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Please see Brief Summary of
Patient Information with important
warnings on the following pages.

Brief Summary of Patient Information about GENVOYA

GENVOYA (jen-VOY-uh) (elvitegravir, cobicistat, emtricitabine, and tenofovir alafenamide) tablets

Important: Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with GENVOYA.

There may be new information about GENVOYA. This information is only a summary and does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

What is the most important information I should know about GENVOYA?

GENVOYA can cause serious side effects, including:

- **Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis may happen in some people who take GENVOYA. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms, which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**
 - feel very weak or tired
 - have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
 - have trouble breathing
 - have stomach pain with nausea or vomiting
 - feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
 - feel dizzy or lightheaded
 - have a fast or irregular heartbeat
- **Severe liver problems.** Severe liver problems may happen in people who take GENVOYA. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large and you may develop fat in your liver.

Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:

- your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
 - dark “tea-colored” urine
 - light-colored bowel movements (stools)
 - loss of appetite for several days or longer
 - nausea
 - stomach pain
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking GENVOYA for a long time.**
 - **Worsening of Hepatitis B infection.** GENVOYA is not for use to treat chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV). If you have HBV infection and take GENVOYA, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking GENVOYA. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.
 - Do not run out of GENVOYA. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your GENVOYA is all gone.
 - Do not stop taking GENVOYA without first talking to your healthcare provider.
 - If you stop taking GENVOYA, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking GENVOYA.

What is GENVOYA?

GENVOYA is a prescription medicine that is used without other HIV-1 medicines to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years of age and older:

- who have not received HIV-1 medicines in the past **or**
- to replace their current HIV-1 medicines in people who have been on the same HIV-1 medicines for at least 6 months, have an amount of HIV-1 in their blood (“viral load”) that is less than 50 copies/mL, and have never failed past HIV-1 treatment

HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS.

GENVOYA contains the prescription medicines elvitegravir (VITEKTA®), cobicistat (TYBOST®), emtricitabine (EMTRIVA®) and tenofovir alafenamide.

It is not known if GENVOYA is safe and effective in children under 12 years of age.

When used to treat HIV-1 infection, GENVOYA may:

- Reduce the amount of HIV-1 in your blood. This is called “viral load”.
- Increase the number of CD4+ (T) cells in your blood that help fight off other infections.

Reducing the amount of HIV-1 and increasing the CD4+ (T) cells in your blood may help improve your immune system. This may reduce your risk of death or getting infections that can happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

GENVOYA does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. You must stay on continuous HIV-1 therapy to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.

Avoid doing things that can spread HIV-1 infection to others:

- Do not share or re-use needles or other injection equipment.
- Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades.
- Do not have any kind of sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have any questions about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to other people.

Who should not take GENVOYA?

Do not take GENVOYA if you also take a medicine that contains:

- alfuzosin hydrochloride (Uroxatral®)
- carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Epitol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®, Tegretol-XR®, Teril®)
- cisapride (Propulsid®, Propulsid Quicksolv®)
- ergot-containing medicines, including: dihydroergotamine mesylate (D.H.E. 45®, Migranal®), ergotamine tartrate (Cafergot®, Migergot®, Ergostat®, Medihaler Ergotamine®, Wigraine®, Wigrettes®), and methylergonovine maleate (Ergotrate®, Methergine®)
- lovastatin (Advicor®, Altoprev®, Mevacor®)
- midazolam, when taken by mouth
- phenobarbital (Luminal®)
- phenytoin (Dilantin®, Phenytek®)
- pimozone (Orap®)
- rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, Rimactane®)
- sildenafil (Revatio®), when used for treating lung problems
- simvastatin (Simcor®, Vytorin®, Zocor®)
- triazolam (Halcion®)
- the herb St. John’s wort or a product that contains St. John’s wort

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking GENVOYA?

Before taking GENVOYA, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have liver problems including hepatitis B infection
- have kidney or bone problems
- have any other medical conditions
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if GENVOYA can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking GENVOYA.

