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- PG. 11

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James and Teddy Washington discuss their recent move to Brightmoor.  
BTL Photo: AJ Trager

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I did have a serious relationship at the time with a woman – or a girl, or a girl becoming a woman – so I was growing up spending my summers, from when I was 7 to 14, with one person. Her childhood name was Susan, and she told me when she was 7, 'I'm a guy. I don't know why I'm in this woman's body.'

- Peaches

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Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

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EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief

Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 12  
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

Entertainment Editor

Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200 x 24  
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

Assistant Editor

Shelby Clark Petkus, shelby@pridesource.com

Calendar Editor

Shelby Clark Petkus, shelby@pridesource.com

Staff Writers

AJ Trager, ajtrager@pridesource.com

CREATIVE

Graphic Design

Benjamin Jenkins, ben@pridesource.com

Webmaster & MIS Director

Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

Contributing Writers

Charles Alexander, Michelle E. Brown, ED English, Todd Heywood, Jason Michael, Jerome Stuart Nichols, Gwendolyn Ann Smith, Christopher J. Treacy

Cartoonists

Paul Berg, Dave Brousseau

Contributing Photographers

Andrew Potter  
Tony Lowe

ADVERTISING & SALES

Director of Sales

Jan Stevenson, 734.293.7200 x 22  
jan@pridesource.com

Sales Representatives

Ann Cox, 734.293.7200 x 13  
anncox@pridesource.com

Donelle Kremke, 734.293.7200 x 16  
donelle@pridesource.com

National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

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## BRIEFS

### First Transgender Youth Empowerment Workshop Comes To Affirmations

**FERNDALE** – Stand With Trans – a nonprofit organization working to provide education, advocacy, mentorship, scholarship, empowerment and support to transgender youth and their families – will host a Youth Empowerment Workshop at Affirmations beginning at 9:15 a.m., Oct. 18.

The all-day workshop is free to attend for all trans youth between 12 and 23 years of age who want to participate in the first of its kind day of community, connection and creativity, all to empower trans youth to feel more confident as they navigate the beginning of adulthood.

Participants will have a chance to choose between eight different sessions including:

- Self-defense, taught by leading Psychiatrist and black belt, Leora Bar-Levav, and Richard Keith, parent advocate and Radix teacher.

- Self-reflection through fine art collage, led by certified art therapist and parent advocate, Kelly Darke.

- Feminization and masculinization vocal techniques facilitated by Calvin Murphy, trans man and FtM Detroit founding member.

- Style and gender expression with Riley Cooper, trans man and JCPenney men's suit expert fitter, and Hannah Hartley, trans\* woman and Gender Identity Network board president.

- Create your virtual reality with Blake Bonkowsky, EMU graduate student and trans man.

"We created this day so transgender youth would have the opportunity to connect with others who are traveling along a similar path. They need to know that they are not alone. Helping (trans) kids to feel more confident and to be proud of who they are will, in the long run, strengthen families and contribute to improved emotional well-being of the transgender youth community," said Roz Keith, founder of Stand With Trans.

Parents are welcome to join the 3 p.m. sessions discussing trans rights, bullying, college and careers.

To sign up for the event, go to [http://standwithtrans.org/empowerment\\_workshop](http://standwithtrans.org/empowerment_workshop). Affirmations is located at 290 W. Nine Mile Road in Ferndale.

See how local teen Hunter Keith helped start "Stand With Trans" online at [www.pridesource.com/article.html?article=73089](http://www.pridesource.com/article.html?article=73089)

### Obama: Religious Freedom No Excuse To Deny Rights To Others

**NEWYORK (AP)** – Freedom of religion isn't reason enough to deny any American their constitutional rights, President Barack Obama said Sept. 27 as he addressed members of the LGBT community, one of his major sources of political and financial support.

Speaking at a Democratic Party fundraiser, Obama said it's important to recognize that some parts of the country remain uncomfortable with same-sex marriage and that it will take time for them to catch up to the majority of Americans who support such unions.

But while Americans hold dear the constitutional right to practice their religion free from government interference, he said that right can't be used to deny constitutional rights to others.

"We affirm that we cherish our religious freedom and are profoundly respectful of religious traditions," Obama said during remarks that were interrupted by repeated applause and cheers. "But we also have to say clearly that our religious freedom doesn't grant us the freedom to deny our fellow Americans their constitutional rights."

"And that even as we are respectful and accommodating genuine concerns and interests of religious institutions, we need to reject politicians who are supporting new forms of discrimination as a way to scare up votes. That's not how we move America forward," he added. That was an apparent reference to some of the Republican presidential candidates.

Jim Obergefell, the plaintiff in Obergefell v. Hodges, the legal case that led the Supreme Court in June to rule narrowly in favor of gay marriage, introduced Obama.

The President noted that everyone in the U.S., regardless of sexual orientation, is protected by a federal hate crimes law he signed in his first year as president, and that federal contractors are barred from terminating employees for being gay.

Obama got some of his biggest cheers and loudest applause when he said "we live in an America where 'don't ask, don't tell' is something that 'don't exist.'" Obama lifted the Pentagon policy that barred gays and lesbians from serving openly in the military.

"And tonight, thanks to the unbending sense of justice passed down through generations of citizens who never gave up hope that we could bring this country closer to our founding ideals ... we now live in America where our marriages are equal as well," he said.



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## Unique Partnership Offers Support For Legal Name Changes

BY AJ TRAGER

**BLOOMFIELD HILLS** – The Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to ending discrimination against transgender people, is set to officially launch its Name Change Project in Michigan. The project will provide legal assistance for trans people who are seeking to change their legal name.

“It is often intimidating and difficult for transgender people to navigate the legal system for a name change,” said TLDEF Executive Director Michael Silverman. “With pro bono support from attorneys at Dykema Gossett PLLC and other potential Michigan law firms who wish to participate, TLDEF will help transgender Michigan residents through the name change process.”

TLDEF has partnered with Dykema Gossett PLLC, a major Michigan based law firm that serves multiple cities across the state, and also partnered with the Michigan Bar Association and other law firms to provide a one day training for other Michigan attorneys who would like to volunteer on the project. The Name Change Project will be offered strictly pro bono to individuals across the state.

The 90-minute training will include a comprehensive step-by-step guide to legal name changes in the state and a segment devoted to cultural competency training, which will shed light on issues affecting the LGBT community, like the proper terminology when addressing trans men and women and their specialized issues.

For Michigan youth between the ages of 14-21, changing a legal name is relatively simple but not cheap. According to Mi.gov, they must submit a petition with the local family division of the circuit court in the county where they have lived for at least a year and it must be signed by all available guardians. A

notice of the hearing of the name change will be posted, allowing for creditors and individuals with the same name the opportunity to object; the judge will then ask why the individual wants to change their name and then issue his or her decision to allow for the name change.

Additionally, those who are 21 years of age or older must be fingerprinted by the local police department and have a criminal history check by the Michigan State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The entire process can cost up to \$350.

TLDEF and Dykema ran a pilot Name Change Project earlier this year beginning in February which lasted for roughly six months. Over that period of time, without doing any outreach, 25 individuals sought help from Dykema and TLDEF; eight had their names legally changed. The project had the ability to help more clients obtain a legal name change, however, only a small group of lawyers had signed on to help and they were unable to serve all of the interested parties. Many possible clients have been placed on a waiting list.

There are many challenges that trans people face when they are seeking a name change, ranging from mild irritation and inconvenience to an almost debilitating experience.

“Exploring a legal name change felt very daunting. For one thing, I certainly knew I couldn’t afford the out-of-pocket expenses that were required,” said 52-year-old TLDEF Name Change client Kara Marie Ramsey. “TLDEF, along with Dykema, compassionately and respectfully eased that burden, walking beside me every step of the way and navigating the legal logistics for which I had no comprehension. Prior to completing my legal name change, I had to present a driver’s license with my birth name. It was quite humiliating and embarrassing having to explain to various officials why both the picture and name

weren’t reflective of the woman standing before them. Now, with my legal name change, I have peace of mind having updated my birth certificate, driver’s license, credit cards, voter registration, health insurance cards and many more vital documents. The Name Change Project truly saved my life.”

Out of the 25 clients that the prototype program served, 63 percent earn less than \$10,000 a year, with only 26 percent earning between \$10-20,000 a year, figures that are not uncommon for trans individuals who face significant difficulties in areas of employment due to discrimination.

“Even accounting for the fact that it is a pro bono, the numbers we’re seeing are stark,” Silverman told BTL. “Two-thirds receive medicaid, 57 percent of our clients are African-American and Latino and only 14 percent of the clients have obtained an associates degree or higher.”

Heidi A. Naasko, Dykema’s pro bono and diversity counsel, says that the company is committed to building trust and respect between client and legal counsel and has received a 100 percent on the Human Rights Campaign Foundation’s Corporate Equality Index two years in a row.

“We have a lot of people who need to be heard,” Naasko said. “When we first launched the project, we were thrilled that there were so many people who wanted to do this. We’ve had such a positive response from the community from people who want to volunteer. It’s really exciting and important for a firm that claims to be diverse and inclusive.”

Since the program began as a pilot project in 2007, TLDEF’s Name Change Project has helped more than 2,000 people in nearly a dozen cities including Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, New York City, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and more.

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**BTL**

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## Detroit LGBT Chamber Hosts Pride Day At Upcoming Lions Game

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

The Detroit Lions will play against the Minnesota Vikings at 1 p.m. The Chamber has secured a minimum of 1,000 tickets for LGBT Lions fans starting at \$55 for upper level seating and \$100 for lower level seating. Once the initial 1,000 are sold out, seating in the designated Chamber assigned sections may not be guaranteed. Assigned areas for the upper level include: 322, 323, 324 and 325. Assigned sections for lower level seating include: 100, 112 and 113. Use promocode LGBT1025 when purchasing.

Group tickets for the LGBT section will be available online through Oct. 5. However, as demand for game day tickets increases the amount of allotted seats may sell out.

DeAndre Levy, an ally Lions player, has donated 100 tickets for the event. Twenty-five tickets will be donated to each of the following LGBT organizations in southeastern Michigan: Affirmations, LGBT Detroit (formally known as KICK) and Ruth Ellis Center. The free tickets will be distributed via the chamber approximately one week prior to the game on Oct. 25th.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Weekend: JTCC Celebrates 21 Years Of OUTfest

BY BTL STAFF

**ANN ARBOR** – The Jim Toy Community Center will host OUTFest, a celebration of the LGBT community and its accomplishments, Oct. 2-3 in the Kerrytown District and Braun Court to celebrate National Coming Out Day on Oct. 11.

JTCC will offer an array of activities spread out over Friday and Saturday for the LGBT and allied communities. This year's two-day event is the 21st anniversary of OUTFest and will feature a "Rocky Horror Picture Show" "Time Warp" costume competition and movie screening in Braun Court, as well as a Pride Night at Necto beginning at 7 p.m.

Saturday is filled with back to back events starting with community yoga at 9:30 a.m. in the Kerrytown Concert Hall located at 415 N. Fourth Ave. in Ann Arbor followed by live music in Braun Court from Markita Moore, Gwenyth Hayes, Tracy Mack and Kate Peterson. A poetry slam hour with Jason Crawford and guest poets begins at 6 p.m. followed by a game night at Brillig Dry Bar and a DJ and drag show featuring Boylesque in Braun Court.



Workshops and panels will be available all day from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. for those that pre-register and will include: a queer and trans person of color workshop; LGBT Know Your Rights Legal Project presented by the University of Michigan Outlaws; life insurance by State Farm; and special considerations and applications of mindfulness for the queer community by Integrative Empowerment Group, PLLC.

All activities are offered with a suggested donation of \$5 per event. To

pre-register for any workshops go to <http://a2outfest.com/event/workshops-expo>.

For more information about the weekend of events, visit [www.a2outfest.com](http://www.a2outfest.com).

All OUTFest proceeds benefit the Jim Toy Community Center, a nonprofit, to provide information, education, social events and advocacy for and by the LGBTQ and allied residents of Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti and greater Washtenaw County.

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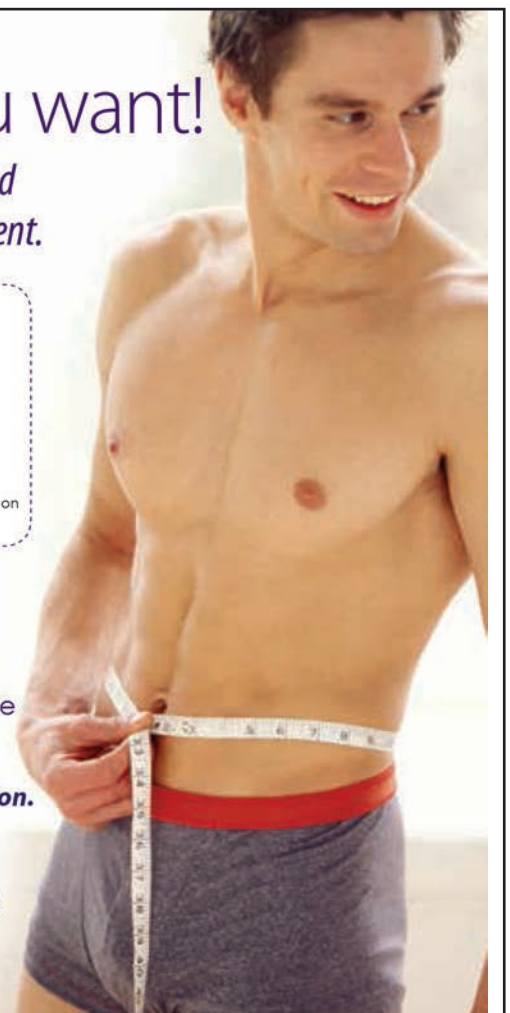
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## Square Pegs, Round Holes Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

How many of the 7.125 billion earth humans are you personally acquainted with? According to the U.S. Census Bureau, that's the world's last population count as of 2013. And climbing!

