclusive

society by leveraging our influence and resources to support equality in the communities our guests live and work in," said Caroline Wanga, director of diversity and inclusion at Target. "This exciting partnership with the Williams Institute is just one of the many ways we demonstrate our commitment to the LGBTQ community. We are proud to support the important research they do in areas such as employment non-discrimination, adoption, parenting, transgender people and LGBTQ youth."

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Creep of the Week

Campaign for Houston

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

While marriage equality is now the law of the land in the U.S., there are still plenty of places where it is still perfectly legal to discriminate against LGBT people in all kinds of fun ways.

Many forward-thinking cities across the country have gone ahead and enacted anti-discrimination ordinances of their own rather than wait around for their nearly immobile state governments to get off their asses and do something.

This is why Houston, Texas, for example, has the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance (HERO) which “prohibits discrimination on the basis of characteristics in City employment, City services, City contracting practices, housing, public accommodations and private employment.”

There’s over a dozen characteristics the ordinance protects; gender identity and sexual orientation are the ones that have the haters, well, hating. And alas, in November there will be a measure to repeal the ordinance on the ballot.

Behind the push for repeal is the Campaign for Houston. But don’t be fooled by their seemingly innocuous name. They are pulling out all the transphobic stops in their campaign against the ordinance, trying to scare people with images of men lurking in women’s restrooms.

They’ve released a radio ad with a woman’s voice that claims “this ordinance will allow men to freely go into women’s bathrooms, locker rooms and showers. That is filthy, that is disgusting and that is unsafe.”

“
Yeah, the only people confused here are the ones who think that there are men who, on a whim, say, ‘I’m a lady!’ just to have the privilege to use women’s restrooms. Have they never seen the long lines for the women’s rooms at sporting events or concerts?”

The ad continues, “Join me and other women in Houston as we vote ‘no’ on Mayor Parker’s bathroom ordinance. And again, let me make this very clear, on behalf of all moms, sisters and daughters: no men in women’s bathrooms.”

Mm’kay. Let’s break this down. What do the women of Houston have against men? I’m presuming there are plenty of women there who are married to men and/or do sex with them and even share bathrooms with them every day at home. What’s up with all the men-hating women in Houston? It just doesn’t make any sense.

Unless, of course, the Campaign for Houston doesn’t mean “men men,” they mean trans women. Oooh, that must be it. That’s who is really being called “filthy” and “disgusting” here.

What’s really disgusting here is the Campaign using an already marginalized group of people who face layer upon layer of discrimination — in other words, the very people who need the protections this ordinance provides most — as a scare tactic to “moms, sisters and daughters.” Oh, and by the way, some of those moms, sisters and daughters are trans.

The Campaign’s website reads, “Campaign for Houston is made up of parents and family members who do not want their daughters, sisters or mothers forced to share restrooms in public facilities with gender-confused men, who — under this ordinance — can all themselves ‘women’ on a whim and use women’s restrooms whenever they wish.”

Yeah, the only people confused here are the ones who think that there are men who, on a whim, say, “I’m a lady!” just to have the privilege to use women’s restrooms. Have they never seen the long lines for the women’s rooms at sporting events or concerts? Not to mention the fact that that’s just not how trans identity works.

Their website also claims, “The ordinance also limits free speech and religious expression in unprecedented ways so as to not ‘offend’ these two new ‘protected’ groups, both of which are defined by their behaviors — not by characteristics given to them at birth.”

If your idea of free speech and religious expression is the right to openly and hostilely discriminate against LGBT people then, yes, I guess this ordinance does suck for you. Then again, being a douche bag is not a characteristic given to you at birth. Unlike being gay or trans, it’s a behavior that is actually harmful to everyone around you. Here’s hoping you can find it in your heart to pray the anti-gay away.

Thousands Rally For Clerks Denying Marriage Licenses

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — Three Kentucky county clerks who are refusing to issue marriage licenses to gay couples drew thunderous cheers from a crowd gathered at the state capitol Aug. 22.

Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis spoke briefly at the rally organized by The Family Foundation of Kentucky, appearing emotional as she thanked supporters.

“I need your prayers ... to continue to stand firm in what we believe,” she said to cheers.

Davis has been sued by The American Civil Liberties Union for denying marriage licenses to same-sex couples. She says her Christian faith prohibits her from signing the licenses. A federal judge has ruled Davis must issue the licenses, but her attorneys are appealing the decision.

A crowd of a few thousand, many of them churchgoers from around the state, filled the lawn in the rear of the capitol building, many carrying signs saying “Freedom of religion” and waving American flags.

The three clerks, Davis, Kay Schwartz of Whitley County and Casey Davis from Casey County, halted all marriage licenses from their offices after the Supreme Court ruling in June that legalized same-sex marriage.

“They cannot violate their consciences by signing their name to authorize something that they believe is unholy,” said Kent Ostrander, the Family Foundation’s executive director. Ostrander said it’s the duty of the state government to come up with a compromise that would not compel the clerks to sign the documents. He said one suggestion is issuing the licenses online.

Davis indicated he was not ready to begin issuing marriage licenses, saying he was “not ready to quit.” He was critical of the Supreme Court decision, saying marriage should be between a man and a woman.

“Regardless of what any man puts on a piece of paper, the law of nature is not going to change,” Davis said.

Several political figures also spoke at the event, including Republican gubernatorial candidate Matt Bevin, who told the crowd that their “religious liberties are being oppressed.”

Two same-sex couples and two straight couples sued Kim Davis along with the ACLU. U.S. District Judge David Bunning said recently that his decision to let Davis continue to not issue marriage licenses expires on Aug. 31. Bunning is allowing Davis the time to appeal his decision to the 6th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals.

NCTE Policy Advisor Becomes First Openly Trans White House Official

BY BTL STAFF

WASHINGTON D.C. — National Center for Transgender Equality staff member Raffi Freedman-Gurspan has been appointed as an outreach and recruitment director for presidential personnel in the White House Office of Presidential Personnel.

Freedman-Gurspan is the first openly transgender official in history to serve in the White House. She previously served as NCTE’s policy advisor for the Racial and Economic Justice Initiative.

“I am elated that Raffi Freedman-Gurspan will become the first openly transgender staff member at the White House,” NCTE Executive Director Mara Keisling said. “President Obama has long said he wants his administration to look like the American people. I have understood this to include transgender Americans. A transgender person was inevitably going to work in the White House. That the first transgender appointee is a transgender woman of color is itself significant. And that the first White House transgender appointee is of a friend is inspiring to me and to countless others who have been touched by Raffi’s advocacy.”

Freedman-Gurspan has a decade of experience working for NCTE, and Keisling says she has been a vital part of NCTE focusing on the experiences of trans people of color and those living in poverty. She has worked on advocacy for issues such as improving the conditions of trans prisoners, addressing biased policing against trans communities, limiting the use of detention for undocumented trans immigrants and finding solutions to address violence against trans women of color.

“Transgender people face harsh inequalities when seeking jobs, housing, safety, healthcare and a pathway to citizenship. Raffi and NCTE have led a national conversation about these issues, and we’re proud to support their work,” said Courtney Cuff, president and CEO of the Gill Foundation. “As the first openly transgender person to work for the White House, Raffi’s appointment is another important step toward ensuring our federal government fully includes the voices and experiences of our communities. We’re confident that Raffi will continue the Obama Administration’s strong record of appointing qualified openly LGBT public servants to positions across the federal government.”

Jerusalem Gay Pride Parade Attacker Charged With Murder

JERUSALEM (AP) — An ultra-Orthodox Israeli who fatally stabbed a teenage girl at a Jerusalem gay pride parade has been indicted on a murder charge.

Jerusalem’s District Court indicted Yishai Schlissel for murder Aug. 24 for last month’s deadly attack, along with multiple attempted murder charges for those he wounded.

Schlissel, who had been freed from prison weeks earlier after serving a sentence for stabbing several

people at the city’s pride parade in 2005, stabbed six people at the July 30 parade. One of them, 16-year-old Shira Banki, later died of her wounds.

Jerusalem, known for its rich religious history and tradition, holds a modest gay pride parade annually in contrast to the large parade in the nearby liberal city of Tel Aviv, which drew over 100,000 people this year.