Pregnancy registry: there is a pregnancy registry for women who take HIV-1 medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk with your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.

- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take GENVOYA.
 - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
 - At least one of the medicines in GENVOYA can pass to your baby in your breast milk. It is not known if the other medicines in GENVOYA can pass into your breast milk.
 - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Other medicines may affect how GENVOYA works.

Some medicines may interact with GENVOYA. **Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.**

- You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that interact with GENVOYA.
- Do not start a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take GENVOYA with other medicines.

How should I take GENVOYA?

- Take GENVOYA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it. GENVOYA is taken by itself (not with other HIV-1 medicines) to treat HIV-1 infection.
- GENVOYA is usually taken 1 time each day.
- Take GENVOYA with food.
- If you need to take a medicine for indigestion (antacid) that contains aluminum and magnesium hydroxide or calcium carbonate during treatment with GENVOYA, take it at least 2 hours before or after you take GENVOYA.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking GENVOYA without first talking with your healthcare provider. Stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking GENVOYA.
- Do not miss a dose of GENVOYA.
- If you take too much GENVOYA, call your healthcare provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.
- When your GENVOYA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to GENVOYA and become harder to treat.

What are the possible side effects of GENVOYA?

GENVOYA may cause serious side effects, including:

- See “What is the most important information I should know about GENVOYA?”
- **Changes in body fat can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicine.** These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the middle of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system** (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having any new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.
- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before you start and while you are taking GENVOYA. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking GENVOYA if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take GENVOYA. Bone problems may include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bones.

The most common side effect of GENVOYA is nausea.

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

- These are not all the possible side effects of GENVOYA. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

General information about the safe and effective use of GENVOYA.

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information leaflet. Do not use GENVOYA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give GENVOYA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about GENVOYA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about GENVOYA that is written for health professionals.

For more information, call **1-800-445-3235** or go to **www.GENVOYA.com**.

Keep GENVOYA and all medicines out of reach of children.

Issued: November 2015


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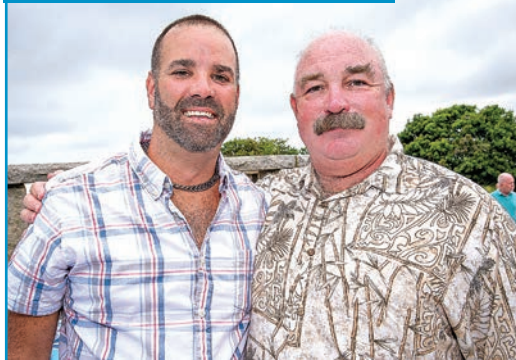
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Sexual Orientation Is 'Not A Message' Argues GLAD In New Legal Case

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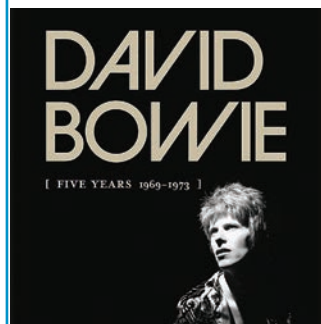
Commentary: Can And Should We Fight For LGBT Rights At The Ballot Box?

- BTL Editor & Co-Publisher
Susan Horowitz

“Our community deserves the rigorous analysis and strategic campaign planning that must be done before embarking on a campaign of this magnitude. Once such analysis and planning is completed and presented to the stakeholders, the LGBT community can then unite in the ongoing struggle for equality.”

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Supporting LGBT Older Adults

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NEWS

Fed Waiver To Christian University Could Nullify Lansing Human Rights Ordinance Enforcement

BY TODD HEYWOOD

LANSING – A federal waiver granted to Spring Arbor University is causing officials in the city of Lansing to take a second look at the city’s human rights ordinance. The law was passed in 2006 – a decade after voters overwhelmingly rejected a similar law in a contentious ballot fight.