That's billions more than the year I was born, eight less-crowded decades ago, 7:49 a.m., Tuesday, May 12, in Detroit's Harper Hospital. ("Coffee Table Book of Astrology" says Taurus is the sign of sexual deviancy. Three other gay friends share this auspicious date.)

When it comes down to it, the average of LGBT Bruce or Billy Jean's face-to-face friends and coworkers is less than 100 or 200 persons – Facebook contacts to the contrary. (I can count my friends on both hands, and if I bend over, my casual acquaintances on both feet.)

For most of us, 7-billion-plus homosapiens, the sobering thought is that we don't exist. Others haven't a clue who we are. Or we, they. (By the way: I'm of the opinion that same-sex attraction is nature's way of reducing population crowds. That, Planned Parenthood and a good celebratory wank. Alone or otherwise.)

My train of thought on the Big 7 is curiously triggered by regular, dutiful,

Truth is indeed stranger than friction, and from a sexual point of view – where friction really counts the most – I thought it might be kinky to summer's end to share a few bazaar items ...

monthly reading of "Fortean Times: The World of Strange Phenomena" (www.ForteanTimes.com). The magazine's named for Charles Fort (1874-1932), who spent years researching oddball data in the New York Public Library and the British Museum.

Fort wrote four "oddendia": "The Book of the Damned," "New Lands," "Lo!" and "Wild Talents." He was among the first to speculate that mysterious sky lights might be craft from outer space. He boldly explored the wild frontiers between the known and unknown.

Truth is indeed stranger than friction, and from a sexual point of view – where friction really counts the most – I thought it might be kinky to summer's end to share a few bazaar items from FT to culturally enlighten the lives of those of us who are forced – through no uncharitable fault of our own – to live accident and/or kinky free:

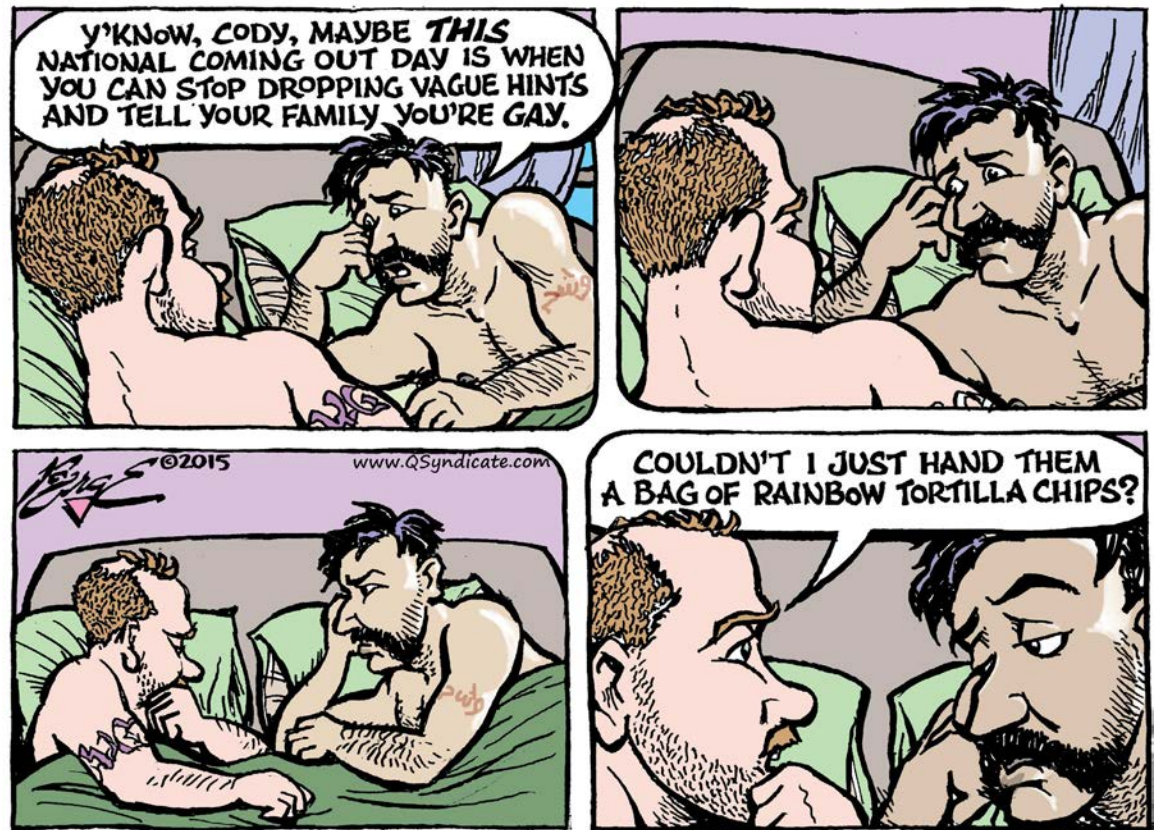
Item 1: "Art Price, Jr., 40, of Bellevue, OH, was facing public indecency charges after allegedly being seen on four separate mornings having sex with a picnic table one windy March weekend, when a nosy – and, no doubt, incredulous – neighbor videotaped him. What made this a felony is that it took place near a school.

"He was nude," said a police spokesman. 'He'd use the hole from the table umbrella to have sex.' Price, the father of three admitted he 'had a problem.'" To say the least. And not with ants.

Item 2: "A German pensioner is suing a hospital after she checked in for a leg operation and woke up to find she had been given a new anus." No comment! "The surgeons responsible, at a hospital in Hochfranken, Bavaria, were suspended after admitting they mixed up her notes with those of a woman suffering from chronic incontinence." Preparation H, anyone?

Item 3: Under the FT subheading, "Strange Deaths: Unusual ways of Shuffling Off This Mortal Coil." "Stephan Hayes, a 32-year-old graphic designer, died from asphyxiation in Chippenham, Wiltshire, England, after wrapping clingfilm round his head during a sex act that went wrong. All he was wearing on 13 May was a pair of Marigold gloves." Kinky. But very House Beautiful.

"(Same May 13) Gary Ashbrook, 31, died after pulling a condom over his head and filling it with laughing gas. His naked body was found with three empty cans of nitrous oxide by his side. Verdict: misadventure." Typical gaseous, British understatement.



## Viewpoint

### Why I'm Not Feeling Pope Francis' US Visit

BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

I am no papal hater. I recognize that a lot of who I am, both good and bad, comes from my Catholic upbringing. My father came from a family with strong Baptist roots, but during a tour of duty in the Army, he apparently drank the Kool-Aid (or communion wine) while in Italy and came back Catholic. When he married my mother, she abandoned her A.M.E. roots and accepted his faith and together they raised their three children as good little Catholics. We went to Catholic school, confession every Saturday and Mass enough times during the week and on Sunday to give me "frequent prayer" miles in that Big Book in the sky.

By high school, I was over it for the most part thanks to the very things I had learned as a Catholic. I am not a "recovering Catholic," I'm just over Catholicism. You see, by the time I hit high school I was aware of a world outside my

parish walls. A world where the doctrine and policies of the church conflicted with the realities of my African-American community and the changing landscape of urban America. So you see, it's kind of hard for me to get excited about Pope Francis and his visit to the United States.

He's a new face, but for me it's the same old church only worse since when I was a child. The church that closed parishes and schools in the inner city – decisions often made with the same cost-cutting, cold precision of any corporation. While abandoning the inner cities with populations that were predominantly black and brown, they proselytized in third world countries where black and brown folk continue to suffer from economic disparity and

political upheaval.

As a woman, I watched the church lead the attack against my reproductive rights. Even though Pope Francis recently extended to priests worldwide the authorization to reconcile those "guilty" of abortion, the church still holds abortion and contraception to be sinful, thus affecting the reproductive rights of women. Reproductive rights are not a matter of patriarchal morality; it's a social and economic justice issue especially for poor women. Although women make up the majority of members of the consecrated life within the church, its largely male hierarchy and refusal to ordain women implies "inferiority" of women.

See Viewpoint: Pope, next page

## ► Viewpoint: Pope

Continued from p. 10

And even though Pope Francis has made kinder, gentler remarks regarding the LGBTQ community and even hugged a member of our transgender community, most notably saying, “If they accept the Lord and have goodwill, who am I to judge them? They shouldn’t be marginalized. The tendency (to homosexuality) is not the problem ... they’re our brothers,” being “gay” is still considered wrong. LGBTQ employees at U.S. Christian institutions (schools, etc.) are still being fired when they come out, announce their marriage or want recognition for their families and love. Faith leaders continue to harm LGBTQ youth by teaching that homosexuality is a sin.

Pope Francis landed for a historic visit in the U.S. for six days. His is a different papacy. Think about it. Traditionally, being pope has been a lifetime job, but Francis ascended to the throne after his predecessor Pope Benedict resigned and basically told the “Big Guy in the Sky” to take this job and shove it.

Maybe God took a look at this church and decided it was time to shake things up a bit, move things in a different direction. So he looked to the “New World/Third World” where so many injustices and inequities have resulted from the Old School Papacy and picked a new leader – this pope from Argentina. After a private meeting with President Obama, an official welcoming ceremony on the White House South Lawn and parade, Pope Francis had the first-ever joint address to Congress by a pontiff. He then headed to New York where he hosted a religious service at the ground zero site of the 9/11 attacks and addressed the United Nations. Then he headed to Philadelphia for the World Meeting of Families, a triennial Vatican-backed event held seven times previously starting in 1994, with the goal of strengthening marriage and families.

Pope Francis has received “Rock Star” treatment for comments emphasizing the central themes of his papacy - that the unfettered capitalism practiced in the U.S. and the West is fostering income inequality and creating an economic culture where the poor are simply discarded. But this former Catholic will be watching to see what he does about cleaning up his own house – the Catholic Church – which has too often been a silent partner, even benefitting from, fostering the income inequality and creating the economic culture where the poor are simply discarded worldwide.

The Catholic Church has a long history, great influence and deep resources. Talk is cheap. Here’s hoping Pope Francis can be the change so many want to see.

*Michelle E. Brown is a public speaker, activist and author. You can follow her writing and activities at [www.mychangeiam.com](http://www.mychangeiam.com) and on [www.twitter.com/mychangeiam](http://www.twitter.com/mychangeiam).*



BY JEFF BERRY

## Positive Thoughts

### Viral Fatigue

*It’s no longer enough to say “use a condom every time.”*

through the lens of HIV, and you stand in danger of suffering from what I call “viral fatigue.”

Those of us in the broader LGBT community can undergo viral fatigue as well. If you’ve made it this far in reading this column, whether you’re HIV-negative or not, congratulations. People often get tired of hearing or talking about HIV – I know I do! “Isn’t that manageable now?” I often hear. Or, “Is that really a big deal anymore?” In this age of successful treatment of HIV to an undetectable viral load (which nearly eliminates the chance of transmitting the virus to others), and now PrEP, a one-pill-a-day medication that prevents those who are negative from acquiring the virus, maybe it’s time for us to just move on?

It would be nice to think so, but sadly, no. New HIV infections are increasing at alarming rates in certain subgroups, including young, gay black men and trans women. And it’s not necessarily because they are taking more risks – a recent study showed that young, gay, black men actually took fewer risks than their white counterparts, but saw more infections, because the sexual

networks they interacted with had more people who were HIV-positive, and they therefore had more exposure to the virus.

We have a unique opportunity in our community to change the narrative, and steer the conversation in a new direction. It’s no longer enough to say “use a condom every time.” By having candid, open and honest conversations with our partners, our healthcare providers, and most of all with others in our community, we can gain a fresh perspective and a new outlook. If we take the time to learn about new prevention modalities, and understand that there is no “one size fits all” when it comes to preventing HIV, then maybe we’ll be a little less “judgy” about the choices of others.

I admit I get a little viral fatigue now and then. But I never get tired of learning new things, gaining insight or a new perspective, and helping someone to look at something in a new and different way.

*Jeff Berry is the editor in chief of Positively Aware magazine and Director of Publications at Test Positive Aware Network in Chicago. Find him on Twitter @PAEditor.*

## National Black Justice Coalition: Enriched

BY VICTOR D. HARRELL

She-roism was the foundation of my experience during the National Black Justice Coalition’s Leadership Summit, “Out On The Hill (OOTH).” At every section of this event, women were leading the way with profound statements, deeds, acts of kindness and philanthropy, and advocacy with power. The first woman I was awestruck by was Dr. Linda Spooner, who indicated that she started her education and career as a lawyer because of her actions and interest in political activism during the time that she was growing up during the Civil Rights era.

She explained that she decided to go back to school 20 years later to start a secondary career in the field of medicine because she saw the need for compassionate medical providers in her community. Her actions mirrored and affirmed my own decision processes regarding “being the change I want to see.” Later, after the sessions, we spoke; she agreed to mentor and assist me with my transition between professions and to provide appropriate guidance in making my practice more culturally sensitive to the black diaspora of same gender loving and trans\* communities.

Another woman that reformed my thinking

was Ms. Valerie Spencer, a dynamic and illustrious black transwoman responsible for many important morsels of wisdom collected during OOTH. Many of her statements were given both during the first session and also during the second plenary session as moderator of the transwomen panel. The most powerful and moving statements of the conference were uttered when Valerie described how transwomen lack “personhood” due to the communities limiting community members to commercial sex work.

She continued by pleading for affirmative action policies to employ and empower transwomen of color, and for those of us in places of power to share this power to allow black transwomen to develop skills in leadership roles, which is one of the areas black transwomen lack capacity. Mariah Lopez, a transwoman from New York, described her experiences with violence, silencing and erasure of black and Latina transwoman across the country and called for a push for legal authorities to start to revisit cold cases and to document how many transwomen’s lives have been deleted under the guise of being a man dressed in women’s attire. Her passion and resiliency spoke decibels to the strength of a fighting

spirit, and I saw my community in her fire.

Lourdes Ashley Hunter, yet another incomparable transwoman, disclosed that she too hails from Detroit. Her former familial experiences and college ambitions drove her many places outside of the city and eventually led to her serving as the chief operating officer of a nonprofit geared towards transgender communities. She beckoned for advocates to create pipelines to assist trans\* people with completing high school equivalency which will later connect them to community colleges and universities. Lourdes also besought direct advocates to bolster systems and interactions with transwomen that would invest in their personhood by not only “giving them a fish,” but also teaching them how to fish.