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ACCIDENTAL ALLY BARB BYRUM

judge in Detroit struck down Michigan's marriage ban. She married the first couple in the state during that window as well.

City Pulse sat with Byrum in her offices located in the downtown Lansing Veteran's Memorial Courthouse. Her top aides were in the room for the interview, and prior to the interview she gave a tour of the operation. Banter, jokes and laughter abound with Byrum and her staff.

But she warns that the fun house veneer covers up a hard driving boss and an equally committed team of public employees.

In March 2014, after Judge Bernard Friedman ruled that Michigan's marriage ban was unconstitutional, Byrum was flooded with text messages and social media queries asking her to open the courthouse and issue marriage licenses on a Saturday. She wanted to, but wasn't sure how to bring in staff on an unscheduled day.

"My biggest struggle on that day was – I can open, yeah, my key will open the door, but how will I actually process those marriage licenses?" she said. "I couldn't sleep with the thought that I might be standing in the way of loving couples joining together in marriage."

She thought it over for hours, she said. And finally at about 3 a.m. she texted her team of eight paid staff about opening in the morning.

"They didn't respond right way, which was really upsetting," she said with a smile. "We're still dealing with that," she quipped, her staff laughing along with her.

But by 6 a.m. the staff did start responding. All of them were in, and the office was opened at 8 a.m. on Saturday, March 21, just like a regular business day. She brags that she even processed a concealed weapons permit request that day, between marriages.

For Byrum it was a matter of "doing what was right." She noted that many of the couples she married that March had been together for decades and had been waiting "long enough," to have the same rights and responsibilities attached to their relationships as she had with her husband, Brad Delaney.

She and Delaney have been married for 12 years. They have two sons, Bryce, 5, and Blake, 7. The boys are better known in Byrum's prolific social media presence as BooBoo and Buggie, respectively. The family attends East Lansing's All Saints Episcopal

Church. Delaney is a detective with the Ingham County Sheriff's Department.

Byrum is the daughter of Jim Byrum, a former Lansing Community College trustee, and Diane Byrum, a former State Representative. She grew up in Ononadaga, Michigan, a tiny agricultural enclave in southwestern Ingham County. Children in the area attend the Leslie Public Schools.

She acknowledges there is a misperception about residents of rural communities, that somehow those persons are less accepting of the LGBT community. But Byrum said that has not been her experience. She noted that many of the families she has married have lived in southern Ingham County, where rather than being involved in Pride parades and other visible actions, they have lived their lives as out members of a rural community. Their sexuality is not a secret; it's also not an issue for their neighbors.

But how did Byrum go from Leslie Public Schools and the Ononadaga "homestead" of her youth to vocal and national leader for equality? She said she had no distinct memory of when equality suddenly made sense. For her, it's always just been the way it is supposed to be.

"For whatever reason, I am an ally," Byrum said.

During her youth, she worked at the family hardware store in Leslie – and ultimately came to own her own store in Charlotte. And during high school, while her father was on the LCC Board, she attended high school during the day, and classes at the community college at night. When she entered Michigan State University in 2000, she was a sophomore.

"That's just what I knew that you did," she said of the dual enrollment at the community college and high school.

That "that's just what you did" mentality is what has driven her over the years and is something she learned from her family.

She credits the strong role models of her mother and grandmothers. Her paternal grandmother was a nurse. Her maternal grandmother, after her husband passed away, took over the family gas station.

"I remember she used to get up really early in the morning and she would pump gas," Byrum said. "It was a full service gas station. I remember her jumping in the wrecker with

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Minutes after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that marriage was legal for same-gender couples in the entire country, Barb Byrum had a couple before her who wanted to be married. The 37-year-old clerk hadn't even finished reading the ruling, but she was game to marry them. That move put her in the history books as the first elected official to marry a couple after the ruling. The marriage was performed so quickly, there was no media present.

"The couples had waited long enough," Byrum said.

She speaks of "my families." Those families are couples Byrum has married since the Supreme Court ruling, but also during a brief window in March of 2014, after a federal

INFO

Michigan Pride March To State Capitol

Assemble at 11 a.m. March begins at 12 noon
from Adado Park, Lansing

>> michiganpride.org

like an 18-year-old kid because she was worried about the kid that was going to pull someone out of a ditch.”

She pauses as she thinks about the women in her life.

“These are the women I grew up with,” she said. “I have had amazing people – that whether they know it or not – have played a very important role in my life.”

She is told by her mother, and vaguely recalls in her own memories, of an incident in third grade. At the time, only boys were invited to hoist the U.S. flag in front of the school. The young Byrum – who would later be at the center of a firestorm of controversy in the state Legislature over women’s reproductive rights – didn’t think that was fair.

So she wrote a note to the principal. Next thing she knew, the principal had agreed with her – that yes, girls should also be allowed to raise the flag – and she was selected to be the first girl in the school to do so.

“I didn’t want to be the girl raising the flag,” she said. “I wanted to see another girl do it.”

That is not the only example of her early advocacy efforts. She recalls walking out of a government class in the ninth grade because the substitute teacher was quoting the Bible. “I was never in trouble,” Byrum said. “I never walked out of class.”

So like the good student, she walked to the office and reported her walk out – and her reasoning – to the principal. She was ordered back to class, which she dutifully did. But word spread in the small school, and other students followed her lead that day and walked out on the same Bible touting substitute. By the end of the day, she said, the assistant principal pulled her from one of her last classes and apologized to her, and said the substitute would not be returning to school.

“I guess that shows I was an advocate before I even know I was one,” she said. Her mother was in the state Senate at that point.

Despite that early advocacy, she said she had no intention of becoming a politician. She was happy running her hardware store in Charlotte. But she was also fascinated with learning. She holds a bachelor’s degree in agribusiness management with an emphasis in crop and soil science.

“I know how to grow crops, kill weeds and run a farm,” she said. “Then I have my law degree from Michigan State College of Law, otherwise known as the Detroit College of Law.”

But she has never practiced law. She said she got the law degree because, “I love to read.”

“I went to law school without having an intent to ever practice law,” she said. “I wouldn’t change it.”

She has no interest to this day of arguing in court, but she said she does “love” arguing.

In 2006, with her mother term limited, and the 67th House District seat up for grabs, Byrum said she was encouraged to run for the state Legislature. She said supporters liked her because of her background in agriculture and as a small business owner.

Her interest in the race was more about adequate representation.

“My mom was term limited out of office,” she said, noting her mother Diane was leaving as the Democratic leader of the House. “And all of the people – the names I heard – that were going to run were older, male individuals.”

Uncomfortable with watching the seat her mother held be taken over by “older, male individuals” that might not represent her or her generation, she decided she needed to throw her hat in the ring.

She said she really had no plans to follow in the political

footsteps of her mother and father, but said her mother knew she was destined for a life in political office since she was young and the incident with the flag raising happened.

That first race, she said, thickened her skin. She had a primary, which she won. And her general election opponent was Don Vickers, a Republican who had been her middle school principal. During the race, Vickers, Byrum said, referred to her by her long abandoned childhood nickname – Barbie. That nickname is incongruous with the reputation she has since gained as a fierce advocate, she acknowledged. And while she gladly accepted the label then, it rankles her to hear it to this day.

She prevailed in that general election and went on to win re-election twice.

While she had many accomplishments in the Legislature, including legalizing on-site sales for local brews and distillation, which opened the floodgates to the brew pubs and distilleries popping up all over the state, it is perhaps the floor fight in the House in June 2012 by which she will be most remembered.

During a contentious fight over legislation related to abortion, Byrum and Rep. Lisa Brown – an Oakland County Democrat who now serves as the county clerk there – challenged the GOP leadership. Both were ordered silenced because of their words. Byrum had used the word “vagina,” and Brown had reminded her GOP colleagues that “no means no.” GOP leadership told Democrat leadership the two were barred from speaking on the floor.

The situation erupted into a national fiasco for the GOP and resulted in a staged reading of the play “The Vagina Monologues” on the steps of the Capitol. Author Eve Ensler flew into Michigan to participate in the event, and both Brown and Byrum read from the play. The event was attended by thousands.