Spring Arbor University officials sought a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights last spring. The waiver, which was granted only months later, allows the self-described “Christian” university to discriminate in all offerings against the LGBT community, as well as unwed, pregnant or single mothers. The university sought the waiver as part of expressing their religious beliefs, but also so it could continue to accept federal funding streams – including grants and educational related payments such as Pell Grants.

The waiver allows the university to violate specific parts of Title IX, a federal law which is designed to stop discrimination on the basis of gender. In 2014, the Obama administration expanded definitions under the law to include gender nonconforming as well as gender identity as protected status. Specifically, the expanded ruling included discrimination against members of the lesbian, gay and bisexual community who did not conform to expected gender norms.

Andy Birkey, a reporter in Minnesota, obtained a list of 27 universities nationwide that had sought and obtained such waivers. Spring Arbor is the only Michigan institution on the list, published at Birkey’s TheColu.mn website.

That waiver could have a trickle down effect at the local level. City officials say because the local ordinance contains a provision which makes federal rules supercede the local ordinance, a student, employee or others experiencing discrimination by the university would likely have no recourse under the local law.

“It is permissible for a religious organization or institution to restrict employment opportunities, housing facilities or accommodations that are operated as a direct part of religious activities to persons who are members of or who conform to the moral tenets of that religious institution or organization,” the law reads in a section titled “Other exceptions.”

“This chapter shall not be construed to limit rights granted by State or Federal Constitution, law, rule or regulation, including but not limited to, the following,” The preamble of that section reads.

“It’s something I will be bringing up to the ad hoc committee on diversity on Friday morning,” said Carol Wood, a Lansing city council member who is overseeing a community review of the city’s ordinance. City officials plan to revisit the law specifically to include language to address bullying.

Kathie Dunbar, a city council member who authored the 2006 law, said she was going to ask the City Attorney for an opinion on what impact the federal waiver has on the operation of the ordinance in the city.

Spring Arbor has a history of discriminating against the LGBT community. In 2007, the university came under fire for terminating Julie Nemecek because she transitioned from male to female.

“Spring Arbor University has faced situations in the past where the actions of faculty members have been in direct conflict with the ideals we uphold,” writes a spokesperson for the university in a release sent to BTL at the time. “While it is not our practice to discuss the details of personnel matters, we can confirm that Spring Arbor University has made the decision to not renew John (sic) Nemecek’s contract after the Spring semester.”

The university and Nemecek reached an out of court settlement related to the discrimination. Terms of the settlement were not disclosed.

Also in 2007, students at the main campus in Spring Arbor, just outside of Jackson, told BTL they lived in “a bubble.”

SAU has policy prohibiting students from engaging in homosexual conduct and being found in violation can result in suspension or expulsion, as well as the potential of being outed to family members.

The university also withdrew from a partnership with Lansing Community College after college officials directed all possible tenets in the University Center. They would be expected to follow the college’s nondiscrimination policies, including prohibitions against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and/or gender identity.



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Contentious Meeting Reveals Conflicting Data

Questions Raised By Wide Gap In Two Studies On Viability Of Ballot Initiative

BY AJ TRAGER

ANN ARBOR – Over 100 people from across the state, including activists, elected officials and political operatives gathered Monday night at an event organized by the Jim Toy Community Center, located in Ann Arbor. Billed as the “Proposed Ballot Initiative Community Conversation” the event was primarily a presentation by attorney Dana Nessel, co-chair of Fair Michigan – a bipartisan ballot committee that would add sexual orientation and gender identity and expression to the equal protection clause of the Michigan constitution.

But questions raised about polling methodologies and the widely different results from at least two different analyses of the electorate prompted political experts to call for a deeper look at all the numbers before moving forward with a costly, ambitious ballot initiative.

The four-person panel included Nessel, Mary Pollack, government relations coordinator for the American Association of University Women, Robert Sedler, professor of constitutional law at Wayne State University, and ACLU Transgender Advocacy Project Coordinator Amy Hunter.

The evening’s Q&A format allowed for limited discussion as questions came through note cards, which offered no room for follow up questions.