I came to OOTH in a haze of malformed ideas on how to impact and engage the community in which I work. I left from this mind-altering occasion with a pin-point sense of direction and purpose and drive coming from our nation’s leaders in working with African-American people that identify as lesbian, gay, bi and transgender.

*Victor D. Harrell, LMSW, is part of the Community Health Awareness Group. Find more essays online at [www.pridesource.com](http://www.pridesource.com)*

# Church Presents Documentary About Abuse Of LGBT Seniors

BY CAROL TANIS

First, it was coming out of the closet. Then, it was having the right to marry. Now, a documentary to be shown in Grand Rapids spotlights the next frontier in gay rights. The film documentary, “Gen Silent,” looks at some LGBT seniors who are going back in the closet because they fear abuse in care facilities by staff or other seniors.

“Gen Silent” will be shown Tuesday, Oct. 13 at Celebration Cinema North in Grand Rapids. There will be two showtimes: 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Both shows are free of charge and open to the public.

The video showing is presented by Plymouth United Church of Christ in Grand Rapids and co-sponsored by a number of local elder care providers and community organizations including Pilgrim Manor, the Area Agency on Aging of West Michigan, LGBT Fund of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation and Hospice of Michigan.

The date of the event was chosen in connection with National Coming Day, Oct. 11.

The title of the 60-minute film is based on a generation of LGBT seniors who are suffering in silence to avoid harassment or bullying. But now a growing number of people are working to keep LGBT people from aging in silence and not living authentically.

Following the showing, there will be a panel discussion and Q&A including as facilitator Rev. Doug Van Doren, pastor at Plymouth United Church of Christ and long-time community advocate for inclusion and equality for LGBT people; Dr. Bruce Roller, Executive Director of the United Church Outreach Ministry, serving residents on Grand Rapids Northwest side and who also recently married his partner of 25 years; and Judy Lewis, a certified LGBT Older Adult Trainer and program administrator for the LGBT Older Adult Coalition and the Gay Elders of Metropolitan Detroit.

“People need to feel safe and valued for who they are, wherever they are, at all stages of life,” said Doug Van Doren. “This is often not the case for LGBT individuals. We believe that the ‘Gen Silent’ movie and discussion will stimulate training and result in real change in how institutions and caregivers welcome and care for aging LGBT persons.”

Judy Lewis says “Gen Silent” eloquently and dramatically illustrates the plight of many LGBT seniors who are mistreated by caregivers, or LGBT seniors who fear they will be mistreated by caregivers. She says because training requirements tend to be low for many caregivers at nursing homes and other facilities, many employees are not culturally competent when it comes to understanding LGBT seniors.

“There are stories of people who have been denied access to their friends because their



Ralph Horne is featured as one of a number of aging LGBT people. He is a single gay man without family who lovingly restored his home and hopes to live out his days there. But as he becomes more frail, he is forced into assisted living where it's uncertain how well he will be accepted.

friends are gay,” Lewis said. “Or they have been prayed for, to pray the gay away. There was a lesbian woman who lives near my area who was going into a facility and boxed up all of her photos and boxes in fear. So she had nothing to trigger a pleasant memory. The fact that she was a celibate woman in her 80s was a nonissue.”

Lewis added that transgender people are especially at risk and vulnerable especially if they have not had the surgery to conform their body to their gender identity. She cites one case where a transgender individual, who transitioned from male to female, had all of her female clothing taken away from her and was required to wear male clothing, though she for many years had not viewed herself as male.

According to national and statewide studies, LGBT seniors have higher rates of being mistreated by healthcare providers and other seniors within nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Research by the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging indicates 70 percent of transgender people and 56 percent of lesbian, gay and bisexual people report mistreatment when their sexual orientation or gender identity is discovered. In some residential settings, not just the staff but also other residents “bully” or harass LGBT people, which leads to their isolation and going back into the closet.

The film asks six LGBT seniors in the Boston area if they will hide their friends, their spouses, basically their entire lives in order to survive in the care system. Their

decisions are captured through intimate access to their day-to-day lives over the course of a year. It puts a face on what experts in the film call an epidemic: gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender older people who are so afraid of discrimination by caregivers or by other seniors that many simply go back into the closet.

The video discovers how oppression in the years before Stonewall now affects older lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, resulting in fear and isolation. Many who won the first civil rights victories for generations to come are suffering because they are reluctant to ask for help and have too few friends or family to care for them.

In the film, while seated across from her partner, a white-haired lesbian says, “People like myself are hiding in nursing homes or whatever because they are scared to death.” A gay man whose partner is in a nursing home says, “You just know they don’t want you there.”

One health care professional in the film states, “LGBT elders are more likely than the general population to age alone, because many gay elders never had children, have not had great relationships with their families of origin. There would be a high degree of alienation and isolation.”

“Gen Silent” shows the disparity in the quality of paid care given from mainstream care facilities committed to making their LGBT residents safe and happy, to places where LGBT elders face discrimination

by staff and bullying by other seniors. The panel discussion following each of the movie showings will provide useful tips for improving cultural competence, pitfalls that institutions can avoid and suggested resources for training and further information. The event organizers are encouraging area health care and elder care providers to send employees to the “Gen Silent: Caring for LGBT Seniors” program in order to be sure that they are serving this segment of the population appropriately and well.

Released in 2010, “Gen Silent” has been shown across the country by a variety of organizations including universities, colleges, hospitals, nursing homes, Fortune 500 companies, churches and community centers. It was produced by award-winning filmmaker Stu Maddux. To learn more about the event, call 616-455-4260.

“Gen Silent” will also be shown at the University of Michigan-Dearborn at 6 p.m., Oct. 29. Lewis will also be present for the panel discussion to follow the film. The free presentation comes as a product from the partnership of UMD, the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging and SAGE. The film and discussion will be at UMD’s Fairlane Center South in the Michigan Rooms, located at 19000 Hubbard Dr., Dearborn. For more information, contact Jonathan Larson at [jonalars@umich.edu](mailto:jonalars@umich.edu) or 313-593-5052.

# Creep of the Week

## Star Parker

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

The 2015 Values Voter Summit – an annual event where conservatives gather round to bitch about abortion, big government and gays – has come and gone. Many delusional and hateful things were said about LGBT people. Complaints about God smiting the United States over marriage equality was a popular theme.

Hitting all the big themes was Star Parker, the founder of Coalition on Urban Renewal and Education (CURE), which pushes for “free market solutions to poverty.” According to Parker, fighting poverty is “not to be the work of the state, but the work of the church.”

After ranting about the amount of money government wastes on the poor and propagating the lie that Planned Parenthood sells “baby body parts,” she said something very interesting, indeed.

“We have 500,000 orphans in our foster system,” Parker said. “Most God-fearing Christians don’t even know we have an orphan system, but those homosexuals know because now that they’re married, that’s where they’re going to get their children, right out of our foster system!”

Okay, wait. Slow down. What? Is she really saying that the majority of Christians in America have no idea that this country has so many children in the foster system in need of care? How on earth do they not know this? Were those thousands of people Parker was addressing at the Values Voter Summit just learning about this for the first time?

According to Parker, homosexuals know all about the foster care system and they’re taking in and adopting children. But Christians (who are never gay, obviously) have no fucking idea?

Clearly Parker is trying to scare folks by claiming that homosexuals are snatching kids out of the foster system, as she’s implying that said homes have some kind of nefarious purpose for doing so, which is bullshit.

The truth is that there are plenty of lesbian and gay couples who are, in fact, foster parents or who have adopted kids from the foster system.

A great example: April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse, whose legal challenge to Michigan’s anti-gay marriage law made it all the way to the Supreme Court, where they won. The reason they were suing Michigan in the first place was over what was in the best interest of their children. Under Michigan law, they could foster jointly but could not adopt jointly. Wanting their children to have a legal relationship with both parents, they sued. The rest is history.

This country’s foster care system is a mess.



“ We have 500,000 orphans in our foster system. Most God-fearing Christians don’t even know we have an orphan system, but those homosexuals know because now that they’re married, that’s where they’re going to get their children, right out of our foster system! ”

- Star Parker speaking at Values Voter Summit

There are hundreds of thousands of kids and not nearly enough foster families. Kids are bounced from home to home, many until they turn 18 and age out of the system, at which point they’re basically told, “See ya. Good luck.” Spoiler alert: many of these adults have a very hard time making it once they’re on their own.

So forgive me if I find it odd that right-wing Christians know where every Planned Parenthood facility is and have plenty of time to harass women going in for pap smears, but are apparently unaware that there are so many children who have already been born who desperately need help. Even if they are aware, they’re not stepping up to do it.

If ever there was evidence that the people at the Values Voter Summit have an incredibly warped sense of values, this is it. Then again, under the right-wing demands for small government, foster kids are just a bunch of takers who, according to Parker, just need some “free market solutions.” Just make sure they aren’t taken in by gay and lesbian couples and they’ll be fine.

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## New Guide For LGBT Catholics Seeking Renewed Relationship With Their Faith Released As Pope Visits US

WASHINGTON D.C. – Nearly 2 million people were on the streets of Philadelphia and Washington D.C. to be a part of Pope Francis' trip around the east coast.

A lot happened last week in light of the pope's visit. He met with President Obama and along with many other activities, he made an address to Congress, visited the 9/11 Memorial Museum, held a mass in Madison Square Garden, visited Independence Hall in Philadelphia and concluded his visit with the World Meeting of Families, the world's largest gathering of Catholic families.

Just hours after Pope Francis began his historic trip to the U.S., HRC released a guide to help LGBT Catholics who are seeking to reconnect with their faith and build more inclusive church communities.

Coming Home to Catholicism and to Self features the inspirational personal journeys of Catholics including Sister Jeannine Gramick, co-founder of New Ways Ministry, which works for the full inclusion of the LGBT faithful in the church; and Hilary Howes, a transgender woman who joined the church when she married, but says her faith truly developed during her transition.

The guide also provides advice on finding a path to engagement with a faith that, in its official teaching, continues to describe "homosexual acts" as "intrinsically disordered," yet is led by a pontiff whose engagement with LGBT people has been more inclusive and less judgmental.

At an official White House arrival ceremony Sept. 23, Pope Francis said that, "American Catholics are committed to building a society which is truly tolerant and inclusive, to safeguarding the rights of individuals and communities, and to rejecting every form of unjust discrimination."

At the same time, LGBT Catholics in the U.S. continue to face rejection within the church, and there have been numerous instances of LGBT teachers being fired for who they are and who they love.

"The Catholic Church is not a building, not the magisterium, not the leadership, not the laws," Howes says in the guide. "It's the people of God. Catholics share a great commitment to social justice ... the majority are on the side of the lesbians, gays and bisexuals. The majority believes in equality for transgender people. We're one of the most accepting of all mainline churches."

Survey after survey, including the HRC's own polling, show overwhelming support among U.S. Catholics for LGBT equality and non-discrimination laws. While the doctrine of the Catholic Church is still far from inclusive of the LGBT community, U.S. Catholic laity is helping lead this country's march toward equality. And many church leaders are providing private pastoral support to LGBT parishioners, even if they are not able to do so openly.

The Catholic guide is the second in a series of HRC faith guides – guides for Muslim and Jewish LGBT faithful will be released in the coming months – and contains many resources for the LGBT faithful and encourages them to join the conversation on Twitter at #welcomeushome and #LGBT Catholics.

Read the entirety of the guide at [www.hrc.org/resources/entry/coming-home-to-catholicism-and-to-self](http://www.hrc.org/resources/entry/coming-home-to-catholicism-and-to-self).

## GOP Religious Conservatives Channeling Anger Toward Victory

BY STEVE PEOPLES AND JILL COLVIN

WASHINGTON (AP) – Religious activists in the Republican Party, bolstered by House Speaker John Boehner's sudden exit, say the next GOP presidential nominee must share their uncompromising stance on abortion rights, gay marriage and other priorities to get to the White House.

"You cannot win a primary and then succeed in the general election without having strength within the ranks of social conservative voters," said Tony Perkins, the president of the Family Research Council Action. The group's annual Values Voter Summit drew nearly 2,700 activists to Washington last weekend.

"Conservatives are on fire at the moment," said Gary Bauer, a former president of the Family Research Council who spoke at the conference.

Participants cheered Boehner's announcement Friday that he would resign from Congress by the end of October. That the veteran congressman was viewed by many in the party base as unwilling to do everything possible to thwart Democrats, including shutting down the government over Planned Parenthood funding, was evidence of the deep divide within the GOP.

An emboldened conservative movement signals fresh trouble for White House candidates seen by the same party members as insufficiently committed to their cause. Chief among them is former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, whose support of immigration reform and Common Core education standards make him unacceptable to that bloc.

Such hard-line conservatives were deeply disappointed with the last two Republican presidential nominees – former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney in 2012 and Arizona Sen. John McCain in 2008. The resignation of Boehner, second in line in presidential succession, gives them new hope that the party may choose a candidate who energizes the most passionate conservative voters even if he or she is less attractive in a general election.

Perkins argued that in 2012 socially conservative voters chose to stay home rather than vote for Romney, an assertion disputed by other election analysis. But he said he believes that the dynamics are different going into 2016 and that a candidate who excites conservatives will emerge.

"Hopefully they've learned their lesson," he said of the Republican Party.

A co-founder of the tea party movement, Mark Meckler, said Boehner was just another establishment figure taken down by frustrated conservatives.

"Today, the insurgency is more



Tony Perkins, the president of the Family Research Council Action. The group's annual Values Voter Summit drew nearly 2,700 activists to Washington last weekend.

Participants (at the Values Voters Summit) cheered Speaker Boehner's announcement Friday that he would resign from Congress by the end of October. That the veteran congressman was viewed by many in the party base as unwilling to do everything possible to thwart Democrats, including shutting down the government over Planned Parenthood funding, was evidence of the deep divide within the GOP.

emboldened than ever and looks to even further dominate the presidential elections in 2016," Meckler said. "Our influence is growing."