She left the Legislature in 2013, term limited out, but she decided to seek the post of Ingham County Clerk. She said she loves the job and will be seeking another term in 2016.

She replaced Mike Bryanton as clerk. Bryanton did not seek re-election in 2012, after serving in the post for 18 years. His reign was tainted by scandal. The county paid one of his former employees \$80,000 in 2011, the Lansing State Journal reported. The employee had alleged she had been forced to resign after being accused of leaving a voicemail accusing Bryanton of an affair with a top staffer in his office.

But at the end of the day, the accidental ally said, she is proud of her advocacy for the LGBT community and for women. She calls the label of “ally” an “honor.”

“I was very happy I was in the right place at the right time,” she said, “and I am very lucky to have had a small impact on people’s lives.”

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Steve Grand Headlines Michigan Pride White Party

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

Gay pop/country star Steve Grand will kick off Michigan Pride's White Party Aug. 28 with a special concert. The 25-year-old singer and songwriter hails from Lemont, Illinois, right outside of Chicago. Grand became an Internet sensation when he became the first openly gay country musician to attract mainstream attention in the U.S.

His hit single, "All-American Boy," was considered a viral video in July 2013. The former model has been named to Out magazine's "Out 100" list and was named as one of BuzzFeed's "24 Most Brilliant Music Videos from 2013" for the hit.

Though "All-American Boy" has a country edge, audience-goers can expect music ranging from country to dance pop. "There's a lot of talk about me being a country artist, and that was the headline from the start: 'Gay country artist,'" Grand told Time Out New York. "I never really identified with that — I certainly didn't put that out there myself, and I've never done anything to affirm that label. That was

something that was just placed on me. I mean, I understand, (the song) 'All-American Boy' does sound country, and the video is certainly very country. But there's stuff that's very dance-pop with not a trace of country on the

PRIDE PERFORMER STEVE GRAND

record. So I think that will surprise people. But I'm a songwriter, and I've always been much more concerned about just the basic elements, the lyric and the melody rather than the production."

Recently, an image of Grand wearing a Speedo on a boat attracted criticism for being "too gay." Grand responded by telling Underwear News Brief, "I try not to pay too much attention. At some point in life it's important to realize that no matter what you do, people are going to have something to say about it so you may as well do/wear what makes you happy."



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“I’ve seen a small number of gay men criticize my choice of swimwear for being immodest and ‘stereotypically gay.’ People are entitled to feel however they feel, but again, I wear what I wear for me and not for them; because it makes me feel good. I’m not looking for everyone’s approval all of the time.

“There is a time and place for modesty, but, for me at least, a hot summer day in Chicago, on a boat with a bunch of other gay dudes, is not one of them.

“And frankly I don’t care what some may consider to be a gay stereotype or not, and anyone using that as some kind of jab is probably grappling with their own internalized homophobia. I wear what makes me happy.”

Grand also addressed Michigan Pride in a recent YouTube video. “Hey everybody, Steve Grand here,” he says with a wave. “I just wanted to take a quick second to say hi to you and the good people of Michigan. I’m really looking forward to seeing all of you at White Party on Friday, Aug. 28 at Riverfront Park in Lansing to kick off the Michigan Pride festival weekend. I’m really looking forward to seeing all of you there and to be a part of this amazing event. See you then!”

Steve Grand will kick off Michigan Pride’s White Party at 9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 28. Limited tickets are available for \$20 pre-sale, \$25 day of at www.michiganpride.org

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NEWS

AUBURN HILLS

Ruth Ellis Center, FCA US Organize 5K Run/Walk

The Ruth Ellis Center and the Gay and Lesbian Alliance at FCA US have partnered together to organize a 5K walk/run Aug. 29 to raise funds that will be donated to the Ruth Ellis Center's operations, mental health services and the Family Preservation and Acceptance program.

An estimated 40 percent of all runaway and homeless youth in the U.S. identify as LGBT. Disproportionately affected, most often due to family rejection, these youth are at much greater risk of suicide, depression, substance abuse and HIV infection. This alarming statistic is the horsepower behind "Taking Strides for Healthy Minds 5K Walk/Run."

Registration is \$40 per participant which will be donated to the Ruth Ellis Center. Walkers and runners of all ages and abilities are welcome to participate. Children under the age of 12 may participate at no cost. Registration includes an event T-shirt (not included with children's admission) and timed results for all participants. Strollers are permitted. There will also be refreshments and entertainment before, during and after the 5K for all participants.

Check-in will open at 7:30 a.m. at FCA US Headquarters evaluation track located at 1000 Chrysler Dr. in Auburn Hills. Participants may also register the day-of, as long as the participation limit has not been reached. The walk/run will begin promptly at 9 a.m.

Registrants will receive a confirmation email with additional event details.

To purchase tickets, go to <http://takingstridesforhealthyminds5k.brownpapertickets.com/>.

Space For Grace Offering 'Agnostic Approach' To Exploring Spiritual Sexual Selves

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Spiral, the normally booming dance club located in Lansing's Old Town, is bringing more than drag shows and drink specials to LGBT people. Kick Back Sunday, sponsored by Space for Grace, is a new nondenominational spiritual movement in Lansing.

"The vision is almost singular and yet global in that our agenda is to create a safe space not only at Kick Back Sundays, but to develop that aura so that wherever you go, we are extending that spirit of safe space," said Pastor PamelaJune "PJ" Anderson, "and that spirit of hospitality and that spirit of inclusion. We want people at Space for Grace to get that in their spirit. Get that in their being."

That's a mighty big agenda for a retired Navy chaplain who spent time working with President Barack Obama unraveling the Don't Ask Don't Tell policy. It's an even bigger job for an African-American, heterosexual woman who a dozen years ago was not very open to the LGBTQIAASGL community.

"I was willing to take that risk," she said of starting a ministry reaching out to the community. "It's costly in terms of having colleagues where I can just hang out and talk about vision and our dreams. It's not gonna happen."

Her calling to minister to the community that has been "spiritually battered" by the traditional church has led more than one person to accuse Anderson of being a lesbian.

With a sly smile she said, "If one more person calls me a lesbian, I might just become one."

The Space for Grace movement began when her godson Oliver took her under his wing and began to teach her about the community. She said at first she was resistant, but she

came to understand there was a yearning for a community. She reached out to her "traditional" church – she's ordained by the United Church of Christ. Initial response was favorable to creating an outreach ministry to the community, but as the launch time grew

The struggle between the "agnostic" vision and the traditional church is clear. She speaks of the conflict of interpretation.

"That may be that person's experience," Anderson said. "But if it conflicts with who I know God has created me to be, then we need



Pastor PamelaJune "PJ" Anderson

PJ Anderson's calling to minister to the community that has been "spiritually battered" by the traditional church has led more than one person to accuse Anderson of being a lesbian. With a sly smile she said, "If one more person calls me a lesbian, I might just become one."

to look at the back story behind the scripture."

By backstory, she explained, she means the historical context in which the scripture was written – who was it written by? Why was it written? Why was it important in that moment in history?

For Anderson, there is no returning to a traditional church setting.

"Being part of the traditional part of the church is like trying to fit Texas in Rhode Island," she said. "It just doesn't fit anymore."

near, the leadership grew more antsy, she said.

So she went out on her own with a meeting in February 2014 in Ann Arbor. Those who participated told her in no uncertain terms, "We do have a need for an agnostic approach to exploring and examining – and more importantly experiencing our spiritual, sexual selves."

And thusly Space for Grace was brought into being. Right now the group meets the third Sunday of every month at Spiral in Lansing. They mingle, chat, share blessing on a meal, share that meal, listen to some singing and have more conversation. It is a communion service in a most basic and simple form.

INFO

Kick Back Sundays meets the third Sunday of every month at Spiral in Lansing's Old Town

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Love Answers The Question Of Marriage Equality



OPINION BY FRANK TURNER

I must admit when the fight for marriage equality first took form, I took up arms on the opposing side. As a former Pentecostal, I was born (again) into a Christian denomination that is fervently fundamentalist and wholeheartedly homophobic. But as my allegiance to the denomination gave way to my discipleship to Jesus, a transformation took hold in my heart, and I found the only satisfying answer to the question of marriage equality is love.