The community meeting came after weeks of unanswered questions to 17 signatories

(including the ACLU-Michigan, Equality Michigan, Transgender Michigan, state Sen. Rebekah Warren (D-Ann Arbor), and state House Reps. Jon Hoadley (D-Kalamazoo), and Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield)) in a letter calling for collaboration in the movement and another letter to Nessel authored by 40 transgender activists requesting the Fair Michigan team collaborate and include the trans community at the discussion table.

The evening began with opening remarks by Jim Toy who provided a sense of community and a reminder that not all conversations are pleasant especially within a family, such as the LGBT community.

“My parents said, ‘At the dinner table we never talk about sex, or politics, or religion because it leads to nothing but arguments.’ And I’ve discovered that they were right. And I’ve also discovered that sex, politics and religion are inseparable. If one comes up, the others inevitably follow. And we’re here, I think, because we are responding to the oppressive confluence of sex, politics and religion on our lives. And that confluence is exercised, as we know, through discrimination, harassment and assault on our persons and our property. If I had my way we would transform sex, politics and religion into love, justice and faith in human worth and dignity,” said Toy, JTCC’s namesake.

Nessel started with a brief overview of the ballot proposal and the reasons she thinks it is a viable option now. She said she is confident of victory, citing the results of a September

poll that found support at 68.4 percent from all demographics for amending the constitution to include protections for the LGBT community.

After introductory remarks by the four panelists, State Rep. Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor) and Executive Director of Equality Michigan, Stephanie White then were allowed three minutes each to introduce themselves and address their baseline thoughts regarding the ballot initiative.

Irwin stood in for state Sen. Rebekah Warren, D-Ann Arbor, and acknowledged that with current positioning in the state Legislature, a 2016 amendment to Elliott-Larsen is highly unlikely. He did, however, discuss term limits and highlighted that many Republican representatives are shifting their opinions and becoming more inclusive of the LGBT community.

“You may notice that, last session, a Republican introduced the change to Elliott-Larsen to fix this law for the purposes of equality and that was a big step forward. That tells you what I see up there on a daily basis which is that these Republican legislators, particularly the younger ones, they’re realizing that their position on this issue is being overwhelmed by a tidal wave of public opinion,” Irwin explained. “And they’re looking for a way to change their political future. Because right now they’re seeing that if they continue to be bigoted and continue to oppose equality they will have no political future.”

White spoke to decision-making criteria

for ballot campaigns, highlighting four key questions that she would like to see answered to determine the viability of the proposed campaign: Is there a numerical path to victory? How is this framed in the public’s mind? Does our movement have the strength to win a tough campaign? and Do we have the funds to win?

White discussed the difference between polling and modeling and introduced Amy Mello, public engagement director from Freedom for All Americans, who later shared results from a modeling report that paints a radically different picture of the electorate in Michigan than do Fair Michigan’s encouraging poll numbers. Rather than a big majority in support, Mello’s group found that in Michigan, the analysis right now shows support at only about 42 percent.

“There was a model done and analyzed here in Michigan. This model predicted Houston’s result within two points,” said Mello. “We have found that polling is often higher support because the issue, in general, feels like something that people would support.”

Mello implored the panel to look hard at all the numbers before committing to such a significant campaign. “There are a lot of factors that go into decisions like this but I think it’s important that we recognize that there are other numbers out there and that this one would show a gap of about 730,000 votes meaning we’d need to change 365,000 minds. That is a pretty gargantuan feat that at

See Ballot Meeting, page 30



“I recommend a conversation be held out of the public eye within the next week between Fair Michigan and the LGBT community to fully analyze the data.”

Mark Schauer, former Congressman and gubernatorial candidate



“Rights don’t drop out of the sky. You have to go out and get them somehow.”

Dana Nessel, Co-Chair Fair Michigan



Is there a numerical path to victory? How is this framed in the public’s mind? Does our movement have the strength to win a tough campaign? Do we have the funds to win?

– Questions Equality Michigan Executive Director Stephanie White wants answers to.