In the crowded hallways of the Values Voter conference, 60-year-old Alvin Kaddatz said the turmoil on Capitol Hill sends a clear message to the presidential field.

"They need to be listening to what the people are saying," said Kaddatz, who sells farm equipment in Hillsboro, Texas. "They need to follow through on their promises. And if they don't, elections have consequences."

It's unclear whether grass-roots conservatives can back up their tough talk. But in an undeniably anti-establishment climate, the leading presidential contenders appear to be complying, at least for now.

Most support a tea party-backed measure to strip federal dollars from the women's health care provider Planned Parenthood as part of budget negotiations, even if such a move causes a partial government shutdown as early as this week.

Polls show a majority of voters oppose such brinkmanship over this issue. Republicans were largely blamed the last time government shut down over funding for the Affordable Care Act, which lasted 16 days in 2013.

Who's indicated a willingness to take it that far? Businessman Donald Trump;

Sens. Marco Rubio of Florida and Ted Cruz of Texas; former technology executive Carly Fiorina; retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson; former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee; Govs. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana and Chris Christie of New Jersey; and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum.

All those in the race want to strip the money from Planned Parenthood, but only a few want to do that without risking a shutdown. Put Ohio Gov. John Kasich and Bush in that category, a stance that does not help Bush with conservatives already skeptical of his commitment to their principles.

Bush was absent from the Values Voter speaking program. He cited a scheduling conflict, and Perkins expressed surprise that Bush didn't attend given that Trump, Carson and Fiorina are leading in many polls.

"He needs to do well with this voting bloc," Perkins said. "He needs all the help he can get."

Bush's team cited 14 public and private meetings with religious conservative leaders since April, suggesting that his absence from the Values Voter summit did not signal a lack of commitment to their priorities.

For Arlie Olsen, 64, who raises pigs in Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, Boehner's departure was "a good omen for where the country may be headed."

## Bethel Drafts LGBT Anti-Discrimination Laws

**BETHEL, Alaska (AP)** – Bethel city employees could soon be protected from sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination under changes to the city’s municipal code.

The Bethel City Council has voted to draft language to include sexual orientation and gender identity in the city’s protected classes, according to KYUK-AM. If the changes take effect, anyone applying for a job with the city or a city employee could not be treated differently based on their perceived or actual orientation or identity.

Council member Chuck Herman suggested the changes, saying they could make Bethel a more attractive employer.

“We are signaling to our future employees and our current employees,” Herman said, “that we do not discriminate on that basis, and what we care about is results and hard work, and being a competent and caring employee.”

The Bethel City Administrator and City Attorney are drafting consistent language for the city’s municipal code, union agreement and employee handbook.

The changes are expected to be presented to the council in November.

Similar ordinances are under review in other parts of the state. The Anchorage Assembly is amending an ordinance that would outlaw discrimination against the LGBT community in the workplace as well as public facilities and in housing. In Juneau, an assemblyman is drafting an ordinance similar to Anchorage’s proposed changes.

In Bethel, the changes would only apply to city employees and would not extend to the private sector.

## Man Sentenced To Life In Prison For Beating Of Gay Man

**ATLANTA (AP)** – A judge has sentenced a man to life in prison plus 25 years in the fatal beating of a gay man as part of a gang initiation.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reports that a 25-year-old was sentenced Sept. 25 in the 2012 death of 46-year-old Robert Ross. Prosecutors say Ross was targeted because he was gay.

DeKalb Deputy Chief District Attorney Anna Cross said Aderhold, Jonathan Ray and Christopher Foreman asked Ross for a ride back to a motel room. In the room, Ross was tied to a chair and beaten with a clothes iron, part of Foreman’s initiation.

Cross said every bone in Ross’ face was broken. His body was so mutilated that paramedics couldn’t determine his sex or race.

Foreman and Ray had previously been sentenced to life in prison.

## Storied Global LGBTIQ Organization Chooses New Name

**NEW YORK** – The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, marking its 25th anniversary, announced at its annual gala on Sept. 28 a new name – OutRight Action International.

“We chose a new name that speaks to the heart of our mission. We have been ‘out’ for rights for 25 years, and at a time when civil society and LGBTI rights are under attack in many parts of the world, we believe our new name speaks to our commitment to LGBTIQ activism and resilience internationally,” said Jessica Stern, the executive director.

Alan Cumming, an ambassador for the organization, called it “a beautiful new name” in a video message. Moisés Kaufman, the playwright and founder of Tectonic Theater Project best known for The Laramie Project, hosted the event during which OutRight honored Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe, also celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Instead of adopting an acronym, the organization said it prefers the simpler “OutRight” as shorthand.

Along with a new tagline – Human Rights for LGBTIQ People Everywhere – OutRight reflects the organization’s commitment to inclusiveness for everyone in the LGBTIQ global community.

“For 25 years, we’ve worked hand-in-hand with activists around the world to challenge discriminatory laws and abusive practices. Now we are taking a step to explicitly devote ourselves to dignity and acceptance for all in the LGBTIQ community: lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer,” Stern said.

With the new name the organization unveiled a new logo and website: [www.OutRightInternational.org](http://www.OutRightInternational.org).

The new name drew enthusiasm from supporters and LGBTIQ activists in countries around the world who were consulted by a core team of staff and board members. The Board of Directors unanimously approved the name.

Julie Dorf, founder of IGLHRC in 1990 and Senior Advisor to the Council on Global Equality, said: “For an LGBTIQ activist organization, the boundaries are always evolving as we push to eliminate discrimination and improve the lives of people who experience injustice. It’s wonderful for me to see the organization I founded choose a new name that builds on its strengths and determination for two and a half decades.”

Tim Lane, co-chair of the OutRight Board of Directors, said: “Our board is excited about our new name. OutRight is bold statement of our commitment to bring about a more just world where every LGBTIQ person can live in freedom and safety, and where human rights are protected for everyone, everywhere.”

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# Moving Forward To Home Sweet Home

## Detroit Couple Reflects On Prevoist Street Struggles

BY AJ TRAGER

The squirrels that live on Puritan Street in Detroit constantly throw acorns on the roof of a early 20th century white farm home that is filled with early and late blooming plants, two dogs, one cat and a pair of humans who are madly in love. The sound of the falling acorns is similar to hard knocks on stainless steel and is quite startling, but for James and Teddy Washington it's a breath of fresh air compared to the constant turmoil they faced while living at their previous residence on Prevoist Street in Detroit's west side, which Between The Lines covered in April.

"We have neighbors in the area who are fighting the same fight that we are, if not more. This area is conducive to who we are as individuals and as a couple and what we're trying to accomplish," Teddy said.

The old farm house sits on a little over two acres of land in an area of Brightmoor that doesn't hold up to the neighborhood's stereotype of being a city dump, or a crime scene. The house was hand built in 1920 by a steelworker and his family and took about 12 years to finish. Materials for the home were sourced with lumber taken directly from the neighborhood and the radiators, railings, stairs and the archways were all custom built for the home by the builder.

Their closest neighbor mostly keeps to himself, and there is a neighborhood watch. They don't have to worry about not getting their mail and are working with the bank to purchase the home. It's their new oasis.

"We are happier. We are happier with each other than we are with anything else and that's what makes the difference," James said.

Divorce was on the horizon, Teddy explained to BTL: "Living here is like night and day." The stress from living in their previous home was causing more than just financial turmoil and was leaking over into their relationship.

Teddy and James moved into their new home two weeks ago after their situation on Prevoist Street turned into a nightmare. Through the efforts of Teddy and James, dozens of truckloads of trash containing wheels, food, trash, mail and discarded home materials were removed from that area. While that measure improved the look of the street,



James and Teddy Washington recently moved to Brightmoor. While living at their previous home they faced constant harassment and threats and say that moving to the new place is like night and day. BTL Photo: AJ Trager

their former neighborhood was not inviting. James and Teddy were constantly under threat from not only their neighbors but their landlord who would often use gay slurs and threaten them with physical violence.

To make matters worse, the mail carrier stopped delivering their mail, forcing them to pick it up at the post office. Many of James' important medical records and payment documents would be "lost and not found."

“It's about community. When you're down and can't do much, hopefully other people that you have come across, met and have left impressions on can come and pick up the slack for you. And when they're down, hopefully they've left a big enough impression on you to where you can do the same. And it's hard because you don't have that a lot anymore.”

- Teddy Washington


Several lawsuits have been filed against both the mail carrier who refused to deliver and their former landlord who tried to repossess the home, evict James and Teddy and failed to maintain upkeep on the house – a negligence that landed James in the hospital after falling through the stairs leading to the second level.

"The pressure is gone. I can sleep here," James said. "We don't have the stress of a landlord who is acting illegal that we have to fight. I can concentrate on going to doctors now and getting better in a safe home without going down to court to fight for a home that isn't worth it."

James has been fighting cancer. He was diagnosed with esophageal non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in the spring of 2014 and has had multiple surgeries in attempts to quench the spread of the cancer cells. The couple has been working hard to make ends meet ever since the hospital bills started piling up. Choice Care Services Inc. employs Teddy to provide James with his hospice care for his various recoveries

See Home Sweet Home, page 28



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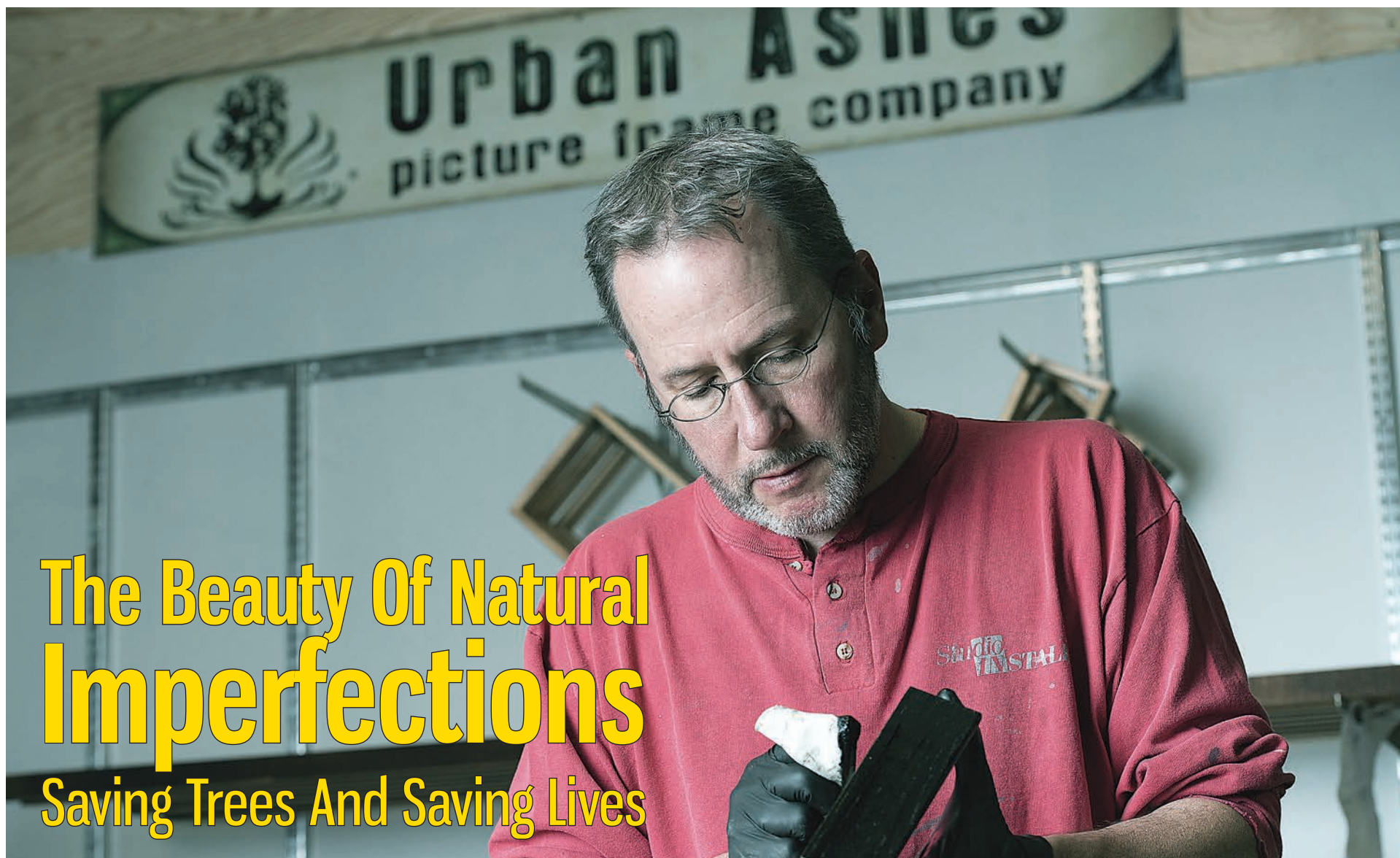
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## The Beauty Of Natural Imperfections

### Saving Trees And Saving Lives

Paul Hickman is the owner and founder of Urban Ashes, a unique furniture and frame manufacturer that employs Michigan's transitional and disabled labor force to create frames and moulding from recycled and salvaged wood. Photo by Jan Ziegelman Cohen.

#### BY AJ TRAGER

**ANN ARBOR** – Picture frames add ornate boundaries for memories, faces and moments frozen in time. While the images and faces of the photos can be replaced, the frame provides stability to the stories that are captured within its borders.

In a 3,000 foot shop in Ann Arbor, Paul Hickman and his small team of employees cut, sand and finish salvaged wood into custom picture frames, furniture and coasters that

“families will be fighting over for decades.”

Hickman received a degree in architecture and fell in love with how to transform planks of wood into elaborate, creative structures. The Indiana-born designer spent many years living on the west coast learning how to manipulate blight stricken, salvaged wood and brought his expertise to Michigan in the late 1990s.