The gospels of the Christian canons present a portrait of Jesus performing a variety of good works such as healing the sick, delivering the oppressed and feeding the hungry – even raising the dead. But His multitude of miracles had a singular motivation: love. In one instance after another, Jesus was demonstrably

motivated and moved by His compassion.

The writer of the biblical book of Hebrews says that Jesus was touched, moved and made empathetic, through his personal experience with human weakness, desire, longing and denial. This contributed to His character of being inclusive, and caused Him to be enthusiastically accepting of the rejected, the marginalized and the dehumanized. His response to all, even to those who opposed, criticized and rejected Him was to love. Love. Compassion. Empathy. Inclusion. These things represent the character of Jesus. These things identify the disciples of Jesus. This is the trail blazed by the leader of our faith.

Thus, I am convinced, this is the path for His faithful to follow. I, and many other followers of Jesus, believe Bible passages used to condemn and oppose lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender relationships are mistranslated, misinterpreted and otherwise taken out of their original context and understanding.

I am personally convinced no present day marriage relationship, sexual situation or family issue was in view or being addressed at the time any of the ancient biblical texts were being written; loving, committed relationships among people of the same sex are neither prohibited by God nor specifically addressed

I, and many other followers of Jesus, believe Bible passages used to condemn and oppose lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender relationships are mistranslated, misinterpreted and otherwise taken out of their original context and understanding.

by any authors of biblical works.

Therefore, I believe that marriage equality is an essential and basic right for all human beings regardless of color, culture, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation or gender identity. I also believe that marriage equality is primarily a human and civil rights issue and not a religious one. However there are those who, in dedicated devotion to various faith traditions, cannot separate the secular from the sacred and are having a difficult time living at the intersection of faith and inclusion.

Despite the U.S. Supreme Court ruling, or perhaps because of it, the battle lines

separating proponents and opponents of marriage equality will be fortified before they are eventually dismantled. The questions in the hearts of people over who can adopt, who must be served, whose event must be catered, whose wedding cake must be baked and whether marriage is a sacrament or a civil right have not, and will not, be satisfactorily settled by this or any other court ruling.

The only satisfying answer to these questions is love. The only place where a binding and truly beneficial majority opinion can be effectively reached is in the heart. The time has come not only to embrace marriage equality, but to do so in love.

As with all people, I am sure most marriage equality supporters gladly welcome the loving acceptance of others. But the marriage equality quest is, and has always been, about proponents asking opponents to get out of the way and simply let us love each other. The answer to the question of marriage equality will always be love.

Pastor Frank Turner is pastor at The Believers Congregation in Novi. He was in attendance for the DeBoer-Rowse wedding Saturday night where he blessed the event.

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Photo: Reiner Bejo

The Name Is Quinto...
ZACHARY QUINTO

Zachary Quinto Calls Upon LGBT Actors To 'Be Who They Are,' Talks Marriage & Lack Of Gay Action Stars

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

"Oh, Jesus."

Zachary Quinto is aptly responding to the fact that, yes, despite establishing himself as an Emmy-nominated actor with versatility, out-of-this-world talent and some of the best eyebrows in the biz, he once starred on an episode of "Touched by an Angel."

He isn't reacting to being *on* the show, per se — he just can't believe it's been nearly 15 years.

Since then, Quinto has made major shifts beyond his transformation to leading man. After matter-of-factly coming out to the masses in 2011, he became an outspoken advocate for the LGBT community and has notably taken on subjects such as PrEP and gay teen suicide.

The 38-year-old's sexuality is a non-issue when it comes to his meandering career on TV, in film and on Broadway, as his varied typecast-defying roles demonstrate: Sylar on NBC's "Heroes," Quinto's breakout role; the infamous "American Horror Story" killer Bloody Face; James Franco's lover in "I Am

Michael"; and, of course, Spock, the "Star Trek" icon he brought back to the big screen, ears and all. (He's currently shooting "Star Trek Beyond," the reboot franchise's third installment.)

Quinto's latest big-screen endeavor is the video game-inspired "Hitman: Agent 47," wherein he dials up the badassery as a CIA agent you definitely do not want to cross. A major studio-produced action movie featuring... an out gay actor? You better believe it.

As he swings open the door on a traditionally gay-less genre by breaking down Hollywood stereotypes, Quinto spoke to us about recognizing his unique place as the go-to gay when it comes to action flicks and how he "definitely" thinks the world is ready for a gay James Bond. Plus, why he believes, despite the recent Supreme Court ruling on marriage, our fight for equality is far from over.

"Hitman" centers on an assassin who's genetically engineered as the perfect killing machine. If you could be engineered to do

anything you wanted, what would that be?

If I could just travel anywhere at any time and somehow my genetic modification allowed me to transport somewhere, I imagine that would be a pretty useful genetic modification that I would get a lot of pleasure out of. No jet lag!

"Heroes," "American Horror Story," "Hitman": You like being bad, don't you?

Well, it's just sort of the way it falls out sometimes. It was never something I set out to accomplish specifically, but I think "Heroes" set a certain tone, and that was the first time that people on a wider platform became aware of my work. Because of that association, other opportunities in that vein have presented themselves.

I'm playing an antagonist again in this film. I think, for me, I really consider it a really nice bookend actually, because I'm very interested in cultivating other experiences for myself creatively, so I feel maybe like I can actively hang up the villain hat for a little while and do some other stuff. I really am open to things as they present themselves. It's a balance,

you know? Making decisions every time an opportunity arises — I'm grateful and fortunate to be in a position to be able to do that.

You were bullied as a kid, so I find it interesting that you take on all these villain roles. Do you draw upon those experiences when acting as the bad guy?

I've never drawn on those experiences creatively in that way. It's a lot about imagination. When you're in a world like this, which is stylized and heightened and has a sleekness to it, then it becomes about filling that world with the character that you're playing and, for me, that's all about rooting it in the imaginary circumstances — one definition of acting is truthful behavior in imaginary circumstances. So, for me, it's a lot about connecting to that and connecting to the people that I'm playing and that's a different process depending on what the style and the tone of the piece is. This one was so driven by physicality and by actual conflict and combat, and that kind of drove the character a little bit. I didn't really have

to dive back into my uncomfortable moments of childhood to connect with that necessarily.

How strategic have you been with the projects you've chosen in order to avoid the typecasting some LGBT actors have said they've experienced?

I played gay characters, but I was never part of a gay-themed story until I did "I Am Michael" last year with James Franco. That was a specific decision; I felt really drawn to the story (of an ex-gay) and the nature of the story. My whole take on the potential perceived limitations is just to not engage them and not allow them to exist – to me that is a choice. I know what I am capable of and I know what my range is, and I know that's not limited by or even affected by my sexual orientation. So, for me, it was just a matter of doing what I do and opening myself up to the roles that present themselves, whether they're gay or straight, with a kind of creative integrity. That's all I really feel is in my control and that's the place I work from in terms of both pursuing work and engaging work.

Do you think today – in 2015, post marriage equality – typecasting on the basis of an actor's sexuality even exists?

I don't know. I mean, I don't think it has anything to do with marriage equality – that victory has been won and has been a really profound advancement to the LGBT community. I think our real fights for equality aren't legal; it's about humanity and compassion and inclusion.

Even in the wake of marriage equality you're seeing all these county clerks who are refusing to issue marriage licenses, which is despicable and illegal. Just a few blocks from my house, these two guys – the first gay couple to be married out of West Point – were harassed in the bodega (in SoHo). It's not behind us. The movement toward equality is bigger than just one legal issue, and that's amazing that the highest law of the land has supported our struggle for civil rights, but civil rights is only one aspect of being a minority of any kind. It's much more about human connection and respect in the long run and in a very broader sense, and I think that's the fight that continues.

Seeing as though "I Am Michael" is your first gay-themed film, would you have taken on that movie earlier in your career before you became such an established actor?

It was a different time. I don't know if that movie would've been made. It's hard to say. I mean, it came to me at the right time and it was the right thing for me to choose in that moment, but I don't know the answer to that question.

What was the process of developing your onscreen chemistry with James Franco for "I Am Michael"?

For me it was just about relating to the guy.