“Any nondiscrimination measure will now nationally be about bathrooms. It is the opposition messaging that works.”

Amy Hunter, ACLU Transgender Advocacy Project Coordinator

A woman with her hair in a bun, wearing a white, strapless, feathered wedding gown, stands in a studio setting. A spotlight illuminates her from the left. The background is a textured, greyish-blue wall.

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The Community Foundation Ranked Among Top 10 Funders For LGBT Causes

BY BTL STAFF

The Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan was recently recognized as a leader in LGBT funding, according to an article by LGBTfunders.org.

Only \$5 million of the \$4 billion annually awarded by community foundations goes to LGBT issues. And community foundations play a vital role in supporting LGBT organizations by increasing local investment in and awareness of LGBT issues.

Between 2011 and 2013, community foundations awarded more than \$15 million to support LGBT issues. Of that \$15 million, the Community Foundation of Southeastern Michigan was awarded \$1,062,446. The Community Foundation was listed third out of 10, after New York Community Trust and the San Francisco Foundation.

The HOPE Fund was created as a grant making and technical assistance program within the Community Foundation of Southeastern Michigan to focus on strengthening organizations and projects that serve the LGBT community of Southeastern Michigan. In 1994, the Fund was given a \$43,000 grant from Funders for LGBTQ Issues to help launch the initiative. Since then, generous contributors have invested more than \$3 million to support The HOPE Fund endowment, its grant making program and related efforts.

The HOPE Fund is the first partnership in the state between the LGBT community and a mainstream philanthropic foundation. The Fund has a unique structure in the Community Foundation that supports capacity-building for LGBT agencies and collaboration between two or more LGBT organizations and helps to support efforts that increase the effectiveness, voice and visibility of the LGBT community in Michigan.

According to Funders for LGBTQ Issues, funding for LGBT issues by community foundations is expected to reach \$200 million in the year 2017.

Get Into The Spirit With Affirmations' Holiday Bazaar

FERNDALE – Affirmations will hold a Holiday Bazaar at 3 p.m. Dec. 12 to benefit youth programming at the center and to get the LGBT community ready for the holiday season.

With Christmas and other gift-giving holidays just on the horizon, the Bazaar will serve as an opportunity to knock out some holiday gift buying from local vendors within the community. The holiday bazaar will feature vendors of holiday goods; art and crafts; holiday treats; musical performances; a senior bake-off; art exhibition by Lilith Dorr; free drop-in fitness classes; and tons of holiday cheer.

Affirmations is located at 290 W. Nine Mile Road in Ferndale.

Extended briefs are available online at:

>> www.PrideSource.com



Over 400 anti-gay people gathered at the state Capitol Dec. 2. State Rep. Tom Hooker, R-Wyoming, called on elected officials to ignore the U.S. Supreme Court ruling making same-sex marriages legal saying he would be introducing a resolution to that effect. BTL Photos: Todd Heywood

Ignore U.S. Supreme Court Ruling, Lawmaker's Resolution Tells Leaders

BY TODD HEYWOOD

LANSING – In the shadow of the state Christmas tree, about 400 people rallied against what they say is escalating Christian persecution. Top on the list of the persecution they claim? Marriage equality.

Rep. Tom Hooker, R-Wyoming, told the crowd he would “drop” or introduce a resolution Wednesday in the state House that would declare the June U.S. Supreme Court same-sex marriage ruling “unconstitutionally usurped power expressly reserved by the United States Constitution to the states and the people.” The resolution urges top executive branch leaders – Gov. Rick Snyder, Attorney General Bill Schuette, Secretary of State Ruth Johnson – to “re-claim this state’s sovereignty by not recognizing or enforcing the United States Supreme Court’s Obergefell decision as the rule of law.”

In other words, Hooker and supporters want Snyder and others to ignore the law and resort back to a time when same-sex couples could not get married.