In 2008 Hickman decided to build a frame company employing transitional and disabled labor, working exclusively with urban salvaged wood from Southeastern Michigan. Less than a year later on April 4, 2009, Urban Ashes officially launched.

Each frame is unique, much like every individual that works alongside Hickman. “Urban Ashes ... maximizing America’s under-utilized resources and human potential,” reads the company’s website. Each piece that is created in the shop is hand-selected for

character and is enhanced with petroleum-free finishes. The glass, paper insert, backing and frame materials are all sourced in Michigan.

“One thing I didn’t know about was the labor force. I had run shops and worked with people, but I didn’t know a thing about that and I wondered, ‘How hard could this be?’ I found out there is a lot of unique elements to that, much more than just being in the framing industry,” Hickman said.

He then contacted Mary King, who was the director of the Washtenaw County Michigan Prisoner Reentry Initiative, and put Hickman in touch with Work Skills Corp., a Brighton-based facility that offers businesses space to set up production and provides ex-inmates for labor.

“So, what I decided to do to turn this all around was find an organization that had the labor force and then teach them how to make

the product,” Hickman said.

Since its start, Urban Ashes has grown to have a presence in over 200 shops in 43 states. By September 2014 the business needed its own space to grow and develop and moved from the workshops of Work Skills Corps. to the current location on Ellsworth Street.

Calvin Evans, 47, the human resource operations manager, has been working with Hickman since 2013, shortly after he was released after serving 24 years.

“We are trying to create this marriage between the ex-felon labor force and people who haven’t been convicted of a felony so that we can understand each other’s world; we can give each other the best and in turn flourish. But what allows for that is that he (Hickman) has been like a family member to

#### INFO

Products from Urban Ashes are sold in 35 different shops around Michigan. Visit [www.urbanashes.com](http://www.urbanashes.com) to find the nearest shop and pick up one of a kind furniture and picture frames.

See *Saving Trees, Saving Lives*, page 30

## House Into 'Home'

### LGBT Realtors Reflect On What It Means To Make A Home

BY EMELL DERRA ADOLPHUS

While some houses may be sold on features alone (pool, garage, backyard), it takes a realtor to sell a "home," says Christopher Ayers of Shain Park Realtors in Birmingham.

"A house is a place people purchase when they want to invest for their future. A home is a place the people make once they start their lives," says Ayers, 32. "The 'home' is the place they build together and use to start the next chapter."

The realtor's job responsibility, he explains, is to help people see that next chapter. And part of that is clearing the clutter so the buyer, or seller, can dream.

"Each situation is a little different," Ayers says, in terms of staging a home to be viewed. "If it is one of my listings and I can get in ahead of the showing, I will get to the home earlier to prepare. I will then open all the blinds and window treatments, turn on all lights, light candles and air out the home. Homes show best when they are bright and airy."

Ayers has been a realtor for 13 years, but he explains his talent for making people feel at home came at an early age.

"I've known since I was 10 years old I wanted to be in real estate," he says. "When I was a child my parents had our family home for sale. An agent scheduled an appointment to show our home. The agent didn't show up, but their client did show up. I decided to let them in and give them a tour of our house. They ended up (buying) our home!"

### It's Personal

The relationship between realtor and client can become very personal, explains Ayers, with the realtor acting as a trusted source in helping them find the perfect space. So it's always important as a realtor to quickly learn what people want in a home: "Open floor plan with entertaining space, three bedrooms, two baths, basement, garage and big backyard." And they don't want "oversized homes," he says. "People



"Being an openly gay man and realtor, I believe it's truly important to be in a personal and business relationship with someone that can relate to all things a person may know, feel or think about while making the largest purchase in a person's lifetime," says Christopher Ayers of Shain Park Realtors in Birmingham.

are looking for much more manageable homes."

An added advantage to being an LGBT-friendly realtor, he says, is to be someone other LGBT clients can relate to on a personal level.

"Being an openly gay man and realtor, I believe it's truly important to be in a personal and business relationship with someone that can relate to all things a person may know, feel or think about while making the largest purchase in a

person's lifetime," says Ayers.

"The most rewarding aspect of my job as a realtor is seeing the smiles on my clients' faces and knowing that I helped them with probably one of the biggest decisions that they'll ever have to make in their entire lives," says Jim Powell of Powell Real-Estate in Ferndale. "That's the reason why I wake up every morning."

Helping people make good decisions

See House Into 'Home,' page 24

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## ► House Into 'Home'

Continued from p. 22

started at an early age, Powell explains.

“Back when I was a kid, I’d play Monopoly by myself. I’d set up four players and go about the table and make the best decision for that player. I could never understand why I loved that game so much when I was a kid. I just knew I did. Now as an adult, it makes perfect sense to me.”

And to Powell, home starts with the house’s bones.

“Good ‘bones,’ making sure that the structure is safe, updating electrical and plumbing, etc. Then of course, adding your own touches (like) paint, flooring, decorating,” he says.

The healthiness of a home’s bones could be the difference between a client falling in love or feeling heartbreak, says James Cristbrook of Shain Park Realtors.

“One of the most difficult things that a realtor must do is separate a buyer’s emotion from his or her financial decision making,” says Cristbrook, 52, explaining that this sometimes includes purchasing a home that turns out to be a money pit. “The ‘perfect’ home is a balanced combination of lifestyle needs, wants and desires and a sound financial investment.”

To meet this need, it is important to find a realtor you can trust says Cristbrook.

“Buyers and sellers should be confident that their best interests are being represented and that their realtor is competent and qualified,” he says. “The purchase and sale of real estate is almost always the most expensive item an individual will ever buy or sell. Representation should reflect the client’s own ideals and lifestyle in order to best serve their needs.”

And when you find the right realtor to find you the right home, the person can feel like your hero.

“My son once told me when he was about 8 years old that he thought I was a hero because I helped people find a warm, happy place to live that would shelter them from the rain and cold. And when they move into that home, they create wonderful memories, celebrate holidays, raise their families, share meals and sleep safely,” says Cristbrook. “That’s a pretty cool thing to be able to accomplish for the hundreds of people I have represented. Who wouldn’t love doing all of that?”



“My son once told me when he was about 8 years old that he thought I was a hero because I helped people find a warm, happy place to live that would shelter them from the rain and cold. And when they move into that home, they create wonderful memories, celebrate holidays, raise their families, share meals and sleep safely. That’s a pretty cool thing to be able to accomplish for the hundreds of people I have represented. Who wouldn’t love doing all of that?”

- James Cristbrook

## Find these agents in this issue of BTL:

### Gerry Banister

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## Home Sweet Home: Six Things To Consider When Moving In

BY EMELL DERRA ADOLPHUS

**C**ongratulations! You're moving in with your partner and are about to enjoy two to five years (depending on if gays or girls) of uninterrupted living-together bliss. But before you even think about calling a house "home sweet home," here are six things to keep in mind, courtesy of realtor Jim Shaffer of Jim Shaffer and Associates Realtors.

### 1. Don't judge a book by its cover

Looks can be deceiving, says Shaffer.

"The surfaces of the home such as paint, flooring and countertops can generally be changed inexpensively where as the bones of the home such as roof, foundation, plumbing and electrical are often very expensive to repair or replace."

The lesson here: quality over cuteness. "A good buyer agent will be looking at these items on behalf of their buyer," he explains. "I find most first-time home buyers are wowed by the finishes and often overlook the important items. That's where we as agents can help to keep the focus on the big ticket items."

### 2. Love your toilet

If you're going to pump up your home's looks before moving in, start with the kitchens and commodes, says Shaffer.

"I always say, 'kitchens and bathrooms sell houses,' and I continue to find this to be true," he explains. "Because buyers are often attracted to the finishes of a home and know that these two cosmetic updates are among the most costly, starting with the kitchen and bathrooms is always the wisest investment."

### 3. Making a mess early on saves you from making a mess later

One of the most stressful things on a relationship is a remodel. "If your relationship can survive a remodel, it truly is a strong one," says Shaffer.

So if you must remodel, start with the messy projects, he explains. "If your budget permits, I highly suggest focusing on the 'messy' projects such as hardwood floor refinishing and painting first."

### 4. There's no "I" in couple

If you're living together, moving in should be a "together" effort.

"Speaking from experience, it is always a

**If you're living together, moving in should be a "together" effort.**

good idea to make a concerted effort to make the home 'ours,'" says Shaffer. "I have found that involving both partners in the beginning of the home shopping process sets the stage for success. I always ask that both partners are involved in my initial buyer consultation. This is an opportunity to meet and discuss individual needs of each partner. I find the meetings I facilitate often expose needs of each person that the other might not have been aware of."

Moving in together also presents the opportunity to combine the stuff you both need and sell the stuff you don't, he explains.

"When my husband and I bought our first home we decided to sell our furnishings from our previous homes and purchase everything new for our new home. After all, who doesn't love shopping!"

### 5. What does your home say about you as a couple?

Have you completely thought about why you are interested in this particular style of home? Here's Shaffer's take on some popular

architectural styles: "Colonial: We are hoping to have a family someday. Most buyers with children prefer to have all bedrooms on one level. Ranch: We are buying our forever home, because ranches have few steps they are ideal for buyers looking to 'age in place.' Bungalow: We appreciate the historic character of the home. These buyers are preservationists. Townhouse: We love our freedom. These buyers are looking for low maintenance home ownership."

### 6. 'Trust your heart,' and your realtor

Finding the perfect home for you as a couple can often times mean finding the perfect realtor that understands you and your partner as a couple, says Shaffer. "When choosing a Realtor, look for one that has a wealth of knowledge and expertise in the community you intend to buy or sell," he explains. "A local professional will bring knowledge of the neighborhood market and be sure to help you get top dollar when selling. This agent can also help buyers with knowledge of upcoming listings and what to expect with the process. In the end, trust your heart."



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## BTL Defining Home



### Are You Making Any Of These Common Decorating Mistakes?

BY LYNDAY WILSON

“I’m good with color” you tell your friends, and you truly believe that in another life, you could have been an excellent interior designer. Then how did it happen that your living room just looks... off? Even those of us with the keenest eyes and the best style sense can fall victim to decorating blunders. Sometimes experiencing the feel of a room in person is quite different to the visions you gleaned from home magazines and your Pinterest board. Here are some of the most common style mistakes people unwittingly make when decorating their homes.

#### Getting sizes wrong

Color, texture and style are always punted as the most important characteristics of a new piece of furniture, but if it doesn’t match the scale of your room, the effect is going to be awkward. Area rugs shouldn’t be more than a foot or two from the wall, light fittings shouldn’t dominate the ceiling they hang from and you’ll only go crazy trying to have a dinner party where the chair backs keep knocking against the wall. First and foremost, furniture needs to strike a good balance in the room. Not only should furniture fit harmoniously with the rest of the space, it should be similarly scaled with the other pieces.

#### Decorating a hotel

You may have heard so much advice to go with “neutral” and “classic” that you end up putting together a room that is utterly unmemorable. If your room starts to look too generic, it may be time to insert a bold, attention grabbing element. Playing with color, fun textures or sentimental items can give a dull room a bit of personality. Shake things up by throwing together contrasting elements, and don’t be afraid of injecting a little of your own quirk into the mix.

#### One dimensional decorating

If all of your furniture is pushed up against the wall, you may need to work on a more balanced arrangement. Think about the flow of traffic and how you tend to move about in the space, then arrange items accordingly.

Another mistake to avoid is having everything in the room at more or less one height – try to add interest with furniture of different heights, different sized pictures or tall lamps to balance out shorter furniture items.

#### Forgetting about lighting

There’s a reason that many professional decorators think of the lighting in a space before they think of anything else. The quality of the light in an area can make or break the mood, no matter how well arranged everything else is. Good lighting should respect the natural light that already comes into the room and find a way to work with it. Don’t think of lighting as an afterthought – actively incorporate lamps, ceiling fittings and even candles into the whole flow of the room.

Also spare a thought to how this lighting will fall on and enhance the room’s key features.

#### Accumulating clutter

There’s no greater sign that you need better storage than little mounds of clutter forming all over the room. Even the most thoughtfully decorated interior loses its charm under mounds of books, trinkets, bits and pieces. Decide on a few elegant, high impact pieces and put away other knick knacks. A pretty armoire or shelves with repurposed baskets can hide your junk while tying the rest of the room together.

Of course, the only “mistake” you can make with decorating is to keep living in a space that leaves you feeling uninspired and uncomfortable. Make sure that your unique style and personality have the opportunity to really come through by giving some thought to these design basics before you dive in.

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## ► Home Sweet Home

Continued from p. 16

from cancer treatments and surgeries.

“This is his hospice care which is a blessing. Most people who go into hospice care have to go into some crazy nursing home. But organizations such as the Detroit Area On Aging allow people who are not physically, mentally and emotionally able to be on their own because of hardships or different things in life to be able to be at home in a safe and secure place that’s also familiar. And we hope that many more people will make that available or make that sacrifice,” Teddy said.

Many Detroit agencies have come together to provide assistance for James and Teddy. The Detroit Area On Aging helped them with their move and Mom’s Meals, a national provider of fresh-made meals for patients recuperating at home or managing a chronic disease, provides them 14 meals every two weeks.

“It’s about community. When you’re down and can’t do much, hopefully other people that you have come across, met and have left impressions on can come and pick up the slack for you. And when they’re down, hopefully they’ve left a big enough impression on you to where you can do the same. And it’s hard because you don’t have that a lot anymore,” Teddy explained.

John and Lisa Palmerville, Detroit residents committed to cleaning up the blight and illegal dumping, connected Teddy and James with the former owners of the Puritan home who had let the property enter foreclosure. James and Teddy have started paying taxes and the home bills with the goal of keeping the house from being destroyed, working with the mortgage company to hopefully sign a quick sale of around \$20,000, and obtaining the deed.

“To sit here and be able to absorb this and all that it offers – it’s quite surreal,” Teddy said. “We are not squatters; we’re appointed preservers. We are preserving the history that is here and accentuating it to make it that much better. For me, the definition of a squatter is someone who sees an opportunity or property and says, ‘Wow, I’m going to take this over.’ But when you go about things the right way, it’s not what you do, it’s how you do it.”

