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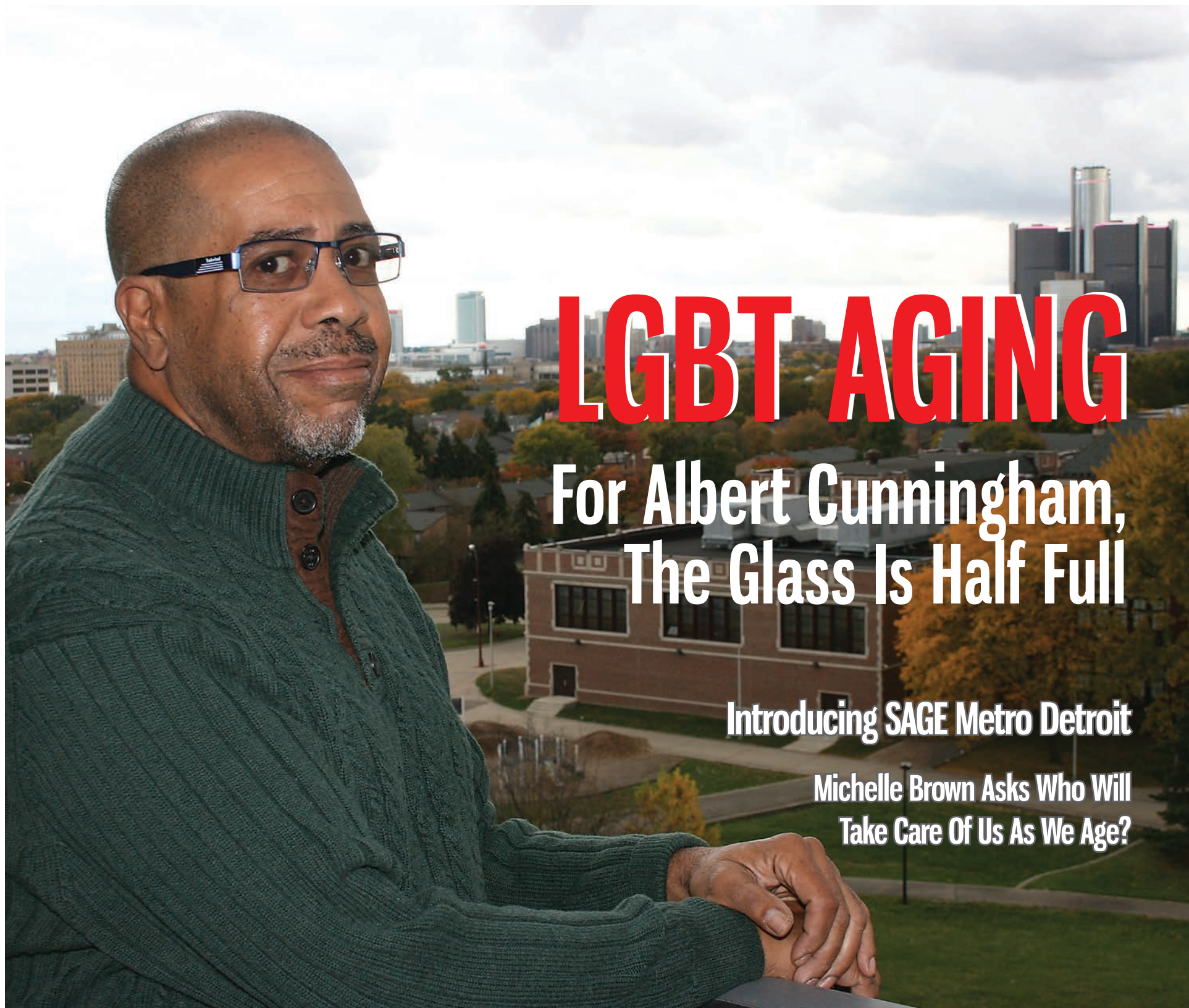


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- PG. 18



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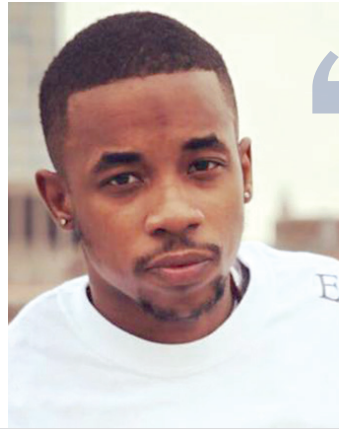
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“ I didn’t want to play with Barbie dolls or be in the body I was born into. Mentally, emotionally and physically I yearned to be the opposite, which was male. ”

– Seven King

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BRIEFS

High School Students Gather To Ask, 'Is Race Real?'

DEARBORN – A racially diverse group of 250 high school students from throughout southeast Michigan will gather Nov. 7 for a day-long youth leadership summit on race.

Co-sponsored by New Detroit to develop strategies for improving race relations in their schools and neighborhoods, the summit will include students from 70 high schools in Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties. The event was planned by 25 youth members of New Detroit's Youth Leadership Team who chose the theme "Is Race Real?" and will beg the question: is race biological or a social construct?

"The future of race relations in Metro Detroit is in the hands of our young people," said New Detroit President and CEO Shirley Stancato. "Our annual Youth Leadership Summit proves that young people from all races and socio-economic backgrounds can work together to confront issues related to racial justice.

David Hunt, a nationally recognized advocate for social change, will present as the guest speaker. Hunter is known for using storytelling as a leadership tool to facilitate an environment of healing where the voices and visions of all that are gathered can be shared and heard.

"The conference allows young people to interact with a diverse group of students their age in a safe setting where they can discuss race and issues related to race," said Stancato. "It is often the first time many of our participants are in an environment where they openly discuss race in such a diverse setting and it gives them the inspiration they need to change the future of race relations by starting with their own community."

The summit will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Kochoff Hall on the University of Michigan Dearborn campus located at 4901 Evergreen Road in Dearborn.

Temple Israel Hosts Non-Binary Discussion

WEST BLOOMFIELD – An upcoming event co-sponsored by Stand with Trans and Temple Israel will discuss what it means to be non-binary and gender non-conforming at 7 p.m. on Nov. 12.

Toni Caretto, Ph.D., clinical psychologist who works with gender variance, and Stephen L. Rassi, Ph.D., LMSW, a clinical social worker, will present "Gender: Wrapping Your Mind Around Diversity," a discussion on the gender spectrum and why some individuals don't identify as either male or female. The presentation will look at ways to acknowledge and

work with misperceptions about gender and help to shift conceptualizations about non-binary people so that understanding and acceptance of gender creative or gender non-conforming identities becomes more normal.

"We are seeing more transgender kids move from a male or female identity to one of gender creative, gender fluid or non-binary. It's a difficult concept to understand, even for the most supportive and accepting parents," said Roz Keith, co-facilitator of the ongoing Parents of Transgender Children support group and founder of Stand with Trans.

Discussion is free and open to parents and families of trans children, educators, social workers, school counselors and anyone seeking out further information about the diverse gender spectrum.

Temple Israel is located at 5725 Walnut Lake Road in West Bloomfield. To RSVP email Laura at Laura@temple-israel.org.

Tyler Oakley To Be Honored At GLAAD San Francisco

GLAAD announced Oct. 29 it will honor Michigan native Tyler Oakley at GLAAD Gala San Francisco at the Hilton San Francisco Union Square on Nov. 7.

Oakley will receive the Davidson/Valentini Award, which is presented to an LGBT media professional who has made a significant difference in promoting equality and acceptance for the LGBT community.

With nearly 8 million subscribers on YouTube, Tyler Oakley has become one of the most influential LGBT personalities on social media today, consistently using his platform to build understanding and acceptance of the LGBT community. His social media presence has launched a career in entertainment, with a podcast that has reached number one in the iTunes podcast chart and a national tour under his belt. Named one of Time Magazine's "30 Most Influential People on the Internet," Oakley has spoken with hundreds of media outlets about the importance of LGBT equality and acceptance, and he's used his fame to raise over a million dollars for The Trevor Project, the nation's leading organization providing crisis and suicide prevention services to LGBT youth.

"Tyler Oakley has inspired countless young LGBT people to embrace who they are and live the lives they love," said GLAAD CEO & President Sarah Kate Ellis. "As one of YouTube's most recognizable names and a champion of LGBT youth, he's proven time and again that digital media plays a crucial role in accelerating acceptance."

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Aging: For Albert Cunningham, The Glass Is Half Full

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Albert Cunningham III lived a comfortable life growing up. “I was born in Chicago in 1952 to schoolteacher parents and grew up in the cookie cutter ‘50s,” he recalled. “I was very fortunate that I came from a family that was very upwardly mobile. So I enjoyed a relatively idyllic childhood.”

Cunningham was barely a teenager when he got his first writing gig. He wrote an advice column for young people for *The Bulletin*, his local paper on the south side of Chicago.

“My family said to me, ‘You’ll never make any money as a writer so if you want to become a writer, you need to be a lawyer,’” said Cunningham. “So for a long time that was my thought that I would. But then I decided I didn’t want to be a lawyer.”

Cunningham started his college career in Atlanta, at what was then known as Clark College.

“That was the year of the Kent State and Jackson State killings and I was in Atlanta and Lester Maddox was the governor of Georgia,” Cunningham said. “He threatened to send the Georgia National Guard through the Atlanta university complex if there was any suggestion there was going to be any disturbance on those campuses. It was a very intense time for a while.”

After a year, Cunningham switched to Talladega College, his mother’s alma mater, in Alabama.

“I wrote for the *Anniston Star* newspaper, which is a pretty amazing thing when you consider the history of *Anniston* and all the racially motivated things that went on there only a few years before I got there,” said Cunningham. “But that was my first real kind of cub reporter experience.”

Soon enough, Cunningham moved on to a third college, the University of Illinois at Springfield, where after testing out of undergrad he went on to his get his master’s degree.

His master’s was in Communication in a Technological Society, “Which is really ironic since it was 1974 and state of the art was the IBM Selectric typewriter,” Cunningham said. “Coming out of that master’s program is when I kind of accepted OK, I’m gay. The year that I turned 21, 1973, was also the year that homosexuality came out of the (American Psychiatric Association’s Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders). So it all began to come together for me. But it wasn’t until I moved back to Chicago and took a job with the city that I kind of came out. By then I was 24. I got very involved locally at that point in dealing with discrimination in the gay bars against black people and having to show all kinds of ID ... just the kind of racism that was in Chicago.”



Executive Director of LGBT Detroit, Curtis Lipscomb talking with Albert Cunningham. Cunningham has served in multiple communications jobs throughout his life. He came out in 1973 when he turned 21. Cunningham sees the struggles of growing older outweighed by the blessing of having survived. Photo: Courtesy of Douglas Communications.

For the city of Chicago, Cunningham found himself writing speeches and other work. But soon he felt a calling to work in entertainment and headed for California.

“I moved to L.A. in 1979 to become a part of the entertainment industry as a writer,” said Cunningham. “That was certainly just at the cusp of everything – disco, Donna Summer. So it was quite an amazing time to be in L.A.”

“I was very fortunate to get a chance to work in nationally syndicated radio, writing and producing for Anheuser-Busch,” Cunningham continued. “Then I was even more fortunate to get the opportunity to principally write and produce a 24-hour radio special called the ‘Music of Black America,’ which was also sponsored by Anheuser-Busch and hosted by Lou Rawls and a very popular DJ from L.A. named J.J. Johnson. That was in 1982, and I left L.A. after that satisfied that I had done what I had come to do. I had never enjoyed living there.”

Next it was onto New Orleans.

“I sort of got out of entertainment per se, although I eventually became the entertainment editor for the *Louisiana Weekly* newspaper,” Cunningham said.

He spent four years in New Orleans before love led him to Washington, D.C.

“That’s where I got involved in HIV related work,” said Cunningham. “I was the first communication director for the National

Minority AIDS Council. I had been the minority affairs writer for the National AIDS Network. I became the media coordinator for the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention then the media coordinator for the San Francisco Black Coalition on AIDS. And, ultimately, (I became) a consultant like everybody else who ends up without a job in that kind of work does.”