Response from both sides of the aisle was immediate. State Sen. Steve Bieda, D-Warren – who happened to have walked through the rally – told Between The Lines, when asked for comment on

the proposed resolution, “They might as well be saying they don’t believe in the U.S. Constitution.”

“The Rep. Hooker resolution displays a galling lack of knowledge of our basic constitutional framework of government, which is particularly of concern as members of the Legislature are sworn to uphold the Constitution of the U.S.,” Bieda texted later. “No where in our oath of office do we get to pick and choose which provisions we wish to follow.”

Bieda went one step further: “This is basic Government 101 curriculum that is taught as part of civics classes starting at the fourth grade.”

Senate Democrats left the messaging to Bieda from their caucus.

Meanwhile, Sen. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge, who chairs the powerful Senate Judiciary Committee, said the resolution “doesn’t make a lot of sense.”

“I don’t know how you can go about ignoring the law without opening the state up all sorts of legal issues that would cost taxpayers a lot of money,” Jones said.

If the resolution is introduced in the Senate, Jones said he will ask that it be withdrawn.

Barb Byrum, the Ingham County Clerk, said even if the resolution passes and top elected officials tell her to ignore

the law, she won’t do it. “I will follow the law and continue to marry all loving couples.”

“If Rep. Hooker and Dave Agema oppose marriage equality so much, I suggest they don’t marry each other,” Byrum said when asked about the substance of the resolution. “But just in case they change their minds, I’d be more than willing to officiate.”

Gov. Rick Snyder’s office declined to comment specifically on the resolution. However, spokesman Dave Murray referred BTL back to Snyder’s statement when the court ruled in favor of marriage equality in June.

“Same-sex marriage has been a divisive issue in Michigan and across our country,” Snyder said in a June statement. “Recognizing that there are strong feelings on both sides, it is important for everyone to respect the judicial process and the decision today from the U.S. Supreme Court. Our state government will follow the law and our state agencies will make the necessary changes to ensure that we will fully comply.”

“Let’s also recognize while this issue has stirred passionate debate, we now should focus on the values we share,” he continued. “With this matter now settled,

See Resolution, next page

“ If Rep. Hooker and Dave Agema oppose marriage equality so much, I suggest they don't marry each other. But just in case they change their minds, I'd be more than willing to officiate. ”

- Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum when asked about the substance of the resolution.

► Resolution

Continued from p. 12

as Michiganders we should move forward positively, embracing our state's diversity and striving to treat everyone with the respect and dignity they deserve.”

That might not play well with the “persecuted Christians” crowd. The line up at the event was a virtual who's who of right-wing anti-gay activists. Rep. Gary Glenn, R-Midland, spoke as did Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton. Supporters of GOP Presidential candidate Ted Cruz were also prevalent at the rally. Many were wearing Cruz stickers, and some wore campaign stocking caps supporting the Texas senator's bid for the GOP nomination. In addition, former state lawmaker and current National GOP committeeman Dave Agema was present along with Michigan GOP ethnic vice chair Darwin Jiles, Jr. Agema helped sweep Jiles into office earlier this year despite Jiles' felony record.



anti-gay lawyer with a long history of trying to undermine LGBT equality efforts. He opposed a local human rights ordinance in Delta, represented students in Jackson seeking to sue the school district for having a gay/straight alliance and is currently representing a woman suing Planet Fitness for allowing a transgender member to use the women's locker room.

The ministry explains its “First Principles” as follows: “First Principles are moral absolutes God reveals in His Word and places on the human heart. Present at the creation of the

world, these self-evident truths correspond to reality and remain constant through time. First Principles therefore provide a reliable objective standard by which to measure whether an action is good or bad, right or wrong, just or unjust. Salt & Light Global recognizes that lasting transformation is only possible if grounded in God's law. Therefore, it desires to see First Principles embraced by every social sphere in every community.”

In the ministry's worldview, the Bible is infallible, and “as followers of Christ, we have a responsibility to bring to life our community and to ensure that the various social institutions are operating as God designed.”

Also present were organizers of a local manifestation of a right-wing Christian group called Battle Cry. BTL reported on the national group's rally in Detroit back in 2007.