Franco has so much attention and he's sort of this ubiquitous figure. A lot of people have opinions of him and a perspective on who he might be. For me it was just about cutting through all of that and getting to know him. I really enjoyed our time together and I respect what he was doing by putting that movie together and wanting to tell that story, so I was happy to be a part of it. I'm sure that kind of set the connection that we had in our work together.

There is definitely a sense of intrigue regarding Franco's persona.

Yeah, and that seems like that's his public persona, that's his relationship with the public. There's no clarity, really, as an actor, as a writer, as a director, as an artist; I think he's just trying to do as much as he can and put as much out there as he can, and I respect that. He's a really hard working, ambitious guy and I thought that his energy behind this movie was interesting and part of what compelled me to do it.

With the exception of yourself, there are not any big-name out gay actors getting lead roles in action movies. Not Matt Bomer, not Andrew Rannells, not Neil Patrick Harris. Why do you think there aren't any major LGBT actors besides you getting top billing in major Hollywood action films? I mean, why can't we have a gay James Bond?

I mean, we can, right?

I'd like to think so.

Sure. I definitely think that we can. Matt Bomer is one of my favorite friends. I've known him for 15 years – longer. I know Andrew. These are friends of mine. The fact that so many of my friends who are openly gay have flourishing, thriving careers is really exciting. That in and of itself is progress if you consider that 15 years ago, when I started acting professionally out of college, you couldn't even count on both of your hands the number of openly gay actors in any form, television or film. It was a totally different issue 15 years ago, and that's not a very long amount of time to have made such progress.

So, I do not disagree with you; I do feel like I occupy – not in any self-aggrandizing way – a space where I have looked to my peers and looked around me and said, "Well, who else can I look to?" And there isn't anybody else. That to me is significant and personally gratifying as I consider my own journey to self-acceptance, but again, I just think, "Don't let it slow me down." And I don't. I don't create an issue where there isn't one, and I think the more that we're all able to do that then the more diversity will present itself.

What do you think of the LGBT community's evolution since your coming out in 2011?

Look at the transgender movement: of course Laverne (Cox), and before Laverne, Candis Cayne, who was amazing on "Dirty Sexy

See Zachary Quinto, page 29

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Happenings



Tracy Mack will perform at the /aut/Bar's 20th anniversary celebration Saturday.

ANN ARBOR Historic LGBT Bar Celebrates 20th Anniversary

The historic Kerrytown bar, /aut/Bar, will celebrate its 20th Anniversary Aug. 29 and has a whole day of events planned to commemorate a 20-year legacy serving the LGBT communities of Ann Arbor.

The bar brings together local artists and entertainment in a 20th anniversary event for LGBT individuals including /aut/Bar alumni bartenders, DJs and a performance from main headliner and Ann Arbor legend Tracy Mack.

Beginning at 11 a.m., /aut/Bar kicks off the day's celebrations with a jazz brunch. A local jazz band will play for those dining in the relaxed environment.

Tracy Mack, Ann Arbor singer/songwriter, will take to the stage from 7-9 p.m. followed by performances from local DJs at 10 p.m., who will close out the evening's entertainment by "Dancing the Night Away."

Mack fuses blues, rock and R&B styles to create a raw and soulful performance. Her style is influenced by hit rock bands such as Fleetwood Mac, The Charlie Daniels Band, Janis Joplin, Bonnie Raitt and Melissa Etheridge, and she has performed her songs around Michigan, Ohio and the Los Angeles area.

By 1998 Mack was already an Ann Arbor favorite as a solo artist but decided to assemble some of the best musicians in the area to form The Tracy Mack Band. The band recorded Tracy's debut CD titled "Losing My Mind," described by Current Magazine as "inspired genius shimmering with usual magic." Mack recently put together a new group performing as "Tracy Mack and the Magic Land Band," a high-energy, five-piece band combining guitar, sax, bass, drums and backup vocals.

For more information on Tracy Mack and her band, visit her website at www.tracymack.com.

/aut/Bar, owned by Martin Contreras and Keith Orr, serves the LGBT communities of Ann Arbor and hosts a variety of events including Western nights, salsa nights, drag queen bingo and more. Orr also writes the "Bookmarks" column for Between The Lines.

OUTINGS

Thursday, Aug. 27

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

Friday, Aug. 28

Creative Monologue: A Solo Exhibition by Timothy Orikri 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

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

New Women's Group 2 p.m. PFLAG Tri-Cities, 500 Center Ave., **Bay City**. 989-395-7557.

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 LGBTQIA 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.michiganidscoalition.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

Thursday, Sep. 3

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.michiganidscoalition.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

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

Friday, Sep. 4

Bistro Fridays Special menu. /aut/Bar, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-994-3677. www.autbar.com

Saturday, Sep. 5

turnIt aut /aut/Bar, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-994-3677. www.autbar.com

B.F.'s! 8 p.m. Tickets: \$12 in advance only. Slipstream, 460 Hilton, **Ferndale**. 248-298-9617. www.slipstreamt.com

MUSIC & MORE

Comedy

Go Comedy! Improv Theater "The Matt Naas Variety Show" Matt Naas hosts Go Comedy's variety show, The

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 "John Hiatt and The Combo & Taj Mahal Trio" Tickets: \$39.50-75. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 a.m. Sep. 3. 734-668-8397. www.theark.org

The Ark "Lee DeWyze" Tickets: \$20-50. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. July 10 - Sep. 1. 734-761-1800. www.theark.org

Festivals

Quicken Loans "Detroit Summerfest" . Campus Martius and Capitol Parks, Detroit. Aug. 27 - Aug. 29. www.downtowndetroitparks.com

THEATER

National Theatre Live Arthur Millers A View From the Bridge High-Definition Broadcasts from National Theatre, London. Presented in partnership with the Michigan Theater. University Musical Society, Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. Aug. 30. 734-764-2538. www.umls.org/performance/nt-live-view-from-bridge/

The Northern Writers' Project . Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 31 - Sep. 6. 734-663-0681. www.pnttheatre.org

Professional

5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche It's 1956 and the Susan B. Anthony Society for the Sisters of Gertrude Stein are having their annual quiche breakfast. Will they be able to keep their cool when communists threaten their idyllic town? Tickets: \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through Sep. 14. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

BoxFest Detroit 2015 An annual theater festival that showcases and creates opportunities for women directors. Tickets: \$10 per day (cash only at the door) or \$30 festival pass (cash only at the door or online). Box Fest Detroit, Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Through Aug. 29. 313-365-4948. www.boxfestdetroit.com

ComedySportz Two teams battle for laughs and points as they make up scenes, games and songs on the spot. A family-friendly show! . ComedySportz Detroit, Michigan Actors Studio, 648 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Through Oct. 31. 877-636-3320. www.comedysportzdetroit.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

Hamlet The classic tale performed on one of the few authentic replicas of William Shakespeare's own Globe Theater in London! Tickets: \$15-25. Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company, Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, 300 E. Crystal



Editor's Pick

Affirmations' exhibition "Creative Monologue: A Solo Exhibition by Timothy Orikri" ends this week. The exhibit is being held in the community center's Pittmann-Puckett Gallery. "This show represents scripted fantasies of my dreams both near and far," says Orikri. "It's a schematic rendition of hopes for a better city."

Timothy Orikri, born and raised in southern Nigeria by a Baptist minister, uses a wide spectrum of vibrant colors and mixed media to create a secure world in which humanity

is restored to God's intended pure state. His artistic themes – much like the messages from his father's pulpit – embrace hope, harmony and the gift of nature. Drawing on African, European and American influences, he carefully bridges the gap between the ancient and modern.

Affirmations is located at 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. For more information on the center, the Pittmann-Puckett Gallery or on Orikri's exhibition, visit www.goaffirmations.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

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.michiganidscoalition.org

Matt Naas Variety Show. Featuring live music from the Variety All-Star Band, surprise guests, and the best in local talent The Matt Naas Variety Show will bring you a new experience every month. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 8 p.m. Aug. 28. 248-327-0575. www.facebook.com/GoComedy



Editor's Pick

Throwing Shade is a smart, hilarious and irreverent weekly podcast and web series, hosted by "homosensual" Bryan Safi and "feminasty" Erin Gibson. Every week, Safi and Gibson take a look at all the headlines in politics and pop culture, and treat them with much less respect than they deserve. It's just like a cocktail party with smart, silly friends who can seamlessly connect a conversation about Miley Cyrus and weave it seamlessly into thoughts on Hillary's unconfirmed run for

president. They can jump from "True Detective" to "The Bachelor" and in one breath explain how Drake is the Loretta Lynn of the R&B world.