Cunningham was passionate about his work in HIV, but soon opportunities dried up for him in Washington and he made another move.

“I moved to Newark, New Jersey, in 2002,” he said. “I went to work first for Planned Parenthood and then as a manager of the Newark Technical Assistance Project, which provided information and assistance to organizations starting HIV programs. Then I became the manager of a homeless drop-in center – HIV related program. And in 2012 Chris Christie, the governor of New Jersey, defunded this program and a bunch of others and we transformed that program into the Newark LGBTQ Center, which is what we had wanted it to be anyway. But in the meantime, I didn’t find any more work and in December 2013 Congress defunded extended unemployment benefits.”

Cunningham found himself financially strapped and at a personal crossroads. He turned 62 in February of 2014 and, unable to find full time employment, elected to start

receiving social security. But the cost of living in New Jersey was high.

“A cousin of mine suggested that Detroit would be a less expensive and decent place to live,” said Cunningham. “So I moved here in May. Within a week, after having been on a waiting list for years in Newark, I found this apartment building.”

It’s a senior citizen’s apartment building and perhaps not the hippest place for a gay man who looks much younger than his 63 years to live. But it affords him a lovely view of downtown Detroit and Windsor and he’s happy to now be living in the Motor City.

“I’m thrilled with my living surroundings and I found a part-time job at Whole Foods in Midtown, which is not a bad place to work and gives me a little additional income to do things I like to do.”

But Whole Foods is only a part-time job.

“I have a job at Whole Foods but my work is as a writer and multimedia producer and so I spend the most productive part of my time working on my various creative projects,” Cunningham explained. “Most recently that has included making some strides on my story of my HIV involvement from the late ‘80s on and also my personal and professional career as a journalist.”

Cunningham said he feels he owes something to today’s LGBT youth.

“I think older people have an important

“ I think older people have an important responsibility to younger people to provide them with whatever informational and narrative history that will help them navigate the world that they are being left.”

- Albert Cunningham

responsibility to younger people to provide them with whatever informational and narrative history that will help them navigate the world that they are being left,” he said. “I think it’s important for older people to definitely reflect for the benefit for the younger people. At the same time I’m very much aware that my generation has been betrayed by the government, by the people who are supposed to be representing us, in terms of the economy and employment. I’m someone who was making upwards of \$25 an hour and I’m happy to be making \$10 an hour and that, I think, is not an isolated story. The greed factor in America is out of control.

“It’s also important to agitate and protest and do what we can to change things,” Cunningham continued. “The violence in America, the refusal to deal with issues around guns and so forth, makes me – as an older person – realize that it’s really important for me to let younger people know ... we’re looking to them to be the future and my experience of a lot of them is that they’re very fatalistic. They’re almost suicidal, some of them, and that disturbs me greatly. I think we have to do whatever we can to help them feel a sense of if not optimism, at least a desire to survive.”

As he gets older, Cunningham admits that there are challenges, such as dating.

“I feel that there’s a challenge in meeting other people socially in my general age range,” he said. “But I think the challenges, to be quite honest, are far outweighed by the benefits of having survived and if nothing else just appreciating what it means to have survived when so many people around you have fallen.

“That’s the other thing that I really want to share with people,” Cunningham continued. “Ultimately we’re all going out of here the same way. But I think it’s much more about how you can live in the meantime in spite of unfathomable grief over so many people whose lives touched mine and then just disappeared before my eyes. I’ve found a great deal of joy and that’s something that I am also determined that no one can take from me, and I want to share that with other people, too.”

So for Cunningham, the struggles of growing older are outweighed by the blessing of having survived.

“There are certainly physical and other kinds of issues that one becomes aware of,” he said. “But I’m glad that I had my fun while I was young and spent money and did things that weren’t considered prudent. Because, at this point, I have a lot of memories that make it much easier for me to live on much less and I think that’s not a bad thing either.”

Cunningham chooses to see the glass as half full.

“Given the way that I grew up and my expectations of life, I would have thought that I would have been much more financially successful at this point, and yet that’s not the way that it has worked out,” he said. “I could sit around and wring my hands or whatever and pretend that I’m still able to be a conspicuous consumer or something of that sort. But that’s not what I choose. Instead I choose to spend my resources on living as healthily and as intelligently and consciously in this globally challenged ecological world that we’re in and trying to model for other people what it means to not be so materialistically oriented.”

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Bill For LGBT Seniors Introduced

ORIGINALLY REPORTED IN SOUTH FLORIDA GAY NEWS

U.S. Congressmen Patrick E. Murphy and Ted Deutch have introduced a bill recognizing a pioneering lesbian couple while establishing safeguards for elderly LGBT Americans.

Murphy and Deutch, South Florida Democrats, joined with Oregon Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici to sponsor the Ruthie and Connie LGBT Elder Americans Act. The bill, introduced Oct. 21, aims to improve the Older Americans Act (OAA) by better serving LGBT seniors who, studies show, face higher rates of poverty, pronounced social isolation and restricted health care access due to past discrimination and barriers in the aging system.

"I am humbled to introduce this legislation in honor of two of my constituents, Ruthie Berman and Connie Kurtz, who have been true champions for LGBT equality," Murphy said in a news release.

Berman and Kurtz began their love affair as neighbors in Brooklyn, N.Y. They had children with their husbands, divorced them and fell in love with each other. Berman and Kurtz made headlines when they successfully sued the New York City Board of Education for domestic partner benefits for city employees. The women have since moved to Palm Beach County to live out their golden years in the Florida sunshine.

"I first met Ruthie and Connie while serving in the Florida State Senate, and I was immediately inspired by their commitment to each other and to equality for all LGBT Americans," Deutch stated.

The bill has been endorsed by the Services & Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Elders, better known as SAGE.

"LGBT older adults face profound challenges that require unique services and supports, and this bill is a major step forward for elders in every part of the country. While it's no secret that it's difficult to move legislation through Congress in this polarized environment, the proposed act should be common sense for anybody interested in fairness for LGBT people," said Michael Adams, SAGE Chief Executive Officer, in a press release.

Lawsuit Seeks 3rd Option Besides Male, Female On US Passport

(AP) – A Michigan-born, Colorado resident who was denied a passport for refusing to identify as either male or female on the application form has sued the federal government to try to force the United States to join a handful of other countries that allow people to get travel documents without picking a gender.

Lambda Legal announced the lawsuit Oct. 26 on behalf of Dana Zzyym (pronounced Zimm) of Fort Collins, Colorado, who was born with ambiguous sex characteristics – referred to as intersex. It names Secretary of State John Kerry as a defendant and claims that requiring people to check a box marked either "M" or "F" is discriminatory and asks people like Zzyym to lie.

"I defended the rights of this country. I believe I should be able to use a few of them," said the self-described Air Force brat.

One of Zzyym's lawyers, Paul Castillo, said people with such foreign travel documents are permitted to enter the U.S., and he suggested that federal officials also allow an "x" option on its passport applications.

Ashley Garrigus, a spokeswoman for the State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs, said the department would not comment on pending litigation.

It's not clear how many people would want to take advantage of the "x" option. Castillo said an estimated 1.7 percent of the population is intersex – making them about as common as people with red hair – but some identify as men or women, unlike Zzyym.

Lambda Legal previously joined other groups in pressing the State Department to change its passport policy for transgender people. Since 2010, people who undergo gender reassignment surgery have been able to change the gender on their passport with certification from a doctor. Temporary passports also are granted to people who are going through a gender transition.

Castillo said there is no gender listed on Zzyym's birth certificate. Zzyym's parents raised their child as a boy, when Zzyym underwent some medical procedures to change characteristics. Zzyym later served in the U.S. Navy as a man before identifying as intersex while working and studying at Colorado State University.



SAGE Metro Detroit board members, pictured L-R: Mary Sexton, Pat Baldwin, Kathleen LaTosch, Agustin Arbulu, Jay Kaplan, Andrea Mulheisen, Judy Lewis, Karen Love and Cornelius Wilson. Not pictured: Kathryn Bartz, Maceo Coleman, Shelby Patterson, Angie Perone, Jim Sechelski and Carl Weiler. BTL Photo: AJ Trager

Introducing SAGE Metro Detroit

BY AJ TRAGER

In 2010 a dedicated group of volunteers, operating as the LGBT Older Adult Coalition, began looking for ways to better serve the aging LGBT community in southeast Michigan. On Oct. 28, an initiative by the coalition that started this past January was officially realized when it renamed itself "SAGE Metro Detroit."

SAGE, Services & Advocacy For Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Elders, is the country's largest and longest serving organization dedicated to improving the lives of LGBT older adults and offers innovative services and programs to LGBT older adults nationwide.

The new Metro Detroit chapter is just one of 29 chapters serving 21 states across the country. Through its work, the Metro Detroit chapter of SAGE will provide premier LGBT cultural competency training, help create safe spaces and provide a framework for many programs and services that are lacking for LGBT older adults in the area.

"So, I kind of feel like we should be playing the celebration song. This is truly exciting. This has been a lot of work and this is just a huge momentous day for us all," said Kathleen LaTosch, board member of SAGE Metro Detroit.

The Hope Fund of the Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan provided the first grant to the LGBT Older Adult Coalition when it first started in 2010 and helped kick off the programs and services organized by the LGBT Older Adult Coalition.

Already working on other LGBT advocacy projects in the area, LaTosch, Judy Lewis and Jay Kaplan wanted better information on how to advise LGBT older adults in Metro Detroit on how to get access to safe and affirming care, aging services and housing and wanted to know how to prevent LGBT older adults from going back into the closet.

"The three of us who had been working in the community for a decade or more looked at one another, scratched our heads and said, 'Wow, we don't have any good LGBT

affirming referrals for people in our community – that's a problem, and we need to make changes in this area,'" said LaTosch.

The first LGBT Older Adult Summit was held in 2010. With close to 100 people in attendance, they helped identify what the needs of the aging Detroit LGBT community are. The day-long conference, which has been held for five consecutive years, continues to draw over 100 people each year.

"We have a tremendous number of ideas but we don't have a tremendous amount of money," Lewis said. "But, we're going to do the best we can. What has made this so successful and what I think will continue to make this successful is the fact that people have reached out and said, 'Come join my program. I am changing my policy to include sexual orientation and gender identity and we will have accountability.'"

Over the past five years the coalition partnered with the State of Michigan

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► SAGE Metro Detroit

Continued from p. 8

Offices of Services to the Aging to launch the first ever statewide needs assessment for LGBT older adults in the nation and captured the responses of over 750 individuals. The Michigan assessment remains the only survey conducted focusing entirely on the needs of LGBT older adults.

The coalition also launched a cultural competency project with all three of the area agencies on aging that, with the aid of two certified trainers from the National Resource

friends that we exist and to become visible to us. We won't share lists, but we know there are people out there who are disengaged. And we really want to engage everyone in this community," Lewis emphasized.

Lewis will serve as volunteer chair of SAGE Metro Detroit with Jay Kaplan as volunteer vice chair. The website www.lgbtolderadults.com will soon change its brand to SAGE Metro Detroit as will all further activities such as the older adult summit held annually in June. Those looking to donate to the organization can do so by contacting Lewis at judithlewis@gmail.com.

The organization will have two offices: one

“The three of us who had been working in the community for a decade or more looked at one another, scratched our heads and said, ‘Wow, we don’t have any good LGBT affirming referrals for people in our community – that’s a problem, and we need to make change in this area.’”

- Kathleen LaTosch.

on LGBT Aging, was able to train hundreds of service providers in the area over the past five years on LGBT cultural competency. The three area agencies on aging collectively serve seven counties in Metro Detroit and receive 350 calls a year from older adults seeking services.

“We have a lot more to do,” LaTosch said. “The reason we became the SAGE Metro Detroit affiliate was because we wanted to pull everything that was being done together under one umbrella and make it really clean, simple and pull all our resources together to make it more effective and more efficient.”

The SAGE application was sent to SAGE national this past summer and the approval was sent to LaTosch just a few months later in September. LaTosch said that the process was relatively smooth.