Ron Luce and his Battle Cry stadium events are militant revivals, BTL reported at the time, reminiscent of videos of other extreme training camps – with equal measures of hard pounding Christian rock, pyrotechnics for God, splashes of vivid light shows complete with subliminal images and a show from Luce himself culminating with the teens shouting back and forth in a bizarre call and response of, “I want the blood!” and, “I want the cross!”



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Why LGBT Couples Should Sign A Prenup Before Celebrating Marriage Equality

BY LISA SCHMIDT

FERNDALE – Now that the Supreme Court opened marriage to LGBT citizens across the country, record numbers of LGBT couples are tying the knot. But years of being denied marriage equality will continue to affect these couples, particularly when they divorce. That's why it is so important for LGBT couples to sign a prenup before they say, "I do."

A prenuptial agreement is a contract entered into before the start of a marriage. It can set out what will happen during the marriage and provide a guide for what happens in the case of death or divorce. Prenups can be used to protect spouses, businesses and children, and can be written to benefit the less privileged spouse.

Take Jack and Steve, for example. Jack is a photographer whose business makes some money, but he generally relies on Steve, a bank teller, to pay most of the bills. Jack and Steve have been together for 18 years. For the last 12 years they have lived in a home that Steve purchased, but that Jack maintains. The couple got married after the Obergefell v. Hodges Supreme Court decision in June 2015, but now things are falling apart.

Marriage Equality Without A Prenup

Without a prenuptial agreement, any divorcing couple – LGBT or straight – follows the same rules at court:

- Assets and debts accumulated during the marriage are divided equitably (usually close to 50/50).

- Assets and debts either spouse owned before the marriage belong to that spouse.

- Spousal support (or alimony) is calculated based on factors like the length of the marriage and ability of each partner to earn money.

All of these factors start counting on the day of the marriage. Anything that happened before that date is non-marital – even if the couple was living happily together for years before going through the formal ceremony. That can cause problems for LGBT couples.

If Jack and Steve were to follow standard divorce law, Steve would likely keep the home, along with all of his income, assets and retirement earnings prior to the 2015 marriage. At best, Jack might be entitled to some

compensation for his work as a handyman on the home.

Jack shouldn't count on any spousal support either. Short term marriages (up to 10 years) often don't result in any alimony at all. Even though Jack relied on Steve for nearly two decades, he could be on his own after the divorce.



A Prenuptial Agreement Can Help

By signing a prenuptial agreement before getting married, Jack and Steve can tell the courts they value their time living together too. They can agree

to a minimum spousal support number and can lay out what assets should be treated as separate or marital property. A family lawyer can help Jack protect his interest in his business and intellectual property in his artwork, or help Steve identify the value of brokerage accounts and other non-liquid assets.

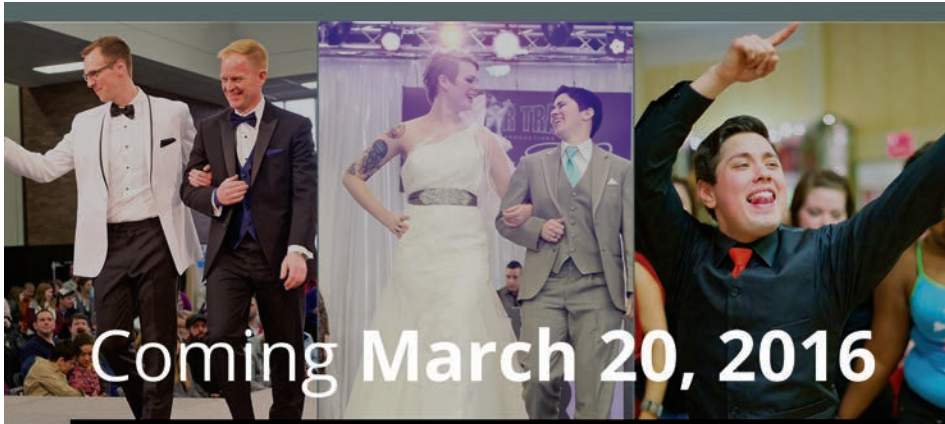
Couples can't tell the court to treat them as married before the wedding day. But by agreeing to how their assets and debts will be divided ahead of time, LGBT couples can command respect for their long-term relationships.