Throwing Shade is infotainment at its best, serving an audience that represents more than half of all living human beings who don't have a show that speaks directly to them. The AV Club calls them "equal opportunity offenders who lack any sort of filter" and Rolling Stone magazine put them on their list of "The 20 Best Comedy Podcasts" earlier this year. Throwing Shade is a part of the Maximum Fun network, and is also a weekly web series produced and hosted by Will Ferrell's comedy website Funny or Die.

Throwing Shade will be performing live at the Magic Bag at 8 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 27. The Magic Bag is located at 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Tickets begin at \$12. Visit www.themagicbag.com for more information.

Lake Rd., Twin Lake. 2 p.m. Aug. 29. 231-894-5656. www.bluelake.org/radio

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

Nunset Boulevard The Little Sisters of Hoboken have been invited to sing at the Hollywood Bowl. They are thrilled at the prospect until they arrive and realize that they are booked into the Hollywood Bowl-A-Rama, a bowling alley with a cabaret lounge. Tickets: Cornwell's Dinner Theatre, 18935 15 1/2 Mile Rd, Marshall. Aug. 27 - Oct. 24. 269-781-4293. www.turkeyville.com

The Will Rogers Follies Set in the glitz and glamour of Rogers' Ziegfeld Follies

days, the musical tells the life story of the cowboy rope trick artist turned political satirist, philosopher, write, movie star, humanitarian, champion of the underdog and friend of kings and presidents. Tickets: \$37. Barn Theatre, 13351 West M-96, Augusta. Aug. 25 - Sep. 6. 269-731-4121. www.barntheatreschool.com

ART 'N' AROUND

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

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

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

Scarabclub.org

UMMA "The Art of Tyree Guyton: A Thirty-Year Journey". University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 22 - Jan. 3. 734-763-4186. www.Umma.umich.edu

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

► Zachary Quinto

Continued from p. 27


Money." And now with the emergence of Caitlyn Jenner, everything is changing. We're rapidly evolving as a society, and I think there's a lot of celebration in that. I think there's a lot to be grateful for. The more that people from diverse backgrounds can stand up with integrity and integrate who they are in an authentic way to their creative process then everybody benefits and we all move forward together as a result. So I see myself as one of many, many people who have had their own journey that has defined them and contributed to the larger goals of advancement and equality, and that's something that I'm proud of.

But we can't stop, and so I do invite any gay actor to be who they are and to stand up and fight for their capacity to play different roles and to do different things. The more

people can do that and stand by it, the more we'll see it continue as we already have.

In 2010, before you came out, you told The New York Times, "Let's talk about something that matters." Do you think celebrities do enough to speak out about and act on issues that can make positive change?

Yeah - think about Leonardo DiCaprio's commitment to the environment. Think about Amy Poehler's commitment to the Worldwide Orphans Foundation. Think about Angelina Jolie's work that she did in Cambodia to completely transform the landscape of that country. I do think there are socially responsible and conscientious members of the Hollywood community who stand up and fight for things they believe in. I think it's important if you're in a position to have a public platform that you at least, in some way, utilize it for the betterment of other people and the benefit of those who are less fortunate.

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Author Max-Arthur Mantle.

'Batty Bwoy' Author Will Read At Common Language Bookstore Aug. 28

BY KEITH ORR

In Jamaica, being gay is a death sentence. “Boom bye bye inna batty bwoy head” (gun shot to gay men) has replaced the country’s motto “Out of many, one people.” The title “Batty Bwoy” is a reappropriation of the derogatory Jamaican epithet used to describe gay, bisexual and effeminate men or those presumed to be gay or bisexual.

Jamaican author Max-Arthur Mantle, who will be reading at Common Language Books on Friday, has written this coming-of-age story about Mark Palmer, a gay, black Jamaican. The son of an overbearing, absentee mother, he is thrust into an environment that requires a thick skin from torments and socio-economic disparities. Suppressing his “gay tendencies” to detract being bashed or killed, he migrates to America and breaks free from the closet to a world where he is disenfranchised and arrested. As his life spirals from bad choices, he clings to desperate measures and finds hope.

Mantle studied Journalism and Photography at Howard University and served in the U.S. Navy. He is a photographer, novelist, avid abstract painter and self-preserving enthusiast with the dream of having a dog. He resides in Miami Beach.

In 2005, Max-Arthur Mantle achieved international recognition when he shot the last cover of Blue+66, Australia’s male photo-art

magazine. His photos of gorgeous men have graced the cover and pages of numerous international and American magazines.

Mantle has also contributed work to the Bruno Gmunder Publishing book “Visions: Contemporary Male Photographer,” Studio Magazine’s Australia book “Manatomy” and “Dreamboys, Vol. 3.” In addition, his work has been featured in calendars, greeting cards, posters and in advertising campaigns.

He has published two previous books: “Beach Boys,” published in 2012, and a retrospective photo book “Boys of Summer: The complete work of Max-Arthur Mantle” published in the summer of 2015. Mantle took a four-year break from the lens and returned to writing. His debut novel “Batty Bwoy,” the first in the trilogy, was published in spring 2015. Common Language Bookstore will host Max-Arthur Mantle at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 28. The event will include reception, signing and the author reading from “Batty Bwoy.” There will be time for questions and discussion at the end of the reading.

Common Language Bookstore is one of only a handful of LGBT Bookstores remaining in the U.S. and Canada. It is located at 325 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. For more information, contact the bookstore at 734-663-0036, email glbtstaff@gmail.com, visit them on Facebook or visit their website www.glbtbooks.com

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The Outfield

Tracking Anna Aagenes' Activism

BY DAN WOOG

Anna Aagenes took a girl to her junior prom. Still, she did not feel comfortable being fully out as a bisexual then, especially to her high school track teammates. It was not until she got to the University of Pennsylvania – where she found a girlfriend, became a two-time NCAA regional qualifier and school record holder in three relay events, and was named captain of the cross country and track and field teams – that she was fully out.

At Penn, Aagenes moved quickly, on and off the track. She majored in gender, society and culture, was elected co-chair of Penn Athletes and Allies Tackling Homophobia, and chosen as co-chair of the school's large Queer Student Alliance.

Her work on the Ivy League campus showed Aagenes the power of collaboration between the LGBT community and allies. But she also realized that while many people understood the importance of LGBT issues, the athletic sector lagged behind. Many athletes were not out to their teammates or coaches. Gradually, her work focused on the intersection between sports and society.

She is particularly proud of helping to create Pride Games. Now nearly a decade old, the annual event brings together Penn varsity and club sports teams, fraternities and sororities, a wide range of campus organizations, and other groups in the Philadelphia organization, for competition, fun and consciousness raising. In 2010, Aagenes joined the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network's Sports Project advisory group.

Aagenes' activism continued with GO! Athletes. She co-founded the group – the first national network dedicated to supporting and empowering LGBT student-athletes – and served as its executive director for several years. She worked tirelessly to give young men and women the tools to feel as open on their campuses as she had at Penn.

Meanwhile, she was building her own professional career: first at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Adolescent Initiative, serving young people living with HIV/AIDS, then as deputy chief of staff for state representative Brian Sims, the first openly gay legislator elected in Pennsylvania.

Earlier this year, though, a new opportunity presented itself. The You Can Play project hired her as vice president of program development and community relations. Now Aagenes is back working full time for LGBT student-athletes. You Can Play helped



“We're adding trans athletes, and we're committed to addressing gender and racial identities.”

jumpstart the gay sports movement – and Aagenes is helping take it to new levels.

Co-founded in 2012 by Patrick Burke (son of noted hockey administrator and coach Brian Burke, and brother of openly gay Miami University student manager Brendan Burke who had been killed in a car crash two years earlier) and two others, You Can Play gained notice by promoting videos in which college athletic teams celebrated inclusion. “If you can play, you can play” on our squads, athletes said. The idea spread to high schools, pro teams and entire leagues. The videos – upbeat, creative and shared on the You Can Play website and through social media – quickly became life-changing elements in the LGBT sports world.