“The reason this is so successful is because it is truly a collaboration and a coalition of groups coming together,” LaTosch said.

“The one thing that we really ask you to do if at all possible: tell your older adult LGBT

north of 8 Mile at Affirmations Community Center in Ferndale and one south of 8 Mile at The Luella Hannan Memorial Foundation located near Warren on Woodward, to better serve the community and “meet people where they are,” LaTosch said.

Local affiliated organizations that helped get the LGBT Older Adult Coalition established include: LGBT Detroit, The Luella Hannan Memorial Foundation, Nonprofit Enterprises at Work, Equality Michigan, State of Michigan Aging and Adult Services Agency, AARP, Area Agency On Aging 1A-Detroit, Area Agency On Aging 1-B, Area Agency on Aging 1-C and Community Connections.

INFO

SAGE Metro Detroit

>> The website www.lgbtolderadults.com will soon change its brand to SAGE Metro Detroit

There are an estimated 22,000 LGBT elders over the age of 65 living in Oakland, Macomb and Wayne Counties right now. Another 20,000 will hit the 65-year-old mark by 2020. This tidal wave of aging baby boomers, known by mainstream aging service providers as the “Silver Tsunami,” also comes in lavender and teal.



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Midwest Premiere

Devil Dog Six

by

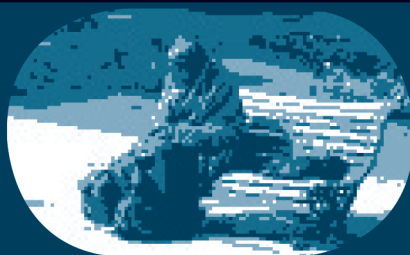
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THRU
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May 26
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A homeless man and a homeless woman, both aged beyond their years, one once a prominent neurosurgeon, the other a would be novelist who never got there, share a desolate space with the feel of a world that is not quite real, with two park benches, two overstuffed carts, scattered litter, milk crates, buckets, a trashcan and of course whiskey. What is truth and what is imagined is always a question. Two unreachable people touch.

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Groundbreaking Show With All Trans Male Cast To Be Screened In Detroit

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Seven King grew up amid hip hop royalty. His father was Mr. Ness of Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five. But his early years were tumultuous. Born biologically female, King knew that gender identity didn't fit.

"I identified as being male at 4 years old," King, now 27, said. "I didn't want to play with Barbie dolls or be in the body I was born into. Mentally, emotionally and physically I yearned to be the opposite, which was male."

While King's mother had religious issues that made it difficult for her to accept her transgender child, King did find support from his famous father. "Growing up was not easy," said King. "There was a lot of dysfunction in the household between my parents. I was always creative, talented and had a lot of fire inside. But I felt like I was the black sheep of the family. I felt different, thought different and just knew from an early age that I was here for a greater purpose than I could think of at the time."

King moved out of his house when he was only 13.

"I left by choice," he recalled. "I left because I wanted to be grown before my time. I also left because I was turned off by certain things inside my household. I lived with my girlfriend and her family. They treated me like they were my own family. Eventually, I went back home. Life can test you, especially a young person with no stability or income. People ain't going to take care of you forever."

Amid the dysfunction in his house, King drew into himself and discovered a wealth of talent.

"I was always gifted," he said. "I knew how to write and express myself differently from a young age. I naturally knew how to draw and create. I was gifted in a lot of areas but wanted to find one thing I could put everything I was passionate about into. Filmmaking was that for me. Expressing myself through visual art, writing scripts and storytelling... filmmaking was it for me."

One of King's first major projects was the documentary "The Rebirth of Paris," which was sort of a sequel to the classic "Paris is Burning," which examined life in New York's legendary ballroom scene. Now, King has moved on to developing a web series called "Eden's Garden" featuring an all trans male cast.

"I wrote an explicit, heartfelt and



Seven King

SCREENING

Eden's Garden

A screening in two parts, 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13 and 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14. The screenings will take place at the Wayne State University Prevention Team offices located at 60 W. Hancock in Midtown. The suggested donation for both days is \$20, which is payable at the door. Due to limited space, an RSVP is required and can be made at <http://edensgardenpremiere.eventbrite.com>.

picked up by a major network," he said. "Right now, I'm working to increase the funding for this project. I have a gofundme page (www.gofundme.com/edensgarden), and I'm expanding the message and submitting the show to multiple film festivals."

King is being brought to town next week by the newly created Trans Sistas of Color Project to screen the show in Detroit for the first time. "I feel in the media there is a trans revolution going on, so the timing is perfect for a show like this," said King. "But even though the transgender story is being talked about a lot more now, the story of the trans-male is still invisible. America is a culture that has dynamic history when it comes to humans, race and politics, and transitioning as a man of color is just one story that needs to be told."

honest show regarding the trans-male experience," said King. "I hope this show opens a window for the world to understand the individual that happens to be the trans male. I hope this show connects people and brings respect to people who choose to transition and live their life as any other person. I hope it brings understanding and clarity to people who still have narrow views of the transgender experience."

King described "Garden" as a "dramedy" that tells the story of Eden, which King plays himself, and his four friends. In the show, King draws from personal experience to tell the myriad stories of the trans male experience, and the black trans male experience in particular.

"I put myself in the show to be an example and to lead by action, to show that I will out myself for the purpose and vision," King said. "That energy created a domino effect to everyone involved in the series. Everyone basically put their personal life aside and focused on the script, the message and the bigger picture." The show's first season can be found on YouTube. Production is currently underway for the second season, and King is trying to find a home for it on television.

"My goal is to have 'Eden's Garden'

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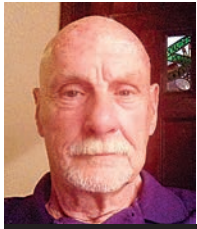
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A Hug At A Time Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

I don't recall growing up as a kid and getting or giving hugs. Hugs were not part of my family life.

I also don't recall as a teenager getting or giving hugs to other gay teenagers. Back in the late 1950s, men – straight, gay, bi – didn't demonstrate affection in public. Period.

Not only was hugging a no-no for gays and lesbians outside of gay bars, but holding hands was out of the question. Same-sex dancing in a bar was wishful thinking.

(You could be ticketed, possibly arrested, for dancing together, even if you were a professional dance instructor. And God knows many a fox-trotting, samba-stepping Arthur Murray dance instructor was gay.)

As far as personal hugging goes, I've come a long, long way. I now hug freely. I now hug happily. I even comfortably hug straight women. (You've got to be kidding, Mary!)

Not only was hugging a no-no for gays and lesbians outside of gay bars, but holding hands was out of the question. Same-sex dancing in a bar was wishful thinking.

And last August in Chicago for Halstead Market Days I hugged nine people at the landmark Water Tower, greeting each, "Thanks, you've just hugged a gay person."

More than half of my adult life was hug free. My friends didn't hug, or if they did, it was so rare that no one thought about it one way or the other. I came to the act of hugging – embarrassed, cautiously, shyly – born out of a desperate need to reach out at a critical time in my life.

In 1982, following alcohol rehab, I started attending sobriety meetings, and on Sundays retreating for non-drinking social regrouping and much-needed sanity to Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit, when it was then located in Central Methodist Church near Grand Circus Park.

For weeks I sat in the last row of the church sanctuary. I listened inattentively. I observed vacantly. Shaky. Another week ended, but also began with a touchstone to my long-neglected spiritual past. I spoke to no one. I left quickly.

On Mondays I began another uncertain work week, determined – muddled though my thinking was from years of martini meddling – to make things better. Hopefully. One day at a time.

One Sunday before I could dart out, an usher stood between me and a side-door exit, introduced himself, invited me to stay for coffee.

Touching me gently he added, "Here. I think you need a hug. May I? It doesn't hurt, you know." (Oh, if he only knew.) I was inwardly touched. Outwardly moved. Just when I needed someone to reaffirm my long-lost worth. My nearly forgotten human dignity.

"I'm Jimmy Carroll. In the future, you just might be a little more comfortable if you sat closer to our family of friends. We're here for each other."

Yes, it pleased me last August – 34 years sober – to find a group of young people – probably from the Moody Bible Institute – holding inviting signs at Chicago's Water Tower corner. "WE GIVE HUGS!"

I couldn't resist. I came out to them joyfully. Life's too short. Hug someone today.

Charles@pridesource.com



BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

Viewpoint

Aging: Taking Care Of Ourselves Includes Speaking Up For Those Most Vulnerable

I'm getting older. Aren't we all? From the moment our lives begin, we are on that road to the end of life as we know it. I'm in pretty good health and most days the brain cells are functioning optimally. Like many folks, I tend to live in the moment. For me, every day you wake up on the "right" side of the grass is a *good* day!

I probably haven't spent as much time as I should planning for my golden years. You know, there's always tomorrow! However, two films I viewed recently have had me thinking about just that.

I wasn't in a rush to see "Freeheld," an adaptation of a documentary about a lesbian couple who mounted a campaign to have pension benefits of a terminally ill lesbian go to her partner. After all, marriage equality is now the law of the land, so in most cases, this is a moot point. Right?

But as I watched the film, I got to thinking about my pension benefits. You see, for many years I worked for a Catholic institution and am entitled

to a pension from that institution. I'm not married right now but have to wonder what would happen if/when I do marry and I try to change my beneficiary to my spouse.

Would some bigoted review board, like that depicted in "Freeheld," emboldened by proposed Religious Freedom Restoration bills, block my assignment of my benefits to her? With mergers and acquisitions there's no telling who might hold the pension "purse strings" when the time comes.

Pensions, like social security, are one of those benefits we pay into assuming they will be available when the time comes for ourselves and families. But even having access to these benefits and the ability to leave them to our spouses/partners is no guarantee that our final years will be golden.

It's bad enough that we in the LGBTQ community can still be fired for being gay, but proposed RFRAs would exempt people from state and local laws if they can

prove those laws violate deeply held religious beliefs, in effect giving them a "license to discriminate." What if I need assistance to stay in my home or long-term care? Could my safety or health be compromised just because someone's "deeply held religious beliefs" would allow them to withhold or give me inadequate care?

The question of who will take care of us as we age is something we all wonder at some point. The documentary "Gen Silent" took me deeper down the "rabbit hole" of LGBTQ senior living. The 2010 documentary follows the lives of three couples and a transgender woman facing the challenges of building support networks to assist them in maintaining their quality of life as they age.

The people interviewed have for the most part lived "private lives" but like many from that generation have not been as "out" publicly as those of us from later generations.

See Brown: Aging, next page

Heard Online

LGBT And Allies React To Michigan LGBT Ballot Initiative

“ If Michigan LGBTQ folks do make the decision to attempt to get LGBTQ rights on the 2016 ballot, how do we ensure that transphobic scare tactics don't divide voters, like what we're seeing with Houston's 'No on Prop 1'? Perhaps Fair Michigan has already started reaching out to EQMI and other Michigan LGBTQ orgs ... but the fact that they're not yet on board and that the decision to pursue this petition drive was made without them — might that indicate that the Fair Michigan committee also doesn't have the foresight to anticipate anti-trans rhetoric and how to proactively counter it? ”

- LGBTQ Action Michigan

“ I'm not overly keen on having either the Legislature or the general electorate vote on civil rights. Theoretically, civil rights should be innate. But since the Legislature has shot it down for over a decade, I'd be in favor of trying the referendum route. Haven't got much to lose and everything to gain. To not support just because some folks beside local LGBT 'leadership' initiated the effort is ludicrous. It's about getting the job done, not who gets credit. ”

- Cindy C.

“ What's taking so long? Grab your pocket books and your picket signs. We can do side work or begin it by talking to voters. Bring back the gay liberation movement. ”

- Frank V.

See Heard: Ballot, page 18

What if I need assistance to stay in my home or long-term care? Could my safety or health be compromised just because someone's "deeply held religious beliefs" would allow them to withhold or give me inadequate care?

► Brown: Aging

Continued from p. 16

Often LGBTQ partnerships and marriages feel, to the couples, like it's just the two of us against the world. We may not have extended biological families or children. Despite growing acceptance in the community at-large, many of us remain estranged from our families.