Unfortunately their struggles continue despite having moved to a new location away from physical danger. James’ disability insurance was recently terminated as a result of the state of Michigan recognizing their 2014 marriage. He collected under his father as a disabled child due to traumatic abuse that resulted in both of his legs having been broken. All of his treatments at Beaumont have immediately stopped and they are seeking legal counsel.



Teddy and James Washington are committed to a sustainable lifestyle consuming meals that are sourced from local farms and gardens. Together they have built community gardens that they brought with them to Puritan Street. BTL Photo: AJ Trager

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## Architectural Digest 'Outs' Gay Celebs

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

This year's March issue of Architectural Digest – for 95 years an international interior design authority – features as its cover story, "Power Players: At Home with Neil Patrick Harris + David Burtka."

The Conde Nast publication – with a paid circulation of 814,959 subscribers and thousands more design knowledgeable readers – comments in this gay-focused, groundbreaking article about the famous, highly visible gay stars, "The entertainers at their smartly renovated Harlem townhouse create a dashing sanctuary for raising their young family and hosting friends."

The actors – who met 10 years ago in New York and also while performing in the CBS TV hit, "How I Met Your Mother" – were married a year ago last month in Italy, with Elton John providing music and friendship accolades for the famous couple.

Harris and Burtka moved last year to a five-story, late 19th-century townhouse in New York, after living for 10 years in L.A.

The move to New York facilitates ongoing Broadway roles and gives easier access to, and better education opportunities for, their 4-year-old twins, Gideon and Harper.

Enhanced show business entertainment and party options with theater friends are also a plus.

The overall interior townhouse design is by well-known, L.A.-based interior designer Trace Lehnhoff, in collaboration with New York architect, Jeffery Povero. Renovation of the townhouse took about 14 months.

Comments Architectural Digest, "The building had previously been used as a bed-

and-breakfast, so most changes had to do with creating a single family flow to the interiors. That included dramatically reconfiguring the kitchen – expanding the cooking space, adding a large island, and outfitting it to Burtka's standards."

Burtka, who was born in Dearborn, grew up in Canton and later attended the Interlochen Center for the Arts, trained as a chef at Le Cordon Bleu. He was also a founder of the L.A. catering company Gourmet M.D. (About

his husband's cooking, Neil Patrick Harris, comments, "Real men cook quiche.")

Both Burtka and Harris are gracious and avid entertainers, and they specifically devised the parlor floor for "fun and relaxing with friends." Among contemporary artist works on display throughout the townhouse are works by Mike Kelley, Jennifer Steinkamp, Kehinde Wiley and other emerging artists.

There is also a prized item of Neil Patrick Harris on display: an original painting from the Haunted House in Disneyland. Another prized possession, as quoted in a recent Vanity Fair interview, "I still

have my four wisdom teeth. I refuse to let them go, or I'll lose my wise parts."

The 10 interior photographs shown in the Architectural Digest article reflect both traditional quality furnishings and cautious – nonetheless expensive and designer quality – shared contemporary tastes of Harris and Burtka.

Google "Huffington Post: Neil Patrick Harris" for articles relating to the same-sex couple's New York relocation with family and townhouse renovation.



This year's March issue of Architectural Digest – for 95 years an international interior design authority – features as its cover story, "Power Players: At Home with Neil Patrick Harris + David Burtka."



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## BTL Defining Home

### ► Saving Lives, Saving Trees

Continued from p. 21

us," Evans said.

Evans has never taken any HR courses and has never been a manager, in the traditional sense of the word. He may not have the academic background, but Evans has managed lives. And what he doesn't know, Hickman is right there to teach him.

"I'm a mentor," Evans said. "I do public speaking. I am a violence intervention specialist and on the Washtenaw County Workforce Development Board. Often I am called upon for my expertise, if you will, based on my experience. I owe people who gave me life when I was in a lifeless condition. I owe it to them to be an example of what we can become once we are removed from our condition."

Evans believes strongly in the power of education and says that if there was a support system for him growing up, he would have made other choices. He did well in school — when he went. He also provided all he could for his younger siblings while his mother did what she could for the family. However, he was a product of his surroundings and lived everyday in fear of his family not having enough food to eat or a roof over their head when they returned home from school. He "lived by the code of the street," and made

### SAVE THE DATE

Want to hear more about Evans' story? Evans will be a part of a panel directly following a showing of "15 to Life: Kenneth's Story," a documentary presenting the life of Kenneth Young, who was tried as an adult at 14 years of age and received four consecutive life sentences without possibility of parole. The Oct. 14 showing will be held at 7 p.m. at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor. Belinda Dulin, DRC executive director, will moderate a panel of experts on the legal and social issues surrounding mandatory life sentences for juveniles.

choices to help alleviate his lost sense of security.

During his incarceration, Evans obtained his associates in paralegal studies and worked as a liaison between the administration and the inmates. He also created a processed guide for inmates to obtain college credits.

"Urban Ashes is about saving lives and trees. The life part of it is what I'm about, so I can say to businesses that Urban Ashes has the model for what other businesses can use in order to be productive or to employ from this workforce, from the ex-felon labor pool. While he (Hickman) is taking the business part of it and expanding that, I am expanding the program part. He has allowed and helped me to live my dream of helping the ex-felon labor force," Evans said.



Calvin Evans, 47, has worked for Urban Ashes for two and a half years and was promoted to human resources operations manager six months ago. Evans is committed to improving the lives of ex-felons and assisting them in the transition from incarceration to life outside. Photo by Jan Ziegelman Cohen.

“ We are trying to create this marriage between the ex-felon labor force and people who haven't been convicted of a felony so that we can understand each other's world; we can give each other the best and in turn flourish. But what allows for that is that Paul Hickman has been like a family member to us. ”

- Calvin Evans

# BTL Defining Home

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Owner Jim Cyr and partner Cindy O'Flynn

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and clinical psychologist for Hospice and in the hospital system for the past 39 years.

Evergreen Antiques is located at 2758 Coolidge, Berkley. Hours are Thurs. – Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Antiques and collectibles shopping is relatively new to this institution that's been around for over 30 years. But the Flea Market has quickly become a weekly stop for thousands of Metro Detroiters and many from further away. You may not find your heart's desire this week, but maybe the next. The Flea Market is open every Sunday year round from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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# PEACHES

## Lets It All Hang Out



Photo: Daria Marchik

## Provocateur Talks Childhood Trans Friend, Penis Onesies & Loving Your Vagina

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

“**L**ook. I don’t have breasts anymore.” Peaches is reminiscing on a dear friend she grew up with, when he showed up at her door, and came out to her as transgender. Memories of their summers spent together spill out of her as if they happened yesterday.

They didn’t, of course. Those summers are long past. But the influence of Sean (then Susan) on young Peaches endures because it was “quite big,” the music-making provocateur reveals as she traces her own path to self-discovery.

The Toronto-born, Berlin-based Peaches is 46 now, and as a revered wielder of raunch, she has devoted her 20-year career to cutting down gender norms with her electroclash throwdowns. And sex – she sings a lot about that too.

After dropping her 1995 debut “Fancypants Hoodlum,” released under her birth name, Merrill Beth Nisker, she ignited a sexual frenzy with “Fuck the Pain Away,” a song that’s about as subtle as its title. With a colorful tracklist that includes “Vaginoplasty” and “Dick in the Air,” “Rub,” her latest queer contribution, doesn’t beat around the bush either.

In conversation, Peaches is just as freewheeling. During our interview, the performance artist talked penis onesies, menstruation and learning to love your vagina.

**You studied theater but then ended up going into music. How surrounded were you by queer culture during that period in your life? And how did what you experience shape you and your desire to explore queerness in your art?**

It was an arts culture, but it wasn’t necessarily queer at that time. But I did have a serious relationship at the time with a woman – or a girl, or a girl becoming a woman – so I was growing up spending my summers, from when I was 7 to 14, with one person. Her childhood name was Susan, and she told me when she was 7, “I’m a guy. I don’t know why I’m in this woman’s body.”

She used to punch me in the stomach and be like, “See how strong I am!” She was just a very strong character. Also humorous but scathing too – quite tortured. And then slowly, she became a man. At 18 she came over and said, “Look. I don’t have breasts anymore,” and became who he wanted to be: Sean. So early on I was already questioning these things through the experience of the one person I spent all my summers with.

**When did you feel you had a handle on who you were?**

I was pretty spaced out for a long time and



then, I don't know. I guess, like, 30. (Laughs)

**How would you describe "Rub" to a 12-year-old kid?**

"This is an album you listen to to make your parents angry." It's exactly what a 12-year-old wants to listen to. You wanna giggle along to "Dick in the Air." Kids are way more advanced now. They can handle this.

**You think so?**

Yeah. And if they can't, then they have very good mechanisms of denial. I know I did in my head, and then years later, I'd be like, "Oh wait, I like that song" or, "That thing I didn't understand – I get it now!" I remember hearing that song by Berlin called "Sex (I'm A)" on the radio and being like, "What was that?"

**How did you first learn about sex?**

Wow. I don't really remember, which is funny. I do remember being in the shower with my mother and asking her what a period was.

**How did she explain a period?**

Just very matter of factly. I remember kids three years older than me being like, "Do you put a period at the end of a sentence?"

**Pun intended.**

Yeah – see. It's probably why I'm so punny.

**Why has sex – and not just sex, but visceral, in-your-face sex – been such a muse in your career?**

It's not *just* sex. My concern is, why aren't people comfortable in their own bodies? Why are we denying ourselves talking directly about what it is that makes us tick, and why do we have to cover it up? And then also, just in pop music – back then, why was it always skirting around the issue? Literally skirting around the issue. Pun intended.

It just amazed me, the imbalance of how men would express themselves in classic rock songs. Rod Stewart stuff. "Spread your wings and let me come inside." Why am I singing that? Why is half the population singing that? I wanna sing my way. So I did it my way, wondering why there was this imbalance and why I like these songs. I'm singing along with old blues songs too. But, actually, old blues songs were more balanced, like Bessie Smith: "I need a little sugar in my bowl; I need a little hot dog on my roll." You know, there's nothing subtle about that.

**There was a time when it was taboo for females to be frank about their sexuality. You really blazed that trail.**

And I'm really happy about that. (People) would be like, "Why do you write these songs?" And I'd be like, "I feel like this is a missing link in what we actually need to evolve into," and also, yeah, questioning what was mainstream and saying, "I don't want to bow to the mainstream; I want the mainstream to come up to me." Now, 15

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years later, the mainstream actually is coming to me. So I'm like, "Woohooohooo."

**What is your opinion of sex in mainstream culture these days?**

The same. What do you think?

**Not because I like it, but what comes to mind is that J. Lo and Iggy Azalea video for "Booty."**

Ack! It just doesn't work as a song. If it worked as a song, maybe it would be interesting. I would think more of Nicki Minaj and Beyoncé's "Feeling Myself," and (Nicki) says "I'm feelin' myself, jack rabbit" – that's such a good line. I think that Nicki Minaj broke it. And people say, "Peaches, how can you like Nicki Minaj?" I'm like, no, she broke through hip-hop. She slays all these guys and they know it. It's undeniable.

**Beyond sex, you've famously subverted gender norms.**

Yeah, make it all fluid.

**What kind of influence do you think Miley Cyrus and Caitlyn Jenner are having on the gender dialogue?**

They're just opening up the dialogue. Let's see if it's a trend or if we're really gonna change things, because things are moving exponentially in every direction. I mean, we still have Kim Davis. I love that whoever wrote "Eye of a Tiger" (Survivor frontman Frankie Sullivan) sued her for using the song. I'm so happy. When she got out of jail she did this whole speech, but she's obviously mentally imbalanced. And Donald Trump too.

And anybody who's going by these completely heteronormative patriarchal attitudes – what are you hiding from? Not them specifically, but why do you find what I do, which is like, "Hey, let's be open," offensive or transgressive? It's about being open so that everybody can actually become the person they are and feel comfortable in their own bodies. We do all these things to get away from our own bodies, but we live in them. I wrote a song called "Vaginoplasty" because people are like, "Oh, my vagina looks horrible; I need plastic surgery on my vagina" – not because of gender reassignment, not because of accidents, but purely for cosmetic reasons. And it's like, "You came out of that thing – why are you so afraid of it?" It's ridiculous to me.

It's ridiculous how we deny our bodies and have all these stipulations and family values, which are just patriarchal family values, it

See Peaches, page 34

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### ► Peaches

Continued from page 33

seems. Like Ashley Madison websites – come on. That is not a normal way to live, where you have all these secrets because you can't keep that front. There are urges and things we really need. Why are we denying ourselves that?

**There's always been subtext to your hypersexual songs. And there are layers and layers there, and listeners can choose to dig and dig or purely see them as bedroom bump songs.**

Then goal achieved. Thank you. It should be a bedroom bump song or a party song, or you go like, "Oh, what am I singing about? What am I singing along to?" And then you're like, "Oh. Cool. Wow."

In that way, regarding multiple purposes, I relate more to female comedians like Tina Fey, Natasha Leggero, Amy Schumer, Tig Notaro and Margaret Cho because they do the same thing – they make you laugh, and then you're like, "Oh my god, she's right. Holy shit. What are we really doing?" So I realize that I relate more to, actually, a lot of older female comedians and performance artists than I do musicians.

**When it comes to "Rub," what do you want the primary takeaway to be?**

It's just a celebration. Seriously. I want it to be like a post-gender and post-age celebration of becoming who you are.

**Is it a reflection of who you are at this point in your life?**

Definitely. Do you want to get into the breakup songs yet?

**Yes! Let's talk about those.**

Yeah, because that helped in the middle of (working on) the album. Especially a song like "Free Drink Ticket," which is a very angry song, but it's a real emotion that everybody can relate to. When hurt happens to someone you love the most and then it becomes complete hate. It's amazing that someone you love becomes someone you totally wanna murder, at least for a few months.