You Can Play has since branched out. Using a variety of educational tools, its mission is to ensure the safety and inclusion of all in sports – including LGBT athletes, coaches and fans – while challenging the culture of locker rooms and spectator areas.

Aagenes' gig is full time. It was tough leaving Brian Sims' political office, but she's made a seamless transition working with folks like executive director Wade Davis – an openly gay former professional football player – and vice president for operations and development Jillian Svensson.

In addition to helping shape educational programming, building outreach strategies, strengthening partnerships and developing curriculum, Anna is raising awareness of homophobia in women's sports.

She's also done training sessions with Major League Soccer and the Big Sky Conference.

In Philadelphia, she helped organize a You Can Play event with the local Arena Football team, as well as a “Courage Game” built around a 12-year-old lacrosse player who had been cyberbullied. Over 300 people were in attendance – “and they were all there supporting inclusion,” Aagenes notes.

After six months with You Can Play, Aagenes says she is motivated by her colleagues; inspired by the partnering

teams, leagues and organizations she's worked with, and energized by the chance to make a difference in LGBT sports.

“For every naysayer, there are 100 people who are super-supportive,” she says. “We're adding trans athletes, and we're committed to addressing gender and racial identities.”

Anna Aagenes could always run. Now she's helping run a major LGBT organization – ensuring that anyone who can play, can play.

Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach and gay activist. His latest book is “We Kick Balls: True Stories from the Youth Soccer Wars.” He can be reached care of this publication or at OutField@qsyndicate.com.

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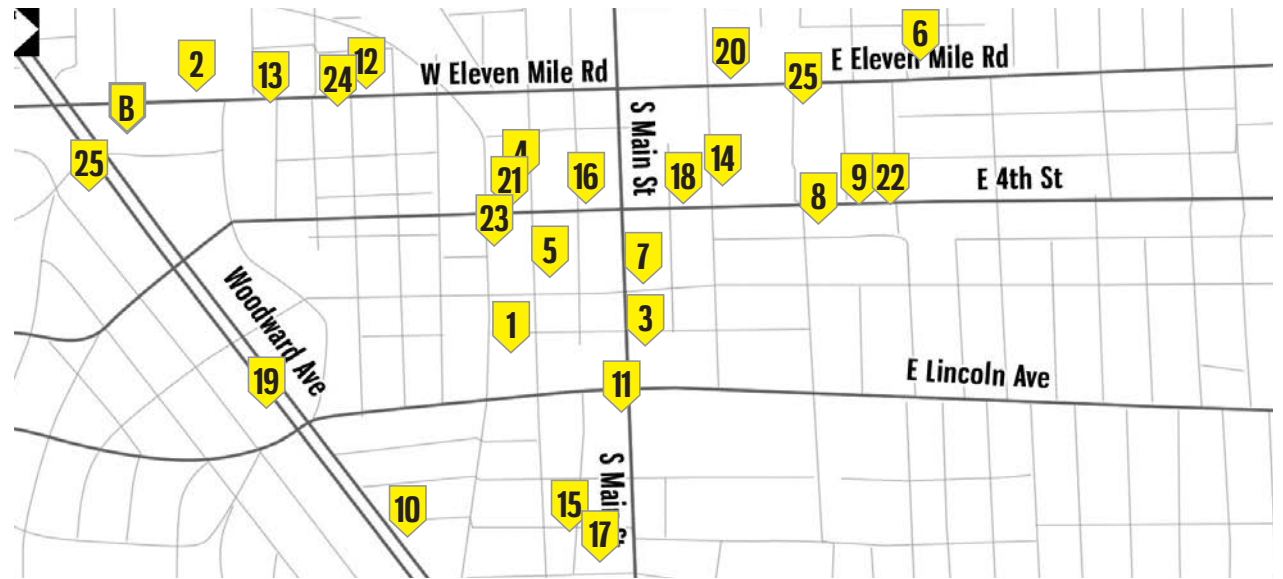
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Arts, Beats & Eats Will Satisfy All Tastes

ROYAL OAK – The 18th annual Ford Arts, Beats & Eats presented by Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort will once again offer unparalleled healthy and delicious edible options. Healthy food choices return while many new restaurants join the mix that festival guests will choose from this Labor Day weekend, Sept. 4-7, in Royal Oak.

With more than 50 Metro Detroit-area restaurants to choose from, the incredible epicurean choices of Ford Arts, Beats & Eats sizzle even hotter this year. The lineup includes some new eclectic favorites including Café Muse, KouZina and Salad Sensations at Somerset Collection. Famous Dave's, known for its mouthwatering choices, leads a stellar list of barbecue establishments including Bert's Market Place, Lockhart's BBQ and Victory Smokehouse.

Adding to the impressive representation of Metro Detroit's restaurants, hungry crowds can also enjoy the return of the popular filet mignon sliders from Prime 29 Steakhouse and the fine dining options of Soaring Eagle Cuisine Machine and Steven Lelli's Inn on the Green. For those with dietary and health concerns, Priority Health "Healthy Options," sponsored by Beaumont Hospital, will provide festival guests color-coded food designations at participating vendors. Designations include: Low-Carb, Low-Fat, Gluten Free, Sugar Free and Vegan. Vendor menu boards and the festival app will indicate these healthy options. Participants of this program include Mr. B's, Alexandria's Mediterranean Cuisine, an array of fresh salads from Salad Sensations, delicious corn on the cob from Shuck-N-Ladder and more.

Other restaurants scheduled to participate offer something for every taste, include bozii, Gaucho Brazilian Steakhouse, Peking House and cool ice



cream treats from Eskimo Jack's and Treat Dreams of Ferndale.

For those whose palates are more primed for art, organizers have announced the selection of artists whose work will be on display and for sale.

As one of the nation's premier juried art shows, the Juried Fine Art Show again will be a highlight of this year's festival, with top artists from the across the continent vying for cash awards totaling \$7,500. The Juried Show will showcase art in a variety of mediums, including ceramics, digital art, drawing, fabric/fiber/leather, glass, graphics/printmaking, jewelry, metal, mixed media 2D, mixed media 3D, painting, photography, sculpture and wood.

Artists will come from all over North America, including Canada and Mexico, to display, share and sell their work. Festival patrons have the opportunity to peruse original works at more than 135 artist booth spaces. Artists in attendance will include

some of the finest in their respective mediums. Returning visitors will recognize the deep colors of the layered glass landscapes by Vince Pernicano of Boyne Falls, Michigan. James Parker, of Rochester Hills, is a digital photographer whose moody, evocative work tells stories of a disappearing American landscape, a visual commentary on things left behind.

New this year are the spectacular sculptures of John Wayne Jackson of Black Mountain, North Carolina who uses a stone-like medium as organic canvases to create huge leaves and other natural pieces that look like contemporary fossils sculpted in stone. These artists and more than 120 others will amaze and delight art fans of all tastes and background.

For more information on the event, check out www.pridesource.com/calendar.html or www.artsbeatseats.com.

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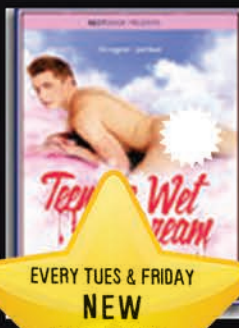
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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Maggie Smith is living in a 'Van'

"The Lady in the Van" is quite the departure for Maggie Smith. Lately, she's become more well known than ever for her appearances in the "Harry Potter" films, her sassy dowager on "Downton Abbey," and her cranky retiree in the "Marigold Hotel" films. In "Van," Smith plays Miss Shepherd, a real-life woman who decided to park her van in the driveway of English writer Alan Bennett ("The Madness of King George," "The History Boys"), and live there. For 15 years. During this time, Bennett simply allowed her to continue doing so – that British politeness at work – and both of their lives were, naturally, altered by the experience. Filmed at the real locations, this idiosyncratic story from Bennett and director Nicholas Hytner will premiere at the Toronto Film Festival and almost certainly be hitting theaters around award season. How could it not?