The uncertainty of the quality of care or acceptance in healthcare/long-term care institutions is a reality and has many in the LGBTQ community wondering if we will have to go back "in the closet" one day if we are no longer able to take care of

ourselves.

Couple this with the fear of not having the financial resources to stay in our homes or maintain a decent quality of life, it paints a scary picture for aging LGBTQ people — very scary!

The good news is LGBTQ folks are great at making our own families and building our own networks. Our network/links are only getting stronger as we are "OUT" in our communities. This network now includes SAGE-Metro Detroit to fill in the gaps for our elders.

Marriage equality wasn't the end of our journey, only one step along the way. For us to no longer live in fear, to have full equality and equal rights/protections for

ourselves and our families, being in the closet is not an option. We must be out to our families, in our communities and for one another.

Activist and revolutionary Grace Lee Boggs often said, "The only reward for good work is more work." We've come a long way in a short time. We can serve openly in the military, get married and are gaining more protections through human rights ordinances in municipalities across the country. Progress, yes, but there is still much work to be done.

For those most vulnerable, especially our LGBTQ elders, the next chapter of our work must include being out for them so that their golden years and final days can be lived with dignity.

Michelle E. Brown is a public speaker, activist and author. You can follow her writing and activities at www.mychangeiam.com and on www.twitter.com/mychangeiam.

Creep of the Week

Ben Carson

Dear LGBT Community, This is a cease and desist letter regarding the accusation that Ben Carson is a homophobe. Stop such hurtful name calling at once. Carson himself declared himself



Ben Carson

Officially Not Homophobic during the Oct. 28 Republican Bitch Fest Debate.

When asked about his views about LGBT people he declared, "I believe our Constitution protects everybody regardless of their sexual orientation or any other aspect. I also believe marriage is between one man and one woman. There is no reason you can't be perfectly fair to the gay community."

See? His views are "perfectly fair"! He said so himself.

Now, you might point out that denying lesbians and gays the right to marry isn't exactly "fair" and has been declared unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court. You also might ask why, if the Constitution supposedly "protects everybody," are there so many states where you can be fired for being LGBT or even if you are just perceived to be LGBT?

To that I say: He was a neurosurgeon, you guys. Have you ever successfully separated conjoined twins? I didn't think so. So stop it with your judging.

Carson continued, "They shouldn't automatically assume that because you believe that marriage is between one man and one woman that you are a homophobe."

Yeah. "They" (a.k.a. "you") shouldn't be calling names and making assumptions.

"This is one of the myths that the left perpetrates on our society and this is how they frighten people and get people to shut up," Carson continued. "That's what the PC culture is all about and it's destroying this nation."

OMG! Quit destroying the nation, you guys! And stop being so scary with your demand for equality. And stop telling people to shut up, because that's not nice. And get a Mac. Enough with this PC bullshit. Windows is the worst. Remember Clippy from Microsoft Office? Yeah, well, so does Ben Carson. Never forget.

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

In order to clear Carson's name we need to ask ourselves just what is a homophobe anyway? So let's look at some hypothetical things a homophobe would do:

A homophobe would claim that being gay is a choice, and a bad one at that.

A homophobe would claim that people become gay after being in prison because of rape and stuff.

A homophobe would compare lesbians and gays to pedophiles and people who are into bestiality.

A homophobe would happily align himself with the desperately-clinging-to-hate group National Organization for Marriage. A homophobe would even sign their pledge "to take several

OMG! Quit destroying the nation, you guys! And stop being so scary with your demand for equality. And stop telling people to shut up, because that's not nice.

specific actions as president to restore marriage to the law and protect people of faith from discrimination because of their support for traditional marriage." In other words, to support a federal amendment to the Constitution stripping gays and lesbians of their right to marry.

A homophobe would look at Kentucky clerk Kim Davis and be all, "You go, girl. Rock on with your Judeo-Christian self!"

A homophobe would say that any federal judge who rules in favor of marriage equality should be forcibly removed by Congress.

A homophobe would declare that Congress should try to find some workaround to get out of having to follow the Supreme Court's decision that anti-gay marriage laws are unconstitutional.

See? These are totally homophobe moves and if we look at Carson's record we see... Wait a minute...

Well, I'll be. Those supposed hypotheticals are all things that Carson himself has said and done.

Conclusion: Carson is a homophobe after all. Feel free to continue calling him one loudly and often.

“When I think about Dana Nessel’s and Fair Michigan’s ballot proposal to amend Michigan’s constitution to include gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation protections, I worry that their decision was made in a vacuum without consulting leaders in the LGBT community. This is especially troubling for the Trans community, which continues to be the community most at risk. Trans people must speak for Trans people.”

- Char Davenport

“Rep. Jim Dressel introduced this bill back in October of 1983. It ended his career as a Republican politician. Thirty-three years is a long time to wait for basic protections against bigotry, without any progress and the knowledge that we have enemies who will campaign on stopping or repealing any progress we make. This Legislature can’t even fix our roads. Last year’s train wreck didn’t add any hope that this change to Elliot-Larsen will happen anytime soon. It all comes down to how badly we want this? If the LGBT grassroots is willing to put its heart on the line, and do the courageous work necessary, than we will have a shot at change. I don’t think we can afford to let LGBT leadership claim ownership of this challenge. That train has already left the station.”

- Rosemary R.

“I’m sensitive to the argument about putting my rights up for a vote, and it would be sweet to have a legislative solution, but lets be honest with ourselves here, how likely is it to get anything through the present Legislature without a huge carve-out for religious sensitivities, and how likely is it that the Dems will win both houses of the Legislature any time soon? So waiting for the Legislature to act means waiting a long time or else accepting a very flawed version of civil-rights legislation. And in any event, even if a robust civil-rights bill passed the Legislature and was signed by the governor, I would full expect our opponents to subject it to a referendum, so we’d still be in a position of having the public voting on our rights.”

- Don K.

National And State LGBT Orgs Urge Caution On 2016 Ballot Initiative

BY AJ TRAGER

LANSING – On Oct. 30, Dana Nessel, one of the four attorneys in the Michigan same-sex marriage case for *DeBoer v. Snyder*, announced a new bipartisan ballot committee that would work to add sexual orientation and gender identity and expression to the equal protection clause of the Michigan constitution. It would also direct the state Legislature to update all laws to comply including the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act.

However, a letter authored in response to the announcement by national and state LGBT rights organizations highlights leadership concerns were the initiative to advance without engaging the broader LGBT community.

Signed by 14 LGBT rights organizations and three representatives in the state Legislature, the formal letter calls for collaboration in the movement to add sexual orientation and gender identity and expression to the list of protected classes in the state constitution.

“We all support the need to advance inclusive and comprehensive nondiscrimination protections for the LGBT community of Michigan. We agree with Governor Snyder that it’s time to update Elliott-Larsen so that Michigan can be a competitive destination for top talent,” the release reads. “No one who wants to work hard and provide for themselves and their families should face discrimination. We share this important goal and believe that it is best achieved by working together. Victory in Michigan requires thoughtful planning and, most



“Before we go down this path – and maybe it is the path we should take – we just really need to research it, think through it and see what lessons we can learn from around the country.”

-Stephanie White, executive director of Equality Michigan.

importantly, sitting down with all of the many communities and groups whose support and engagement will be essential to successfully updating our laws. Any attempt to move forward without a clear path to victory is ultimately a disservice to the LGBT people who live in Michigan and risks dividing our community and others who deserve protection from discrimination.”

As of presstime Nessel had not responded to BTL’s inquiry for her response to the formal letter.

The ballot committee, Fair Michigan, will be co-chaired by Republican Lansing attorney Richard McLellan and Nessel who hopes to begin gathering petition signatures for the ballot proposal early next year. The paperwork was filed Oct. 30 with the Secretary of State to get a constitutional amendment on the November 2016 ballot.

“We would just be adding different classes of people to the constitution

who aren’t getting protection now,” Nessel told the *Detroit Free Press*. “The fact is that the Michigan Legislature has ignored efforts to protect people, so it’s time we gave Michigan voters the power.”

Amending Efforts

In his fifth State of the State address in January, Snyder called for legislators to continue discussions on amending ELCRA.

“Let’s keep up that dialogue and let’s show that we can deal with issues of discrimination in our state,” he said.

Many attempts have been made to add sexual orientation and gender identity and expression to the list of protected classes listed under ELCRA. The latest was in 2014, when a coalition comprised of businesses and political figures across the state nearly passed legislation that would have added protections for the LGBT



“The biggest thing we are going to have to do is make sure we can educate the public on the real impact of these changes and then we are going to have an extra obligation to make sure that we are there to emotionally, personally and socially support in particular our trans friends, family and neighbors because unfortunately they are going to find themselves at the center of a lot of the misinformation and lies.”

- State Rep. Jon Hoadley



As a trans activist and leader in the state, Amy Hunter is disappointed that the trans community was not contacted about the ballot measure launched by Dana Nessel. When talking about trans lives, or an issue directly affecting any community, it is imperative to have their authentic voices share a seat at the planning table.

Potential Harm

community. However, the initiative failed and no bill was sent to Gov. Snyder's desk to be signed into law.

"Before we go down this path – and maybe it is the path we should take – we just really need to research it, think through it and see what lessons we can learn from around the country," said Stephanie White, executive director of Equality Michigan.

Rep. Jon Hoadley, D-Kalamazoo, was one of three legislators to sign the letter addressing a coalition strategy after Nessel announced her ballot committee. He is cautious of a ballot measure to amend ELCRA and wants the leaders of this push to be very careful in moving forward on any campaign.

"I speak to this from multiple perspectives. I applaud any efforts we can make to work on nondiscrimination initiatives but I also do know how grueling a campaign can be. The folks that are going to be opposing the ballot measure, their playbook is full of misinformation and personal attacks and that can be really hard on members of the LGBT community, particularly the trans community," Hoadley told BTL.

In 2013 Hoadley played an integral role in a coalition supported measure, One Royal Oak, that solidified nondiscrimination protections for the city. Before entering into Lansing as a state representative, Hoadley worked on similar nondiscrimination campaigns on the national level and in the state in both Kalamazoo and Traverse City.

Many cities adopt nondiscrimination ordinances by way of city council, but a petition signed by Royal Oak residents forced the measure to hit the ballot box. Proposal A was written to uphold an inclusive human rights ordinance in Royal Oak that passed earlier that year but was suspended by petition. That move forced the measure into the hands of voters who, in the November election, voted to uphold the human rights ordinance. The One Royal Oak campaign achieved its goal and the ordinance passed with just 54 percent of the vote, becoming the 30th Michigan city to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression.

"I am in favor of getting the LGBT community protected but I honestly believe that substantive, long-lasting change happens from the bottom up," Amy Hunter of the ACLU Trans Advocacy Project said. "You can't measure the cost of a campaign like this in just dollars; you have to measure it in the potential harm to real human lives."

Hunter joined the ACLU Michigan Trans Advocacy Project earlier this year and was among the list of signatories on the formal letter. She is following the proposed ordinance in Houston, Texas very closely and is fearful that the anti-trans ads and fear mongering present in the Texas campaign will appear in Michigan. She wants to see a ballot measure with community education on trans lives and says the 2016 ballot proposal could be extremely harmful without said education.

Hunter worked with Hoadley on the nondiscrimination ordinance in Kalamazoo. When she joined the efforts there was a bathroom exemption which she worked diligently to remove from the proposed legislation and also worked in educating the public on the issues surrounding the city ordinance.

"When you put stuff like this on the ballot, it allows for legislators that may not be on board with equality to try and thwart the efforts. I would be concerned about (trans exclusionary) bathroom bills and institutionalizing discriminatory policies in school access for trans athletes. I would be concerned with a Religious Freedom Restoration Act," Hunter said.

As a trans activist and leader in the state, Hunter is disappointed that the trans community was not contacted about the ballot measure launched by Nessel. When talking about trans lives, or an issue directly affecting any community, it is imperative to have their authentic voices share a seat at the planning table.