**And this is how you felt after the breakup you experienced while recording this album?**

Yeah, definitely. I think a lot of people do. "I wanna kill that person!" But then you get over it. It was an interesting twist of events, not unlike Kim Gordon or Björk – very similar situation. It was just bizarre that I was in sort of the same position; they're both in my age range, so it was kind of like, "Wow, how am I gonna deal with this?"

**Have you ever had sex to your own music?**

No! Are you crazy? That's disgusting. Someone tried and I was like, "Forget it, buddy – get out!" Actually... it was a woman.

**Where can I get a knitted dick onesie like the one you and Margaret Cho wear in the video for "Dick in the Air"?**

A friend of mine found those, so I think you'll have to knit one yourself. Also, I found a documentary online where they used these outfits to talk about family units, and it's funny because they blur out the knitted penises and the knitted breasts. It's amazing.

But what she found were five Caucasian outfits – an old man, an old woman, a young boy, a young woman and a person with both breasts and dick – and then there was a brown person's costume, and a yellow one for Asian people and also a redhead with a very little weenie. Actually, the Asian one had the largest penis.

**What's it like wearing it?**

Um, very hot and sweaty. We were in L.A. I chose the old man's outfit. I wanted to know what it's like when your balls hang low.

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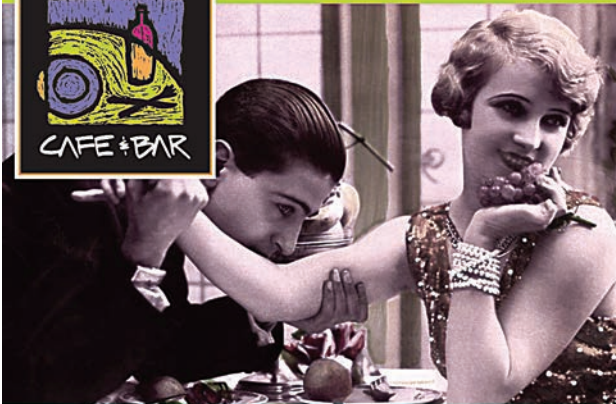
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# Happenings

## OUTINGS

### Thursday, Oct. 1

**Madonna: Rebel Heart Tour** Live  
Nation, 19 Steve Yzerman Dr.,  
Detroit. 313-396-7000. www.  
Livenation.com

**Margaret Cho: The Psycho Tour**  
Murray & Peter, 7096 E. 14 Mile  
Road, Warren. 586-268-3200. www.  
Andiamoitalia.com

**Kick-Off Lunch** 12:30 p.m. Bring  
your own lunch. Part of OUTober. EMU  
LGBT Resource Center, Ypsilanti.  
www.Emich.edu/lgbtrc

**Bright Half Life** 7:30 p.m. Deep  
in the heart of every true love lies  
the truth of its inevitable end. Time  
Out New York calls this Critics' pick  
"Romantic! Virtuoso! For sheer  
loveliness, you won't surpass Tanya  
Barfield's exquisite BRIGHT HALF  
LIFE" and the New York Times says  
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shatteringly romantic play swirls  
us through decades in an instant  
with soul mates Erica and Vicki,  
as they explore marriage, children,  
skydiving and the infinite space  
inside the moments of a life together  
in this play. Theatre Nova, 416 W.  
Huron Street, Ann Arbor. 734-635-  
8450. a2theatrenov@gmail.com  
www.Artful.ly/theatre-nova/store/  
events/6413

**Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me** 8 p.m.  
Tickets: \$30-125. NPR, 825 N.  
University Ave., Ann Arbor. 734-761-  
1800. www.A2sf.org

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



## Editor's Pick

Ozone House, Ann Arbor's agency for crisis, support and housing for youth and families in crisis or conflict, will host "Harvest of Hope" Oct. 3. The fundraiser benefits the center and will feature food, drinks, music and a silent auction. The nine annual fundraiser will offer event-goers the chance to learn about the life-changing work done by Ozone House.

New to the event this year is the "Hope Challenge," which involves doubling donations.

Harvest of Hope will begin at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3. at the Polo Fields Golf and Country Club, 2955 Packard Road, Ypsilanti. Convenient parking is available.

Guests are urged to RSVP by Sept. 18 at www.ozonehouse.org or by calling Sue at 734-662-2265. Tickets are \$150 each. Those who can't attend but wish to support Ozone House are invited to make a donation instead. Ozone House is located at 1705 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor.

### Friday, Oct. 2

**Big 80s Flashback Bash!** 9 p.m.  
Cover: \$6. Helps the Hater Kitty  
Rescue Army. Static Network, 1254  
Michigan Ave., Detroit. 313-961-  
4668. info@staticrecords.com www.  
Pjslagerhouse.com

### Saturday, Oct. 3

**OUTFest** Rocky Horror Show &  
costume contest. Free pizza provided  
by Domino's. Suggested donation:  
\$5. Jim Toy Community Center, Ann  
Arbor. www.Jimtoycommunitycenter.  
org

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

**GhoulTide Gathering** 8 a.m. Cost:  
\$5-20. GhoulTide Gathering, 20501  
W. Old US 12 Highway, Chelsea.  
269-553-1852. ghoulTidegathering@

gmail.com GhoulTidegathering.com

**Seventh Annual Bras for a Cause** 6  
p.m. A unique live and silent auction  
benefit for Gilda's Club. All ages.  
Tickets: \$50-55. Gilda's Club, 318 W.  
Fourth St., Royal Oak. 248-399-  
2980. www.RoyalOakmusictheatre.  
com

**Harvest of Hope Benefit** 6:30  
p.m. Biggest fundraiser of the year  
for Ozone House. Tickets: \$150.  
Ozone House, 2955 Packard Road,  
Ann Arbor. 734-662-2265. www.  
Ozonehouse.org/harvest

**Ladder 12 Art Auction: DAM Gala** 12  
7 p.m. Detroit Artists Market (DAM),  
Detroit. www.Detroitartistsmarket.  
org

**Young Frankenstein** 8 p.m. Tickets:  
\$22-24. Stagecrafters, 415 S.  
Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. 248-541-  
6430. www.Stagecrafters.org

### Sunday, Oct. 4

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

**The Ultimate Bridal Show You  
Cannot Afford To Miss** 12 p.m.  
Tickets: \$7-9. Brides To Be Show,  
600 Town Center, Dearborn. 586-  
228-2700. www.Bridestobe.org

**The Whale** 3 p.m. A play for mature  
audiences; limited seating. The  
Theatre Company, 22742 Woodward  
Ave., Ferndale. 248-545-5545.  
theatre@udmercy.edu www.UDMarts.  
com

### Monday, Oct. 5

**LGBT Sexual Assault Survivors  
Groups** 5:30 p.m. Any member of  
the LGBT community, age 13-24,  
who is a survivor of sexual assault  
is welcome. This group is open to  
all LGBTQIAP individuals who have  
experienced any form of sexual  
assault in their lifetime. Kalamazoo  
Gay and Lesbian Resource Center,  
629 Pioneer St., Kalamazoo.  
269-345-5595. nschneider@  
ywcakalamazoo.org www.Kglrc.org

### Tuesday, Oct. 6

**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.  
Michiganaidcoalition.org

**It's a Breast Thing** 5 p.m. Suggested  
donation: \$5. Vote for and purchases  
your favorite decorated bra for breast  
cancer support. It's a Breast Thing,  
Bath Township. 517-930-6157.

**MCHR Fall Film Series** 7 p.m.  
Tuesdays in October. \$5 Donation  
at the door. Michigan Coalition  
for Human Rights, 11 Mile and  
Woodward, Royal Oak. www.MChr.  
org

### Wednesday, Oct. 7

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

**The SAFE Campaign** 4 p.m. Part of  
OUTober. EMU LGBT Resource Center,  
Ypsilanti. www.Emich.edu/lgbtrc

**Affirmations Run Club** 6 p.m.  
An informal group of runners and  
walkers of all abilities. Seasoned  
marathoners, beginner walkers,  
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up! Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile  
Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105.  
jproctor@goaffirmations.org www.  
Goaffirmations.org/programs-  
services/community-events-activities

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

**Yours Truly, John Waters** 7 p.m.  
A different John Waters film every  
week. Michigan Theatre, 233 State  
St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-TIME. www.  
Michigantheater.org

### Thursday, Oct. 8

**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

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appointment only. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), **Ferndale**. www.MichiganAIDScoalition.org

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

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

## Friday, Oct. 9

**2015 Gala + Art Auction MOCAD**, 4454 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 313-832-6622. www.Mocadetroit.org

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

**Help Build the OUTober Flag Display** 2 p.m. Part of OUTober. EMU LGBT Resource Center, **Ypsilanti**. www.Emich.edu/lgbtrc

**Josh Groban** 8 p.m. Tickets: \$56-95.50. Olympia Entertainment, 2211 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 313-471-6611. www.Olympiaentertainment.com

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

## Saturday, Oct. 10

**Fall Fling 2015** 7 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.Goaffirmations.org

## Sunday, Oct. 11

**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

## MUSIC & MORE

### Concerts

**Go Comedy! Improv Theater** "Dragon Army" The Dragon Army is Go Comedys brightest up and coming improvisors put through a gauntlet of short form improv games some are Go Comedy classics, others brand new from Go Laboratories. Join them every month as they battle through improv scenes and games to

become the almighty Dragon Slayer, and face the ultimate test in short form improv. The Dragon Army consists of Lorin Kozlowski, Jeff Smyk, Nuverre Naami, Kathryn Gonsior, Eric Haenke, Brad Hicks, Lisa Conte Jacokes, Tim Lally, and Cari Murphy. The Dragon Army is directed by Travis Peltó. Tickets \$10. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 8 p.m. Oct. 1. 248-327-0575. www.Facebook.com/GoComedy

**The Ark** "The California Honeydrops" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 5. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

**The Ark** "Hoots and Hellmouth" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 4. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

**The Ark** "The Appleseed Collective" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 1. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

**The Ark** "Willie Watson" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 6. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

**The Ark** "Kim Richey" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 3. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

**The Ark** "Melissa Ferrick" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 2. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

**The Magic Bag** "Taylor Davis" Tickets: \$15. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. Oct. 7. 248-544-3030. www.TheMagicBag.com

### Dance

**University Musical Society** "L-E-V" L-E-V is an adventurous new ensemble of fiercely talented dancers, the culmination of years of collaboration between two Israeli creative superstars. Power Center, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 3. 734-764-2538. www.Ums.org

### Shows

**Blind Pig** "Gene Ween (of Ween)" 18+. Tickets: \$16-18. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 5. 734-996-8555. www.Blindpigmusic.com

**Blind Pig** "Rubblebucket" 18+. Tickets: \$14. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9 p.m. Oct. 3. 734-996-8555. www.Blindpigmusic.com

**University Musical Society** "The Gloaming" Combining Irish tunes,

ancient sean-nós song and instrumental explorations over a backbone of spare minimalism, The Gloaming carves new paths, connecting deep folk traditions with New York's contemporary scene. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 7. 734-764-2538. Ums.org

## THEATER

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

**Dog Loves Books** The Benard L. Maas Foundation Not Just For Kids, Ann Arbor. 1:30 p.m. Oct. 3. 800-745-3000. www.Ticketmaster.com

**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. CLICK HERE for complete show information. Tickets:.. Cornwell's Dinner Theatre, 18935 15 1/2 Mile Rd, Marshall. Through Oct. 24. 269-781-4293. www.turkeyville.com

## ART 'N' AROUND

**Detroit Artists Market (DAM)** "The Change We Want To See: Artists Reflect on Detroit." Detroit Artists Market, 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sep. 11 - Oct. 17. 313-832-8540. www.Detroitartistsmarket.org

**MOCAD** "United States of Latin America." Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sep. 23 - Jan. 3. 313-832-6622. www.Mocadetroit.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



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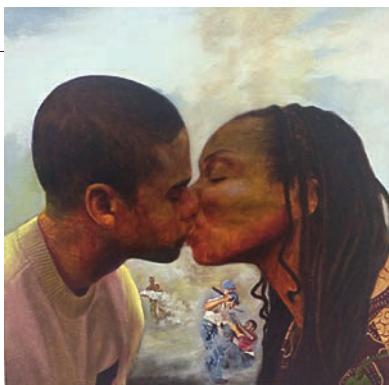
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## Editor's Pick

On Oct. 3, the Detroit Artists Market is hosting the Ladder 12 Art Auction, DAM Gala 1, a fundraiser at the Ladder Company #12 Fire Station near West Lafayette and 10th Street. Dozens of local artists are donating their work for auction, including Sergio De Giusti, Claire D'Aquist, David Brainard, Dawn Cook and Scott Hocking. Michael Chetcuti and Kyle Evans are honorary co-hosts.

DAM is also hosting "The Change We Want To See: Artists Reflect on Detroit," a group exhibition curated by artist and photographer Jeff Cancelosi. Cancelosi is a Detroit-area artist and photographer who is

passionate about documenting and showcasing the arts and artists of the city and surrounding area. The exhibit runs through Oct. 17.

Tickets for the fundraiser are \$150 and available at www.detroitartistsmarket.org. All proceeds benefit DAM.

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# Emmy Award-Winning Dance Series Hits East Lansing

BY BTL STAFF

**EAST LANSING** – “So You Think You Can Dance,” the 13 time Primetime Emmy Award winning show, is set to captivate audiences again this fall – live on tour with a stop at Wharton Center. The last time the tour was at Wharton Center (2013), it sold out almost immediately. The show is part of the “Live at Wharton” series.

This year’s season 12 tour plays Cobb Great Hall on Sunday, Nov. 22. Tickets are available to purchase online, [www.whartoncenter.com](http://www.whartoncenter.com), at the Auto Owners Insurance Ticket Office or by calling 1-800-WHARTON.

The Season 12 tour lineup includes the following Top 10 finalists: Team Stage’s Gaby Diaz, Edson Juarez, Jim Nowakowski, Hailee Payne and Derek Piquette; and Team Street’s Megan “Megz” Alfonso, Eddie “Neptune” Eskridge, Virgil Gadson, Jessica “JJ” Rabone and Jana “Jaja” Vankova. The tour kicks off on Tuesday, Oct. 13, at the Verizon Theatre in Grand Prairie, Texas,

and crosses the U.S. and Canada with 70 sensational stops. Fall’s hottest ticket will feature this season’s most popular routines from Team Stage and Team Street, as well as original pieces created specifically for the nationwide tour.