Archie sings again

Let's say you're old enough to remember The Archies, the early '70s fake rock group invented for the animated Saturday morning version of "Archie" comics. Each episode of the series ended with a song from the "band." They even had whoppingly popular hit singles such as "Sugar Sugar" and "Jingle Jangle," very much like the fake live-action TV band, The Partridge Family. Well, writer-director Adam McKay ("Anchorman," "Talladega Nights") remembers it so well that he's taking the Archies to Broadway in a brand new musical. And who better to describe the action plan than the man himself: "Archie represents a bygone era of America. And like all bygone eras, there are elements we miss and elements that should be bygone. This will be a musical that deals with both those realities in a bright, colorful and slightly demented way." McKay will write the book, but that's all the information known at the moment. We assume McKay will include Riverdale's gay teen Kevin Keller and at least some cameos from "Josie and The Pussycats" and "Sabrina the Teenage Witch"? Right? Please?

Davies' 'Sunset Song'

Veteran gay filmmaker Terence Davies is a master of the quietly intelligent British period film. He has long explored the fate of individuals caught between their desires and duties during England's shifting historical framework, as in "The House of Mirth" and "The Deep Blue Sea," and the results are always moving. For his latest, "Sunset Song," based on the novel by Lewis Grassie Gibbon,



James Franco.

he follows acclaimed Scottish actor Peter Mullan and model/actress Agyness Deyn as they navigate the hardships of rural life in that northernmost U.K. country. The film has its premiere at the Toronto Film Festival in September and a theatrical release will follow, wherever movies for grown-ups (aka the ones lacking superheroes, robots and dystopian futures) appear near you.

Porn in the U.S.A. with James Franco

David Simon. Know that name? No? Well, he's the TV genius who created the acclaimed HBO shows "The Wire" and "Treme." And after his latest miniseries, "Show Me a Hero," airs on the pay cable channel, he's got a new project in the works, a pilot for a series currently known as "The Deuce." It's set in the notorious and much-missed Times Square of the 1970s and 80s, a place of vice, sin, drugs and crazy porn theaters that showed X-rated movies round the clock and boasted wild titles on marquees for all to see (they usually included words like "nympho" in case you're too lazy to chase down Google Images). In other words, it's going to look amazing. It will also star James Franco, whose presence signifies weirdness and probably some homosexuality. There's only a pilot order for the moment, but Simon's relationship and history with HBO tends to point to this going to series. We're very excited and also somewhat horny now.

Romeo San Vicente's Time Square experiences resemble those captured in Madonna's "Open Your Heart" video. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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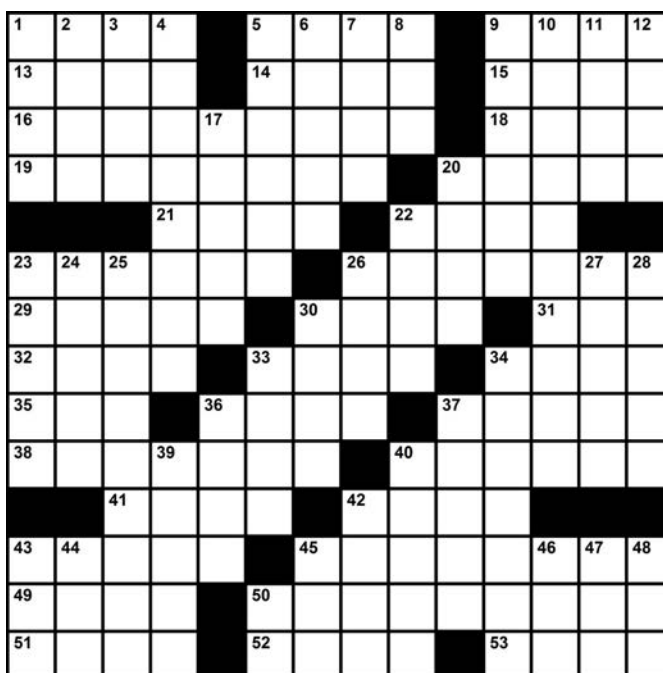
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Q Puzzle



Free The Bacon!

Across

- 1 Love seat, e.g.
- 5 "Desire Under the ____"
- 9 2015 award for Laverne Cox
- 13 His brother laid him in his grave
- 14 Deity to Debussy
- 15 Arsenic's old partner
- 16 2000 movie in which Kevin's "bacon" was "free"

- 18 Buck heroine
- 19 Cole Porter song that was a hit for Eartha Kitt
- 20 Begins, on Broadway
- 21 Blow the whistle
- 22 Little chirper
- 23 Disney lyricist Ashman
- 26 Angels with rosy cheeks
- 29 Eastern leadership
- 30 Grey of "Cabaret"
- 31 Morse bit

- 32 Zips
- 33 With 50-Across, HBO series in which Kevin says there should be more "free bacon"
- 34 "Come here often?" is one
- 35 "____ be a pleasure!"
- 36 Excellent
- 37 Dull surface
- 38 Getty of _The Golden Girls_
- 40 Emulate half of the Odd Couple
- 41 Tinted
- 42 Slick with lubricant
- 43 Blows it
- 45 Jolie of "The Bone Collector"
- 49 River near Michelangelo's "David"
- 50 See 33-Across
- 51 Diana of "The Avengers"
- 52 Greek group, for short
- 53 Drag queen on the make

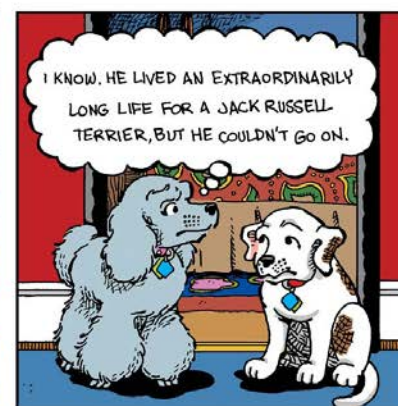
- 54 Not hard to get in bed
- 55 Lovers that you can't get over
- 56 Mireille of "World War Z"

Down

- 1 Canadian comedian Mort
- 2 Penetrating reed
- 3 Copped a tactile experience?
- 4 Group with a lot of athletic supporters
- 5 Depp's cross-dressing role

- 6 The sky, for some
- 7 Nitty-gritty
- 8 Hansberry's "A Raisin in the ____"
- 9 Lover with a ladder
- 10 "Free bacon"
- 11 Big name in shoes
- 12 Longs, to a Samurai?
- 17 Ban targets
- 20 Hurler Hershiser
- 22 Golden showers cry?
- 23 Skater Sonja
- 24 Leaves out
- 25 1998 movie in which Kevin's "bacon" was "free"
- 26 Have the big O
- 27 African tongue
- 28 Pasture population
- 30 Social activist Addams
- 33 Pirate's treasure
- 34 Shakespeare's Juliet, to Romeo
- 36 They have foamy heads
- 37 Track athlete
- 39 It gets delivered in the end
- 40 Ballet wear
- 42 Ready for drawing
- 43 Cab money on the nightstand
- 44 "Aida" solo
- 45 Kinky coil
- 46 Aerosmith's "Love ____ Elevator"
- 47 Sea bottom captain
- 48 Biters of Caesar's girlfriend
- 50 Frequently, to Emily Dickinson

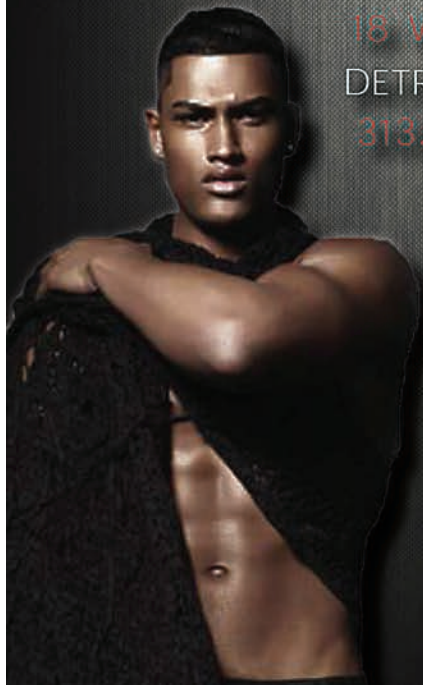
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