There are three things that are needed to educate the public, Hunter told BTL. One, they need to be educated about trans people. Two, they need to know why they should care that LGBT protections are added to the state law and get factual updates on nondiscrimination protections and regulations. And three, they need to be told why they should care, Hunter says,

because not everyone is up to date on trans issues and knows the struggles trans men and women face on a daily basis.

"The biggest thing we are going to have to do is make sure we can educate the public on the real impact of these changes and then we are going to have an extra obligation to make sure that we are there to emotionally, personally and socially support in particular our trans friends, family and neighbors because unfortunately they are going to find themselves at the center of a lot of the misinformation and lies," Hoadley said.

The Ballot

According to ballotpedia.org, multiple ballot initiatives have been announced for the 2016 election in Michigan and more are sure to arrive. The future of the death penalty is listed as a potential legislative referral with marijuana legalization, a ban on fracking and an initiative for earned sick time announced as circulating initiatives. And, finally, there is a proposed initiative to repeal the Michigan "Stand Your Ground" act. None of these measures have secured their place on the 2016 ballot.

Any incentive that seeks a spot on the 2016 ballot must get 315,654 signatures from registered voters. In Michigan, petitioners have 180 days from the day their petition was filed to collect signatures. Signatures older than 180 days at the time of filing will be presumed "stale and void."

Fair Michigan still has to submit language to the Secretary of State and will then begin collecting signatures.

Nessel told the Detroit News the ballot initiative is being endorsed by a Republican Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson and Kym Worthy, the Democratic prosecutor of Wayne County.

The official letter was authored by the ACLU-Michigan; Equality Michigan; Kalamazoo Gay & Lesbian Resource Center; Benton Harbor Out Center; LGBT Detroit; LGBT Network of West Michigan; Perceptions; Ruth Ellis Center; American Unity Fund; Equality Federation; Freedom for All Americans; Human Rights Campaign; National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund; Transgender Advocacy Project; Rep. Jon Hoadley, D-Kalamazoo; Rep. Jeremy Moss, D-Southfield; and state Sen. Rebekah Warren, D-Ann Arbor.

NEWS

New National Campaign Launched To Secure Nondiscrimination Protections For LGBT Americans

A new campaign called Freedom for All Americans has launched with the goal of securing nondiscrimination protections for LGBT Americans nationwide.

The new campaign is dedicated to ensuring that every American is protected under the law from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression – without allowing broad and harmful religious exemptions that will encourage employers, business owners or others to choose to disregard those protections.

Michigan is one of 33 states across the country that currently lack explicit protections for LGBT Americans from discrimination in employment, housing and in public spaces like restaurants and hotels. However, Executive Director of Freedom for All Americans, Matt McTighe, believes that by capitalizing on the momentum built to win the freedom to marry, these protections can soon be available for all LGBT Americans, and is beginning to lead efforts on the local, state and national levels.

"It is not enough to merely take a defensive posture and fight back against discrimination. We must take the fight on the offensive with a multi-year initiative that seizes on our best opportunities to advance local and state-level victories," the Freedom for All Americans website www.freedomforallamericans.org reads.

The campaign will build partisan support to persuade Congress and the President to adopt explicit federal statutory protections ensuring freedom from discrimination for all LGBT Americans in housing, employment and public accommodations; will support the work of partners making the case in the federal courts that discrimination is illegal; defeat proposals that undermine civil rights protections for LGBT Americans and promote anti-LGBT discrimination; work alongside and provide support to local partners and advance nondiscrimination on the local level in both rural and urban communities; tell real-life stories of LGBT Americans – highlighting the broad range of Americans who support nondiscrimination protections; and work to defeat anti-LGBT legislation.

Freedom for All Americans plans to accomplish these goals by training and developing a diverse team of skilled advocates with expertise on all the aspects of campaigns and public education to advance nondiscrimination protections across the country; support and train trans advocates to help educate the public about the need for comprehensive nondiscrimination policies that include explicit protections for gender identity and expression; recruit and sustain a coalition of businesses to make the economic case for treating LGBT employees fairly and equally; and will directly support earned, paid and social media activities to boost education efforts.

To learn more about the project or to submit a personal story visit the website at www.freedomforallamericans.org.

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MAP Releases New Report: Only Half Of LGBT Americans Explicitly Protected From Employment Discrimination

A new report published Oct. 27 by the Movement Advancement Project reveals that a shocking 70 percent of the geographic area of the United States lacks any city, county or state employment protections for LGBT people, with comprehensive employment protections concentrated in just 30 percent of the country geographically.

To address the urgent need for these laws, hundreds of city and county councils throughout the country have passed local nondiscrimination ordinances to extend employment protections to LGBT people living in their jurisdictions.

The study, "LGBT Policy Spotlight: Local Employment Nondiscrimination Ordinances," examines city and county NDOs that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in private employment. The report details where these ordinances are geographically, their growth over time and the gaps in coverage that remain.

Local NDOs currently provide important job safeguards for thousands of LGBT individuals living in states that lack explicit statewide employment protections for LGBT people. For example, Florida has local NDOs covering more than 50 percent of the state's population. Local ordinances also have been instrumental stepping stones toward statewide protections in many of the 19 states that currently protect LGBT

“There is a deep rural-urban divide when it comes to nondiscrimination protections for LGBT people. Vast geographic stretches in this country – mostly in rural areas – lack LGBT-inclusive nondiscrimination laws.”

- Ineke Mushovic,
 Executive Director of MAP

people from employment discrimination.

Combining statewide and local protections, more than 170 million Americans are living in areas with laws that explicitly protect them from being fired based on their sexual orientation, and more than 157 million are explicitly protected from discrimination based on their gender identity. However, nearly half of the country's population lacks explicit protections from anti-LGBT employment discrimination.

“There is a deep rural-urban divide when it comes to nondiscrimination

protections for LGBT people,” said Ineke Mushovic, Executive Director of MAP. “Vast geographic stretches in this country – mostly in rural areas – lack LGBT-inclusive nondiscrimination laws. Advocates have done impressive work extending local protections, but an LGBT person in a state that lacks statewide protections is 50 times more likely to be covered by local laws if he or she lives in an urban rather than a rural area. State and federal-level nondiscrimination laws are also essential in order to provide protections for everyone.”


As Congress considers the Equality Act, legislation that would provide federal nondiscrimination protections, MAP found that statewide protections exist in clusters of generally more progressive states in the west, Midwest and Northeast. LGBT people in the Plains states and the South largely lack employment protections.

Updated daily, the Movement Advancement Project's Equality Maps track LGBT equality, populations and other data by state. MAP provides up-to-date information on the status of state laws across a wide range of issues, from employment discrimination and relationship recognition to hate crimes protections and anti-bullying laws. The Equality Maps allow websites to embed the maps easily and for free. Visit www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps to learn more.

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Michigan Premiere

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by

Richard Strand

Brilliant evening of seriously funny history.



Jan. 7
THRU
Mar. 13
2016

Uproariously funny, witty and very moving, *Butler* is written by the author of last season's hit comedy, *Buzz*. Based on actual events that changed the lives of 10,000 slaves, *Butler* is set at the beginning of the Civil War and follows Major General Benjamin Butler, who has just been given command of Fort Monroe in Virginia. The inexperienced but shrewd Butler meets his match when an equally shrewd runaway slave enters the fort and asks for asylum.

Midwest Premiere

Devil Dog Six

by

Fengar Gael

A fanciful, freewheeling theatrical gem about horseracing, racism, sexism and a vodoun ritual.



Mar. 24
THRU
May 15
2016

Devon Tramore, a good young jockey on her way to becoming great, lies in a hospital room with a serious brain injury following a racing pileup. The circumstances of the accident are suspicious. An investigation reveals jockey sexual harassment and racehorse owner sexism. The story veers from a traditional sports tale when during Devon's hospitalization she masters the art of leaving her body. Her new abilities give her a supernatural connection with the star horse, Devil Dog Six. All the actors double as horses and jockeys. A breathtaking run for woman power and racial tolerance.



Midwest Premiere

**HOMELESS and
HOW WE GOT THAT WAY**

by **Dan McCormick**

A brilliant depiction of two people who have sunk to the bottom but manage to retain some humanity.

May 26
THRU
June 26
2016

A homeless man and a homeless woman, both aged beyond their years, one once a prominent neurosurgeon, the other a would be novelist who never got there, share a desolate space with the feel of a world that is not quite real, with two park benches, two overstuffed carts, scattered litter, milk crates, buckets, a trashcan and of course whiskey. What is truth and what is imagined is always a question. Two unreachable people touch.

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Mr. Manners: 9 Ways NOT to Come Out at Holiday Time

BY MIKEY ROX

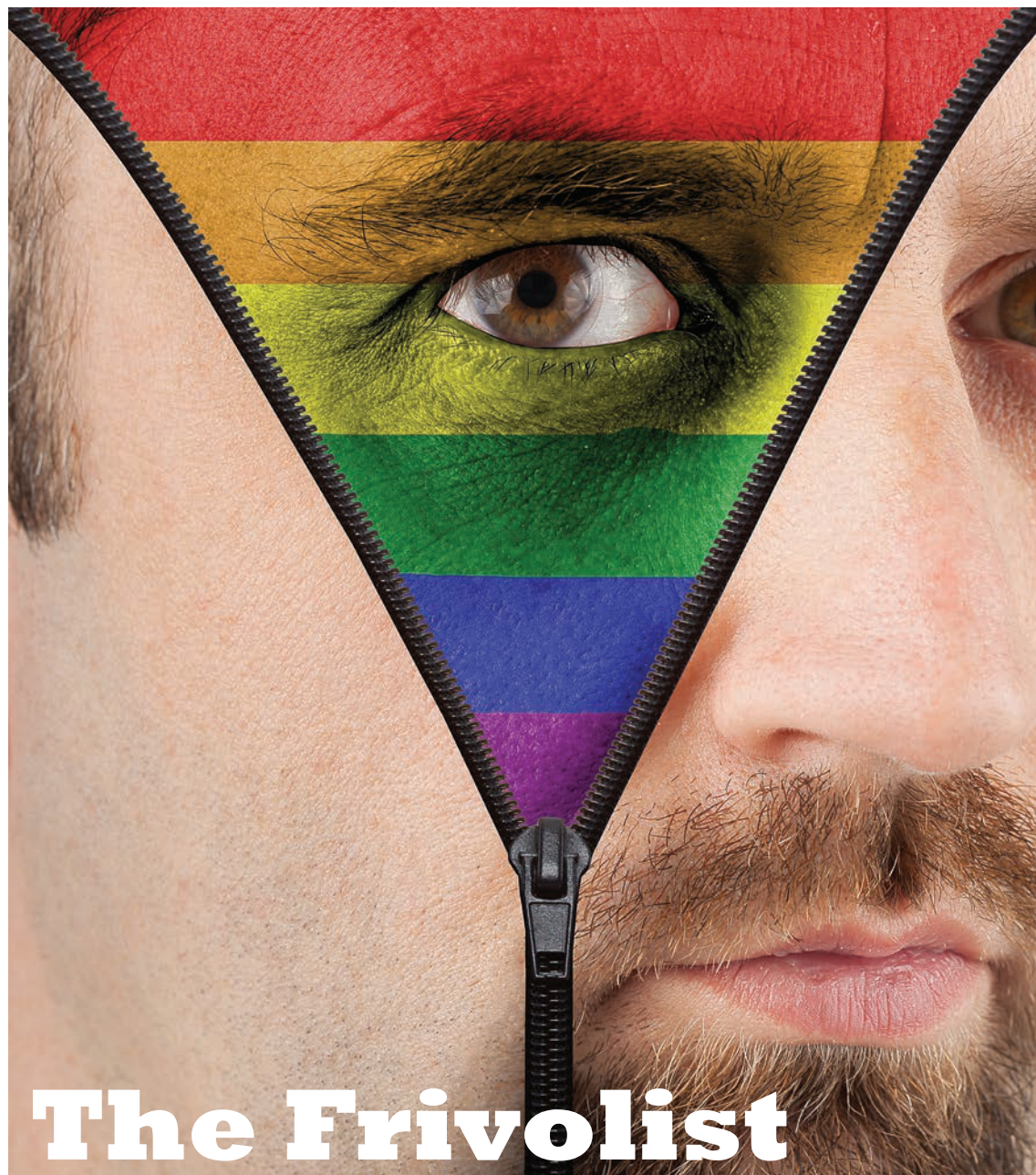
Last year, I wrote a rather pointed column for the Frivolist called “9 Reasons Why Coming Out on a Holiday Isn’t a Good Idea,” which detailed the consequences of revealing your sexuality at an already stressful time of year, and it drew a fair amount of criticism. I still stand by that piece, despite that I was branded a homophobe for it – though, I did provide my rebuttal to that misnomer – but this year I decided to take a lighter approach. So, sure, go ahead and come out around the holidays if that’s what you want to do. Just please, *pleeeeee* don’t do it these ways.