Nigel Lythgoe, judge, executive producer and co-creator of the hit

**T**he dance series comes to the Wharton as part of its season 12 tour.

FOX series, says, “I am thrilled with this season’s new Stage vs. Street format and the brilliant, fresh talent we have discovered. These dancers have inspired the choreographers to create remarkable dance numbers each week, truly showcasing individual talent. I am excited for your favorite dancers

to bring their inspiration and routines to even more cities on this year’s nationwide tour.”

“So You Think You Can Dance” recently received eight 2015 Primetime Emmy Award nominations, including Outstanding Reality Competition Program and Outstanding Host In A Reality or Reality Competition Program (Cat Deeley), in addition to nominations for Outstanding Choreography, Outstanding Hairstyling For A Multi Camera Series Or Special, Outstanding Lighting Design/Lighting Direction For A Variety Series, and Outstanding Makeup For A Multi Camera Series Or Special (Non Prosthetic). SYTYCD’s exceptional costume team of Marina Toybina and Grainne O’Sullivan also won an Emmy Award for Outstanding Costumes for a Variety Program.

The show begins at 7 p.m. on Nov. 22 at the Cobb Great Hall. The Wharton Center is located at 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. Tickets start at \$43 plus applicable fees.


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# The OutField

## Paying It Forward On The Lacrosse Field

BY DAN WOOG

OK, sports fans: Who was the first openly gay male athlete to play in a professional sports league?

Not Robbie Rogers. Not Jason Collins. And not Michael Sam.

The answer is Andrew Goldstein. An All-American lacrosse goalie, he came out to his Dartmouth College teammates a full decade before those three better-known trailblazers.

Goldstein was the first goalie to score in an NCAA tournament in nearly 30 years. The next year he played for the Long Island Lizards in Major League Lacrosse.

You're forgiven if you've never heard of it. Professional lacrosse flies under the radar (and pays accordingly). So Goldstein soon moved on, and started a new life as a medical student.

He continued to advocate for gay athletes, through speaking engagements, discussions with sports teams and through You Can Play. But gradually he left lacrosse behind.

For the first time, he says, he was out as "a regular gay man." Living outside of the sports world was an education.

He needed the break. But he also needed

lax. Eventually he joined a club team in his new hometown, Los Angeles.

Goldstein had earned a bit of fame in 2005, when ESPN aired his story. After a surge of contacts from athletes – many of them closeted and struggling – the emails had slowed to a trickle. But last winter, the former college star – now Dr. Andrew Goldstein, a medical researcher at UCLA doing groundbreaking work on a possible cure for prostate cancer – received an email that changed not only his life, but a 12-year-old boy's.

Along with that youngster's family, friends and now countless other strangers.

Braeden Lange's parents suspected he might be gay. When they asked the sixth grader, he told. His mother was proud of his self-knowledge and courage. His father came around fairly quickly.

Braeden came out to some friends in a group chat. Some were supportive. But middle schoolers can be cruel. There was cyberbullying, and real-space taunting.

Braeden withdrew. He cried himself to sleep. He talked about suicide.

Braeden's mother Mandy remembered seeing a story on a gay lacrosse player. She



Andrew Goldstein (left), Braeden and Courage Game co-founder Nick Welton (right).

and her husband Scott found the ESPN piece. Immediately, they contacted Goldstein.

He read their email at a propitious time. He'd just hear of the suicide of trans youth Leelah Alcorn. Goldstein vowed not to miss this opportunity to help a child in trouble.

"When I was that age, no one ever told me my life would be OK," Goldstein recalls. "I always thought, if I got the chance to tell my younger self that life would be fine, I'd seize it."

He did far more than seize a golden opportunity. Soon after contacting Braeden, he sent him that long-ago ESPN video. And his old Long Island Lizards helmet.

Goldstein and his husband, Jamie Duneier, already planned to be in New York two weeks later. They quickly asked the Langes to join them.

Incredibly, the day they met was Goldstein's birthday. The family gave him souvenirs from Braeden's tournaments. The youngster was shy – "like any 12-year-old would be," Goldstein explains.

Then the boy said, "Your helmet may not have meant a lot to you. But it meant so much to me." He handed Goldstein a birthday card, with a note. He wrote that receiving the video was "the best day of my life." Now he was "unstoppable." He thanked Goldstein for being his role model, and his friend.

The two lacrosse players headed off to Central Park, carrying their sticks. "We were just two athletes playing catch," Goldstein says.

But that was just a warmup. Goldstein wanted to do something else – perhaps a talk at Braeden's school. Administrators nixed that idea (though Goldstein did end up talking about medicine to his science class).

A better idea was to organize a lacrosse game – one that would send the message that being gay is fine.

Over the next few frenetic weeks, Goldstein worked with Nick Wilson, a Seattle-area coach, to set up the show of support.

Goldstein, Wilson and You Can Play co-founder Glenn Wittman called in favors. A former Dartmouth lacrosse coach offered to officiate. Braeden's mom solicited donations from local businesses. Nike donated jerseys.

On Memorial Day weekend – the day before the NCAA Division I championship match in Philadelphia, hundreds of lacrosse players and allies took part in The Courage Game. It was an incredible outpouring of support. Braeden's friends and teammates were there. They saw him not as gay, but as a hero.

ESPN featured the game on SportsCenter. Many viewers emailed Braeden directly. They called him a role model.

Braeden Lange is still only 13. He just entered seventh grade. But – like his own role model, Andrew Goldstein – this lacrosse player is already paying it forward.

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](mailto:OutField@qsyndicate.com).

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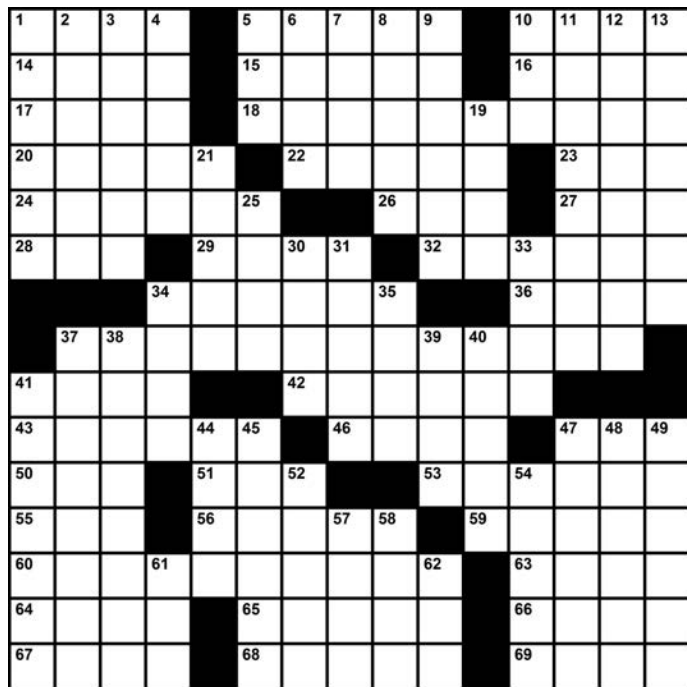


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# Q Puzzle



- 37 New TV comedy of
- 41 Like a meticulous bottom?
- 42 Comedies that are an Oscar Wilde forte
- 43 Insertion marks
- 46 Linda Hunt's "The \_\_\_ of Living Dangerously"
- 47 Comics outburst
- 50 "Yadda, yadda, yadda," briefly
- 51 Emissions-watching org.
- 53 "Psycho" psycho
- 55 P on Socrates' paper
- 56 Fashion photographer Herb
- 59 Prolonged attack
- 60 2000 mockumentary film of 17-Across
- 63 Fox comedy with
- 64 Top's betting phrase?
- 65 Bone-chilling
- 66 Angelina Jolie's " \_\_\_ Interrupted"
- 67 "Hairspray" list
- 68 \_\_\_ Ste. Marie, Mich.
- 69 Femme character in "Mango Kiss"
- 9 Bianchi's tool
- 10 Native land
- 11 In between breeder sex and birth
- 12 Everything considered
- 13 Sandra Scoppettone genre
- 19 Where to see rabbit ears?
- 21 Dorothy, to Em
- 25 Chemist's condiment
- 30 Dog of Dennis the Menace
- 31 Fine mist
- 33 Fruity drinks
- 34 Rubberneck
- 35 Long-ago time, to Shakespeare
- 37 Gay life style is this to many religious conservatives
- 38 Deep stupor
- 39 Big name in shoes
- 40 They hold your meat in a deli
- 41 Biting
- 44 Garr of "Tootsie"
- 45 Bones in the back
- 47 Flyer Earhart
- 48 Men in shorts
- 49 Gets on one's knees
- 52 In a fog
- 54 Filmmaker Marlon
- 57 Via, briefly
- 58 Get dirty
- 61 Explosive stick
- 62 Lube brand

## The Lynch-Pin of Comedy

### Across

- 1 Get ready for a trip to P-town
- 5 Gin diluter
- 10 Low-quality meat
- 14 Sea bordering Kazakhstan
- 15 He repealed DADT
- 16 Where to get off in gay Paree
- 17 Funny thespian Lynch
- 18 2008 movie comedy of
- 20 From the top

- 22 Moth tail?
- 23 Coll. basketball competition
- 24 "Oh What a Beautiful \_\_\_"
- 26 Paul Cadmus' output
- 27 One, for James M. Barrie
- 28 In-case connector
- 29 Features of Disney's Dumbo
- 32 2009 James Cameron film
- 34 Have troops in
- 36 Timothy or his sister Tyne

### Down

- 1 "The \_\_\_ Game"
- 2 Home of Bloody Mary's mom
- 3 "Cock-eyed Optimist" shade of yellow
- 4 Calvin of underwear
- 5 Rocky top
- 6 Double reed instrument
- 7 Feisty female in "The Lion King"
- 8 "... \_\_\_ man with seven wives"

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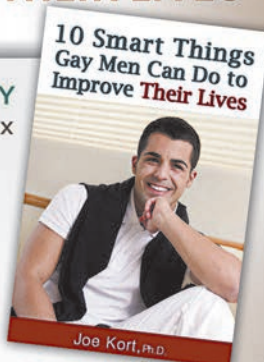
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# Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

## Cara Delevingne has a lot of acting jobs now

It's more likely that you know Cara Delevingne from seeing her modeling in the pages of "Vogue," or from her appearance in Taylor Swift's "Bad Blood" video, than from her starring role in the little-seen summer film "Paper Towns." (Let's just say not a lot of tickets were sold.) But you'll be seeing a lot more of the bisexual British actor – she's currently dating acclaimed singer-songwriter St. Vincent – in the coming year. Right around the corner is the Peter Pan adaptation, "Pan," with Hugh Jackman; the Johnny Depp-starring crime-thriller "London Fields," which is based on the Martin Amis novel; and she's playing "Enchantress" in the highly anticipated 2016 DC Comics film "Suicide Squad." Not that you'll be missing Ms. Delevingne in the modeling world anytime soon. She's still very young, after all, and that's a gig that'll last until you turn, say, 25. After that, it helps if you've got movie stardom to fall back on. It looks like she will.



Cynthia Nixon. Photo: Joe Seer

Posey, Maggie Q and Alice Eve. Roth and Thurman play an eccentric con-artist couple in debt to gangster boss Maggie Q. After being sold out by former associate Fry, the pair have to stage a jewel heist to dissuade Q from, you know, murdering them. The movie is currently shooting in New York and due sometime in 2016.

## Cynthia Nixon meets 'James White'

Josh Mond. You don't know that name. It's OK. He co-produced the acclaimed "Martha Marcy May Marlene," and has just completed his debut feature, "James White," which premieres at the Toronto International Film Festival in the Discovery Programme, and has already received the 2015 Sundance "Best of Next" Award. You do know Cynthia Nixon, however, and she's one of that film's cast members, alongside up-and-comer Christopher Abbott ("Girls"), Ron Livingston, musician Scott "Kid Cudi" Mescudi and Mackenzie Leigh ("Gotham"). The story revolves around a self-destructive young man's coming of age, and it's earning the kind of buzz first-time filmmakers dream of getting. After its bow in Toronto, look for a November release for the serious-minded drama, just in time for those brooding winter months.

## Stephen Fry is 'Coming'

The "Favorite Homosexual Award" doesn't exist, but if it did, we'd want to give it to Stephen Fry ("Wilde") every day of his life. The British comic actor and writer is hilarious, wickedly clever, confidently old and paunchy, and, best of all, possessed of a steadfast refusal to suffer right-wing fools. So it's always nice to hear about him working in something worthy of his talent. That would be the new comedy from James Oakley, "The Brits are Coming," co-starring Fry alongside Tim Roth, Uma Thurman, Parker

## Netflix's trans teen show

Acclaimed indie filmmakers Zal Batmanglij and Brit Marling ("Sound of My Voice") are moving to Netflix. This makes perfect sense, of course, as the pair represent a kind of Hollywood refusal. Their movies have stubbornly resisted fitting into big studio marketing plans, and that's exactly the kind of filmmaker Netflix programming has championed, resulting in the network's critical and commercial success. Their upcoming series is called "The OA," and the details are fairly secret, but we do know that it stars writer-actor Marling. We've also learned that a casting call is out for a teenage, Asian, transgender male, a person who will be carrying the weight of a major role in the project. Hollywood casting offices are not exactly clamoring to see young trans actors, so the role will most likely be filled by an unknown. But if you want more happy evidence that "Time" magazine's "Trans Tipping Point" headline is becoming reality, here it is. And look for the show on Netflix in mid-2016.

Romeo San Vicente pretty much invented the practice of "Netflix and chill." He can be reached care of this publication or at [DeepInsideHollywood.com](http://DeepInsideHollywood.com) or [qsyndicate.com](http://qsyndicate.com).

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