Cueing up the adult video you star in

Sexting is fairly commonplace now – just ask everybody on Tinder and Snapchat – as is making private videos on your phone or computer. There’s nothing wrong with it either, so long as it’s consensual. I can guarantee, however, that the guests at your family’s holiday table don’t want to watch you get stuffed harder than that Thanksgiving turkey as they sit down to eat a delicious meal. Thus, refrain from cueing up your sex videos to break the coming-out ice, and steer clear of any professional videos you’ve made, too; despite the higher production value, it won’t make those giblets any more appealing.

Asking your gay uncle to do your bidding

OK, so your mom and your gay uncle are super close. They trust each other, love each other, and there’s nothing that could drive a wedge between them. Until you came along, that is. Avoid this situation by resisting the urge to ask your gay family members to come out for you. Certainly you can ask them for support, but your coming out is just that – yours – and it’s not fair to put someone else in an awkward position if you don’t have the courage to do it yourself.



If that’s the case, wait to come out when you’re confident and ready. You’ll have a better experience that way, and you won’t feel guilty by causing a potential rift in a perfectly good relationship.

Performing a short holi-gay skit

If your family wants to see a show, they’ll go to the community theater; no need to perform a three-act play on all the ways you’re gay right before lighting the menorah. If you crave attention that badly, and a thunderous applause for coming out, do it among friends at another

non-specific time of year so you’ll have their undivided attention and they’ll have something to reminisce about for years to come.

Bringing your boyfriend or girlfriend without notice

Bringing a same-sex guest whom you’ve courted to a holiday meal without notice is not only a blind side, it’s rude as hell. In fact, this tip applies to all people – LGBT or not. Unless you’ve RSVPed for the additional person, you should arrive alone. If an exception needs

to be made last minute – and, OK, it happens – call the host in advance to ask permission. If it’s your boyfriend or girlfriend you’d like to bring, at least that gives everyone a chance to process the impending situation a couple hours before it’s in their face.

Sneaking in a Grindr trick in the middle of the night

Nobody wants to get caught with their pants around their ankles while grandma sneaks down to the kitchen for a midnight slice of pie. Keep your tricks in the bag while you’re

at home for the holidays, or at least be courteous enough to bang it out in a nearby parking lot and send him home with a parting gift.

Getting held up at the airport because of your dildo

If you thought telling your family that you’re gay will be difficult, just wait until you have to explain your penchant for big black rubber cock.

Preparing a monologue on all the ways everybody already should’ve known you’re LGBT

Quell your inner Robert Shaw and resist the urge to dramatically lambaste your family members for not recognizing the innumerable ways you’re gay. In fact, your sexuality may be a non-issue for your family – maybe they couldn’t care less about who you’re sleeping with as long as you’re healthy and happy – so just get to the point so they can all move on... to dessert.

Inviting your family to your local drag show

Nobody’s ready for that tragedy.

Leaving subtle hints, like filling your DVR with Rob Williams movies

As much as I love Rob Williams movies (“Make the Yuletide Gay” is a totally cute Christmas flick, and you should watch it), filling your DVR with his repertoire of sexy but seriously gay work is a cop out to coming out. Set aside some time with your family to speak for yourself and come out in a manner where all members can process the information, ask the questions they need to ask, and move on. Besides, there are so many other awesome gay things on this time of year – like the drunk AF “Judy Garland Christmas Special” – and you’ll need all the free space you can get.

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The State Theatre Presents John Waters Film Series

Delightfully Disgusting Retrospective Runs Through Dec. 9

Ann Arbor's State Theatre is currently hosting "Yours Truly, John Waters," a three-month celebration of the cult director's most iconic features. In keeping with the legendary John Waters' career aesthetic, Senior Programmer Brian Hunter curated 10 films that trend toward taboo and debauchery with playful sincerity. The series began Oct. 7 with "Pink Flamingos" (1972), with "Female Trouble" (1974); "Desperate Living" (1977); and "Polyester" (1981) each consecutive Wednesday. The rest of the films will be shown at 7 p.m. every Wednesday until Dec. 9.

Ann Arbor's State Theatre is currently hosting "Yours Truly, John Waters," a three-month celebration of the cult director's most iconic features.

Waters, well known for breaking boundaries, writes films that revel in the world of bad taste. His first feature, "Pink Flamingos," is considered one of the greatest gross-out movies of all time. The commercial success of "Hairspray" (1988) and films that followed solidified him as one of the greatest underground directors in American film history. Fiercely independent, all of his films are shot on location in his hometown of Baltimore, Maryland. Waters' early films featured a regular group of local friends turned actors, one of them being international drag queen icon, Divine, who Waters called his "close friend and fearless muse." The one film in the series not directed by Waters, "I Am Divine," is a documentary about the life and career of Divine, aka Harris Glenn Milstead.

"I Am Divine" won the 2013 Cinetopia International Film Festival Audience Award.

In addition to filmmaking, Waters has published a number of books and screenplays, including the New York Times bestsellers "Role Models" (2010) and "Carsick" (2014), and has shown his photographs and sculptures in galleries throughout the world.

Regular ticket prices apply for the films, and tickets can be purchased online at michtheater.org or at the box office. Now celebrating its 88th year, the Michigan Theater is Ann Arbor's award-winning non-profit historic center for fine film and performing arts. The Michigan Theater welcomes more than 300,000 visitors each year to its art house films, concerts, lectures, live theater and special programs such as Direct from Sundance and Cinetopia International Film Festival. The Michigan Theater also owns and operates the historic State Theater located at 233 State St. The Michigan Theater is located in downtown Ann Arbor at 603 E. Liberty St. Visit michtheater.org or call the 24-hour information line at 734-668-TIME for schedule and ticket information.

- Nov. 5 - "Hairspray" (1988)
- Nov. 11 - "I Am Divine" (2014)
- Nov. 18 - "Cry Baby" (1990)
- Nov. 25 - "Serial Mom" (1994)
- Dec. 2 - "Pecker" (1998)
- Dec. 9 - "Cecil B. Demented" (2000)

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The OutField: Rugby Tackles Homophobia

BY DAN WOOG

If you're looking for a stereotypical macho sport, you don't have to search further than rugby. A full-contact sport – without much protection – it's got everything: brutal tackling. Dirt and mud. Plenty of parties.

But here's the interesting thing. Those post-game festivities include both teams. Players sing bawdy songs – but with plenty of mutual admiration. Winners and losers gather together, showing respect on both sides.

That respect for opponents – for everyone in the rugby world, really – is one reason that the sport is so gay-friendly. Referee Nigel Owens came out in 2007, nearly a decade ago. Player Gareth Thomas came out in 2009; he was soon voted the most influential gay person in the U.K. There are other gay professional ruggers too.

The first gay rugby team – London's Kings Cross Steelers – was founded 25 years ago. Today, there are more than two dozen gay rugby clubs. Some are in places you'd expect. Others might surprise you.

The Nashville Grizzlies were formed in 2006. In the decade since, spokesman Thomas Hornby says they've been treated well by every straight team they've met – even those from rural Tennessee and Alabama. "We talk a lot about brotherhood on the pitch," he says. "We've always been embraced by our brothers, no matter what their views are off it."

So it should not come as a surprise that USA Rugby – the sport's national governing body – has taken a lead in the fight against homophobia. Last month the organization signed a "memorandum of understanding" with International Gay Rugby, formalizing a partnership to promote a diverse, inclusive environment at all levels of the game.

The announcement follows a similar agreement in March. At that time, IGR said it would collaborate with World Rugby on "the promotion of equality and inclusivity" around the globe.

The agreement with USA Rugby specifically ensures that American players are provided with the tools and education necessary to combat discrimination, whether based on sexual orientation, perceived sexual orientation or identification.

"USA Rugby recognizes the right of any player, official, coach and spectator to be involved in rugby without bullying, discrimination or exclusion of any kind, and celebrates the differences that make its members unique," the official statement said.

International Gay Rugby is one of the most active LGBT sports associations on the planet. Its 56 members clubs in 15 countries receive developmental support and resources. IGR clubs play each other (and straight clubs), and host regional, continental and global tournaments and events celebrating diversity and inclusion in the rugby community.

The flagship event is the Mark Kendall Bingham Memorial Tournament. Named after the gay rugby player who was a passenger on United Airlines Flight 93 on September 11, 2001 – and who helped lead the resistance against the hijackers that crashed the plane in Pennsylvania, before it could be flown into the Capitol or White House – the next competition is set for May 22-29, 2016. There will be 1,500 players, on 45 teams. The tourney will be played in Nashville – the first time ever in the Mid-South, and the first time since 2010 it has been held in the U.S. The Grizzlies are hosts.

The upcoming tournament marks nearly 15 years since Mark Bingham's heroism. At the time, the idea of a gay rugby player was novel. But as the world realized what transpired on board the plane that horrific morning, one athlete's sexuality seemed far less important than the sense of purpose – and teamwork – of all the passengers who stormed the cockpit.

That camaraderie seems to be an important aspect of what makes rugby such an appealing sport to all who play it – gay and straight.

But just because the Grizzlies' experience has been so positive

The upcoming tournament marks nearly 15 years since Mark Bingham's heroism. At the time, the idea of a gay rugby player was novel. But as the world realized what transpired on board the plane that horrific morning, one athlete's sexuality seemed far less important than the sense of purpose – and teamwork – of all the passengers who stormed the cockpit.

– and even though both USA Rugby and World Rugby are committed to inclusion and diversity – work remains to be done.

There are still pitches where anti-gay slurs are used. Some ruggers still resent gay athletes. That's why the official statements from governing bodies – and the educational efforts that follow – are so important.

The anti-discrimination policies are also intended to encourage straight players to step up as LGBT allies. They won't be the first. The coming-out announcements of gay players so far have been met with strong support from teammates, as well as opponents.

Of course, Hornby notes, plenty of gay rugby athletes have not yet come out. "We want to make our environment safe for everyone," he says. "We want this to be the most inclusive sport in the world."

So don't be surprised when you hear stories about rugby – one of the most macho sports in the world – embracing its gay side. Who knows? There may soon be a post-game drinking song about it too.

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Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, Nov. 5

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

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

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

Queering Reproductive Justice Opportunities and Challenges in Michigan 6 p.m. A roundtable discussion featuring Lydia Ahlum Hanson, Director of Programs, Affirmations; Miriam Zoila Prez, writer, speaker, activist, author of "The Radical Doula Guide" columnist at Colorlines; Rayna N. Brown, Center for Interdisciplinary Inquiry and Innovation in Sexual and Reproductive Health, University of Chicago; Alexandra Minna Stern (moderator), Professor of American Culture and ObGyn, University of Michigan. Reproductive Justice encompasses the right to have a child, not have a child and raise that child in a healthy and supportive environment. These needs are critical to LGBTQ families and communities, who often

struggle for visibility and recognition. This roundtable offers an opportunity to learn from leading local and out-of-state activists and advocates and think together about how LGBTQ issues and Reproductive Justice overlap and can inform social justice efforts in Michigan. A free event open to the public. Refreshments will be provided. Institute for Research on Women and Gender and Awaken Michigan, 3663 Woodward Ave., Suite 150, Detroit. 1-734-764-9537. www.Events.umich.edu/event/25947

Brandi Carlile 8 p.m. Tickets: \$32-50. Sound Board - Motor City Casino, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 800-745-3000. www.Soundboarddetroit.com

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

Friday, Nov. 6

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

ACLU Michigan Annual Dinner 6:30 p.m. Special guest: Charles Blow ACLU Michigan, Dearborn.

ABBACADABRA - the ultimate ABBA tribute! 7:30 p.m. This ultimate tribute promises to continue the momentum by performing the groups greatest hits in full ABBA fashion and flair. All ages. Tickets: \$28. City of Farmington Hills Cultural Arts Division, 32332 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. 248-473-1848. www.Regrec.fhg.gov

Saturday, Nov. 7

StoryCorps OutLoud Initiative
StoryCorps recognizes the profound historical importance of capturing the stories of the LGBTQ community and the urgent need for this work to happen now. StoryCorps OutLoud Initiative is a multi-year initiative dedicated to recording and preserving LGBTQ stories across America. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, Kalamazoo. www.Kglrc.org

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60th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee Gala Fundraiser 6 p.m. A benefit for Stagecrafters, featuring celebrity guest of honor, Jeffrey Seller. Stagecrafters, Royal Oak.

Sunday, Nov. 8

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

Fortune Feinster 7:30 p.m. 18+. Tickets: \$20. Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle, Royal Oak. www.Comedycastle.com

Monday, Nov. 9

Annual Jewish Book Fair The oldest and largest Jewish book fair in the nation. Jewish Community Center, 6600 N. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 248-661-1900. info@theberman.org www.Jccdet.org/bookfair

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.



Editor's Pick

The ACLU of Michigan will host its annual dinner this Friday, Nov. 6 at the Henry Ford Museum. Charles Blow will be the special guest speaker for the event.

Charles M. Blow is a New York Times columnist on politics, public opinion and social justice. He has been a New York Times Op-Ed columnist since 2008. His column appears on Monday and Thursday.

The intimate VIP reception with Blow will begin at 5:30 p.m. A cocktail hour will follow at 6:30 p.m., with dinner and the main program at 7:30 p.m. Henry Ford Museum is located at 20900 Oakwood, Dearborn. Visit www.aclumich.org for more information.

This group is open to all LGBTQIA individuals who have experienced any form of sexual assault in their lifetime. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., Kalamazoo. 269-345-5595. nschneider@ywcakalamazoo.org www.Kglrc.org

Tuesday, Nov. 10

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

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

Free STI & Rapid HIV Testing 5 p.m. Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, Trichomoniasis, Syphilis. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.Goaffirmations.org

NEST 6:30 p.m. Monthly Bible study focusing on LGBTQ issues. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 508 Denner St., Kalamazoo. www.Kglrc.org

Dynamic Duo 10 p.m. 21+. Free. Menjo's, 928 McNichols Road W, Detroit. 313-863-3934. www.Facebook.com/dynamicduoact

Wednesday, Nov. 11

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

Senior Koffee Klatch 1 p.m. A discussion and networking group for people 45 and older. Various discussion topics, social outings, bake-offs, and potlucks are incorporated throughout the year. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. khug@goaffirmations.org http://goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

LGBT Know Your Rights Project 3 p.m. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. www.Jimtoycommunitycenter.org

Affirmations Run Club 6 p.m. An informal group of runners and walkers

of all abilities. Seasoned marathoners, beginner walkers, and everything in between! Everyone is welcome, just show 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.Michiganidscoalition.org

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

See Happenings, page 30

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Hear Me Out

Janet Jackson, Patty Griffin

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI



Janet Jackson, 'Unbreakable'

With her nipple safely tucked away, Janet Jackson resurrects a bygone bondage-less sound that's more "Good Times" than straight up sexy time. No "Would You Mind"-type on-tape masturbation. No "Damita Jo"-era "Sexhibition." "Miss Jackson if you're nasty"? Not so much, at least for the time being. Instead, Janet's 11th studio album, "Unbreakable," is playful and PG, a welcome return to Jackson's many formative years as the girl-next-door pop star du jour, when she didn't rely on sex to sell a song – all she needed was her trademark sweetness. And, of course, Janet's heart, heard throughout "Unbreakable," which was produced by her longtime dream team, Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis. Striking the redundancy of the bedroom-play songs she cranked out post-"Velvet Rope," her first album in seven years puts empowerment first, reflecting on love, kindness and hope – a "Rhythm Nation" for a new generation. "We all need to do better," she proclaims on the socially conscious "Black Eagle," a twinkly mid-tempo she dedicates to the "invisible people." Like a lot of "Unbreakable," from the autobiographical title track through lead single "No Sleep" and the penultimate nostalgia of "Well Traveled," this is a low-key, Janet-circa-"Runaway" affair. By the time she tributes her late brother Michael on the very-MJ-

sounding "Gon' B Alright," surprisingly the most bouncy jam in the mix, it's clear Janet isn't just unbreakable – sometimes, she's still unbeatable. *Grade: B+*



Patty Griffin, 'Servant of Love'

The piano tiptoes to a crawl, and then – with adorning horns, and Patty Griffin's sky-high vocal climb – it

briskly powers into an impassioned run. The song is "Servant of Love," the title track off Griffin's 10th release. Now self-employed (Griffin went indie for this, her latest), the celebrated singer-songwriter once again follows her transformative muse into the unknown, charting territory that eludes predictability and, instead, favors multi-genre alchemy – and that's just musically. Beyond the blurred sonic lines of folk, blues, soul and rock is a tapestry rich in earnest storytelling, a bloodletting of words beautifully strung together in typical Griffin fashion: from the world around us. Hanging out in the deep, dark corners of human suffering, "Servant of Love" is sometimes tragic, sometimes hopeful, but always compassionate and compelling. "Good and Gone" recounts the real-life fatal shooting of a young black man by police in a Walmart, and it's appropriately stark, rumbling about like the coldest and windiest of days. The

jaunty jazz-flecked "Gunpowder" could easily be interpreted as a clever dig at the NRA, and "250,000 Miles," inspired by trafficked Nepali women, is drum-punched and heart-wrenching. But hope is never too distant. On "Shine a Different Way," she reacts to the darkness before her, imparting light where she can. "Made of the Sun" and "Rider of Days," a celestial stunner, also cut through the despair. "Servant of Love" is a world-weary reflection of our times, radiating optimism when so little of it seems to exist. *Grade: A-*

Also Out

CHVRCHES, 'Every Open Eye'

CHVRCHES's first album since their 2013 debut, "Bones of What You Believe," eases into a steady synth build with "Afterglow," electro shimmer and Lauren Mayberry's pure voice guiding it through an otherworldly dimension. It's that space that CHVRCHES occupies so well, their vulnerable heart pouring out over the evocative framework of their carefully calibrated EDM. Here, they don't bend much musically. This is "Bones"... just better. But who are we to argue with the glistening pop brilliance of "Bury It" and "Clearest Blue" and "Keep You On My Side" and... the whole thing, really.

Lana Del Rey, 'Honeymoon'

Lana Del Rey is sad again. On "Honeymoon," the songs sway in the moonlight, softly, slowly. That kind of languid pacing is Del Rey's go-to, a style she's finessed ever since releasing her big breakthrough "Born to Die." Her latest keeps that downer vibe alive, and in the way "Ultraviolence" didn't pay mind to radio, "Honeymoon" stays true to Del Rey's artistic intentions rather than faking them for mainstream consumption. Just listen to "God Knows I Tried," a haunting guitar-strummed confessional – and then rejoice in knowing that she's still blazing her own bittersweet path.

Various artists, 'We Love Disney'

Dreams – they *do* come true. That is, if your dream is to have Jessie J slip into Ariel's mermaid flapper for "Part of Your World" and also hear Gwen Stefani interpret The Muppets' cutesy stargazer, "The Rainbow Connection." These all-new contemporary takes on classic Disney songs from today's biggest pop and country stars – including Kacey Musgraves' "Spoonful of Sugar" and Ariana Grande's "Zero to Hero" from "Hercules" – are pretty much magic, with UK sensation Jessie Ware being the perfect fit for "A Dream Is a Wish Your Heart Makes" and Rascal Flatts being Rascal Flatts on a foot-stompin' version of "Let It Go."

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► Happenings

Continued from page 28

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

Eastern Michigan University Jewish Studies presents David Broza 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$10-75. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

Thursday, Nov. 12

Cheryl Wheeler in Concert 7 p.m. A recording artist since the mid 80s, Cheryl is recognized as one of folk musics premier and unforgettable acts. Her songs have been recorded by Bette Midler, Holly Near, Juice Newton and Peter, Paul and Mary. Ticket price \$15-20. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint (UUCF), 2474 S. Ballenger Highway, Flint. 810-232-4023. office@uufint.org www.Uufint.org

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

Friday, Nov. 13

Cheryl Wheeler Concert 8 p.m. Cheryl Tickets \$20 public, \$18 Ten Pound Fiddle Members, \$5 Students (more if you can, less if you cant) Women in the Arts & Ten Pound Fiddle, 469 N Hagadorn, East Lansing. 517-449-8767. producer@witafestival.com http://www.witafestival.com

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

Saturday, Nov. 14

Women in the Arts Festival (WITA) A celebration of regional women artists. Circe Productions and Sistrum, 469 N. Hagadorn, East Lansing. producer@witafestival.com www.Witafestival.com

Kathy Griffin 10 p.m. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. 586-286-2222.

Lisa Lampanelli 10 p.m. Andiamo Celebrity Showroom, 7096 E. 14 Mile Road, Warren. 586-268-3200. www.Andiamoshowroom.com

Sunday, Nov. 15

Head Full of Snakes: Exploring Medusa 2 p.m. An interpretive performance that

touches on themes of gender, power, beauty and more. Recommended for mature audiences. Eastern Michigan University, 103 Quirk, Ypsilanti. 734-487-1220.

Livingston County PFLAG Monthly Meeting 2 p.m. Please join us for our monthly support group the third Sunday of every month at 2 p.m. Livingston County PFLAG, 200 W St Paul St., Brighton. 517-548-0839. LivingstonPFLAG@aol.com www.Facebook.com/pflaglivingston

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

Indigo Girls 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$27-45. Sound Board - Motor City Casino, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 800-745-3000. www.Ticketmaster.com

Monday, Nov. 16

A Streetcar Named Desire The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 248-545-5545. www.TheRingwald.com

Jazz in the Gallery 7:30 p.m. A local jazz ensemble, led by pianist and vocalist Brandon Perkins, rehearses and holds casual jam sessions in the Pittmann-Puckett Gallery every Monday evening. Jazz in the Gallery is open to the public. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. (248) 398-7105. khug@goaffirmations.org http://goaffirmations.org/programs-services/community-events-activities

MUSIC & MORE

Classical

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Romantic Schumann" Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Nov. 6 - Nov. 7. 313-576-5111. www.Dso.org

UMS "Danish String Quartet" Tickets: \$24-48. Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 6. 734-764-2538. www.Ums.org/performance/danish-string-quartet/

University Musical Society "Danish String Quartet" Haydn Quartet No. 42 in C Major, Op. 54, No. 2 Thomas Ads Arcadiana Beethoven Quartet No. 16 in F Major, Op. 135. Rackham Auditorium, 915 East Washington St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 6. 734-764-2538. Ums.org/performance/danish-string-quartet/

Concerts

The Ark "Arlo Guthrie: Alice's Restaurant 50th Anniversary Tour" Tickets: \$39.50-75. Michigan Theatre, 603 E. Liberty St.,

Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 9. 734-668-8397. www.Theark.org

The Ark "Elephant Revival" Tickets: \$25. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 11. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

The Ark "Colin Hay" Tickets: \$40-70. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 8. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

The Ark "Tom Paxton - Farewell Tour" Tickets: \$30. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 6. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

The Ark and AEG Live "The Avett Brothers" Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. Nov. 6. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

UMS "Chucho Valdes Irakere 40" Tickets \$24-\$54. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St, Ann Arbor. 4 p.m. Nov. 8. 734-764-2538. www.Ums.org/performance/chucho-valdes-irakere-40/

University Musical Society "Chucho Valdes Irakere 40" Michigan Theater, 603 East Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 4 p.m. Nov. 8. 734-764-2538. Ums.org/performance/chucho-valdes-irakere-40/

ART 'N' AROUND

DIA "30 Americans" Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 1 - Jan. 18. 313-833-7900. www.Dia.org

Flint Institute of Arts "French Twist: Masterworks of Photography from Atget to Man Ray" Featuring 100 vintage prints. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Oct. 1 - Nov. 8. 810-234-1695. www.Flintarts.org

Herb the Green Knight Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Nov. 5 - Dec. 27. 313-868-1347.

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

robert kidd gallery "Kevin Tolman: New Paintings" Artist Kevin Tolman poses a paradox: The deafening power of a quiet canvas. robert kidd gallery, 107 Townsend St., Birmingham. Oct. 17 - Nov. 7. 248-642-3909. www.Robertkiddgallery.com

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



Editor's Pick

Vanessa Carlton, the pop sensation from the early 2000s, make an appearance at Ann Arbor's Blind Pig Friday, Nov. 13. The singer will be playing from her latest album, "Liberman."

An unusual light shines through Carlton's fifth album. The album's 10 songs, built on ethereal melodies and lush orchestration, seem to climb out of the shadows, each resonating with a sense of haunting positivity. The opening track, "Take It Easy," instantly sets the

tone, inviting the listener into a sort of sonic euphoria: each note and lyric thereafter builds on that aesthetic, creating an ongoing narrative that unfurls over its classic side A and side B. "It's a calm record," Carlton says. "I didn't want any angst in there. I thought, 'What would I want to hear back? What would make me feel better in my darker times?' Even a phrase like 'take it easy,' which is in a million songs, brings happiness."

Doors for Carlton's show are at 9 p.m. The show is for those 18 and older. Tickets are \$25, \$30 day of. The Blind Big is located at 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. Visit www.blindpigmusic.com for more

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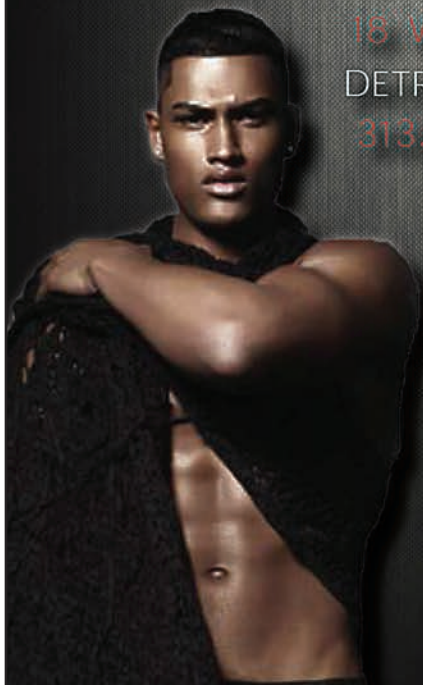
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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Ellen Page: Flatlining

Ellen Page, so good in “Freeheld” (in theaters as we speak), might very well be stepping into Julia Roberts’ shoes. Or maybe even Kiefer Sutherland’s shoes. Because someone is remaking “Flatliners” and Ms. Page is in talks to star. OK, you did not just say, “What’s ‘Flatliners’?” Come on, ’90s people, you remember “Flatliners.” It was that sci-fi movie starring Roberts and Sutherland and it was about sexy young scientists researching the afterlife by making people almost die and studying what happens when the nearly-dead go toward the light. Remember how stupid it was but you liked it anyway? Sure you do. OK, maybe you just remember that it existed at all, which is enough. And it gives the renovation team a fair amount of artistic license, a chance to freshen it up without worrying about radically changing the original. Because no one cares. In fact, our level of caring is utterly dependent upon the real-life sign-on of Ellen Page. Then we’ll care a lot, but not about the plot.



Alan Cumming. Photo: Debby Wong

Alan Cumming’s ‘Florent’ changes its reservation

In the late 1980s in New York City’s meatpacking district, idiosyncratic French restaurateur Florent Morellet opened a French diner that faithfully served customers for 23 years (until the new New York, the one destroying itself with greed, rent-hiked him out of business). And now his story is coming to cable, thanks to Alan Cumming. “Florent,” an oddball comedy starring Cumming in the title role, was set up last year at Sundance Channel but has made the switch to Showtime. Written by Patricia Resnick (“Mad Men”) and directed by Rosemary Rodriguez (“The Good Wife,” Cummings’ other job), the 30-minute show promises to be a sort of weird foodie’s guide to life. And honestly, does the world need another show about cops, lawyers or doctors, when what it really wants is one where “coq au vin” is the guest star? Search your hearts and growling stomachs – you know the answer.

‘Jessica Jones,’ who may be making out with women sometimes

“Daredevil” was a huge success for Marvel on Netflix, which means more and more Marvel on Netflix, you lucky nerds. Next up? “Jessica Jones,” the former superheroine/private eye, who joins The New Avengers alongside husband Luke Cage. Recently, at New York Comic-Con, the pilot episode was screened and its plotline suggested that Jones

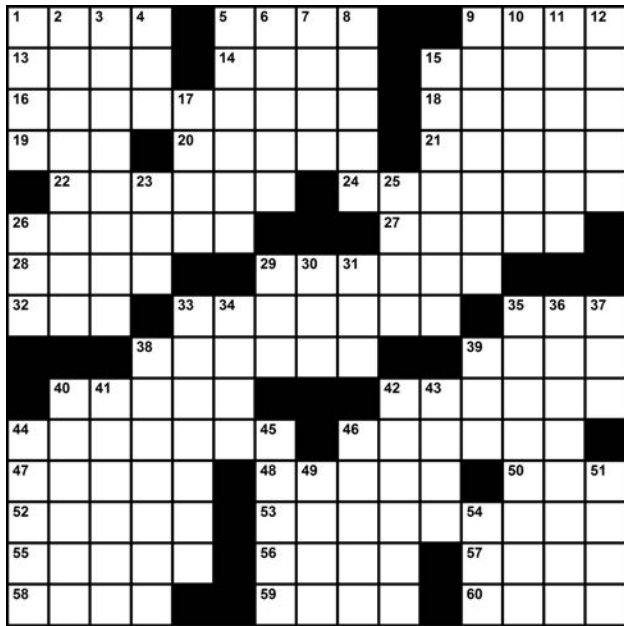
(played by the very cool Krysten Ritter) may have once been involved with a woman. Does that matter? Damn right it matters. And to make it even more enticing, co-star Carrie-Anne Moss will play a woman-loving lawyer who hires Jones for a job. With so little LGBT presence making it to the TV and film versions of Marvel stories up to this point (it’s been happening in the comic books for a while already), the importance of this development cannot be overstated. Queer viewers, fire up those DVRs.

‘Absolutely Fabulous’ movie finally begins shooting

Doesn’t it feel like we’ve been talking about the “Absolutely Fabulous” movie for 20 years? They got around to making another “Star Wars” movie with Harrison Ford before anyone could confirm that “AbFab” The Film was even going to be a real thing. So today is a special day; today is the day you learn that principal photography on Fox Searchlight Pictures’ and BBC Films’ “Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie” has begun in the U.K. and the south of France. The shoot will last seven weeks. Stars Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley will be joined by original cast members Julia Sawalha, Jane Horrocks and June Whitfield. Patsy and Edina will dress up, drink up and fall down. All will be right with the world. Speaking officially on the matter, Saunders says, “I am thrilled and excited to finally start filming. We are all taking our medication and hoping for the best.” Begin planning your outfit for its 2016 release.

Romeo San Vicente is currently carrying a Rick Owens live-human-being-backpack all around Los Angeles. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

Q Puzzle



- 38 Wesley of "To Wong Foo, Thanks For Everything! Julie Newmar"
 39 Road imperfection
 40 More of the quote
 42 End of the quote
 44 Tufts of hair near openings
 46 Medicine show product
 47 No longer lying with one's partner
 48 Novelist Puzo
 50 When repeated, a 1953 Cole Porter musical
 52 Mae West, notably
 53 Song by 26-Across
 55 Infraction fees
 56 Hand job, for one?
 57 "Margaret Mead ___ Me Gay"
 58 Mireille of "Big Love"
 59 Bette Davis feature of song
 60 Judy Garland's "Meet Me ___ Louis"
- 10 "Our" in a crime name
 11 In the rear, of a seaman
 12 "___ Family"
 15 Dr. Robbins of "Grey's Anatomy"
 17 Linking toy
 23 Disc from Netflix
 25 Words said while holding a pair of queens
 26 Meas. for Stephen Pyles
 29 AAA handout
 30 Milk, so to speak
 31 Contraction in a carol about gay apparel
 33 Butt plugs, e.g.
 34 Like three men that visited Mary
 35 Neil Tennant enthusiast, e.g.
 36 Green stones
 37 Quick on the uptake
 38 Poems of Samuel Butler, e.g.
 39 Engage men in shorts
 40 Goose of the Baseball Hall of Fame
 41 Male member, at LLEGO
 42 Sounds at a toast
 43 "The ___ in Winter"
 44 Social blunder
 45 Lay low
 46 Use a rubber
 49 "Off with you!"
 51 Nureyev's refusal
 54 Quebec compadre

Mr. Renovator

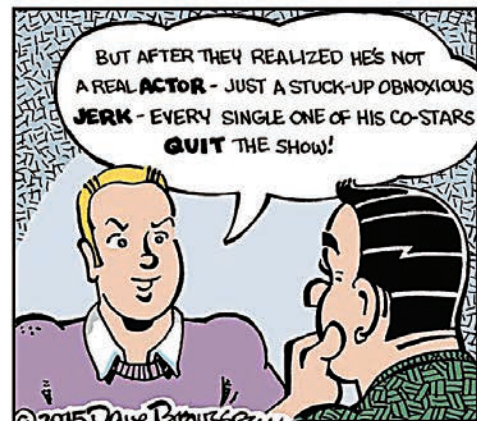
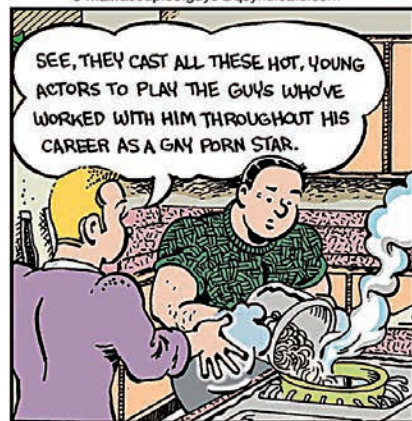
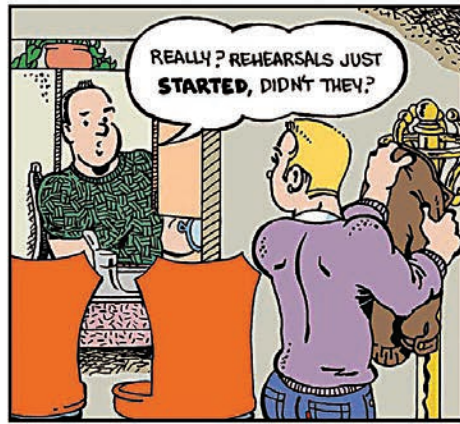
Across

- 1 A strong one may be found in a gym
 5 Poet Angelina ___ Grimke
 9 Eat beaver-style
 13 Arrears
 14 Say it's so
 15 Became erect
 16 Start of a quote from 26-Across
 18 Bob Marley, e.g.
 19 Composer Rorem
- 20 Porn director Francis
 21 Put six feet under
 22 Chip features
 24 Queer
 26 With 27-Across, YouTube star who just came out (anagram of "Mr. Renovator")
 27 See 26-Across
 28 Tickle pink
 29 Revolting activity for pirates
 32 Hrs. in California
 33 More of the quote
 35 "Peel ___ grape"

Down

- 1 Norse war god
 2 Langston Hughes' " Dream ___"
 3 Like a Boy Scout to his master?
 4 U.S.P.S. employee's beat
 5 Singer-pianist Fats
 6 They escaped from Pandora's box
 7 "The Avengers" villain
 8 Weenie
 9 Corn hole?

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ANNOUNCEMENTS - COMMUNITY SERVICES

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