Timing Is Everything

To make this work, LGBT couples need to talk to a family law attorney before the wedding day. Prenuptial agreements only work if they are signed before the marriage. After the vows are exchanged, an estate planning attorney may be able to help guide what happens when one party dies, but they probably won't be able to change what happens in case of divorce.

Obergefell v. Hodges was a giant leap forward in the fight for marriage equality. But LGBT couples still need to be careful. Don't let divorce laws undercut your long-term relationship. Talk to a family lawyer before your wedding day to provide for you and your spouse in case anything happens.

Lisa J. Schmidt is a family law attorney for Schmidt Law Services, PLLC, in Ferndale. She focuses on LGBT and non-traditional family issues, including prenuptial agreements. To find attorneys familiar with LGBT family issues, go to the Yellow Pages Directory at www.pridesource.com.



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Tina and Trudi Bates with their daughter Tessa.

Granting An 8-Year-Old's Wish: The End To A Long Engagement

BY AJ TRAGER

YPSILANTI – Tina and Trudi Bates got together in 1998 after the death of Tina's first partner, Linda. They met in the Affirmations' Women's Rap group and became very close friends. Meeting Trudi was a surprise for Tina, as was the relationship that they still share. Seventeen years after the beginning of their romance, they finally tied the knot and wanted to share their story with BTL readers.

Tina came out at a young age and started dating Linda when she was just 13; they grew up together. She met with a lot of animosity from family and peers but remained optimistic in the face of adversity and stuck with her partner through thick and thin. She gave up the idea of marriage when she was just 14 but now that she is finally married to the woman of her dreams, she feels relieved and grateful.

Tina gave up the idea of marriage when she was just 14 but now that she is finally married to the woman of her dreams, she feels relieved and grateful.

"It's very surreal. I wanted a wedding ring like all my straight friends had," Tina joked.

She took Trudi's last name "Bates" 15 years ago for the small price of \$700 before most companies were offering domestic partnerships; before many TV shows even included an LGBT character. She calls the period of time between then and now to be her "long engagement" to Trudi. But she wanted to take another step up the relationship escalator – she wanted kids and she wanted new developments in her life.



Eventually Trudi graduated from medical school and got a job in the pharmacy department at the University of Michigan, which meant that they were finally able to move out of their basement apartment and into a larger home close to Ann Arbor. Unfortunately, old wounds from a horse riding accident when she was just 8 years old crept up and left her disabled shortly after purchasing the house in Pittsfield Township.

In 2008 after a stressful pregnancy that included daily injections and monitoring of sugar levels, Trudi gave birth to a healthy baby girl, Tessa Grace Gates. Tina didn't want to watch the birth – in fact, she didn't even want to be in the room. However, she was convinced to watch as her daughter was born via cesarean section, in a remarkable surgery that shocked the medical staff.

"Stay with my eyes and stand up," Tina remembers being told during the height of

See Long Engagement, page 18



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► Long Engagement

Continued from p. 17

the moment. She was pulled up, looking directly into Trudi's eyes. "I gasped and started crying."

Tessa was raising her hand up to the sky almost to say, "Look out world, here I am." She began talking at 7 months old and understood the concept of Momma, Mother and Father at a very young age. The three of them celebrate Father's Day every year and cast a balloon into the sky in gratitude for contributing to Tessa's life.

On her eighth birthday held at Pizza Hut, before her entire class and a clown performer specializing in balloon artistry, Tessa made her birthday wish. Tina was expecting something that a typical 8-year-old would ask for, such as a toy or a bike, but Tessa had another idea.

"My wish is for you and Mother to get married," she said.

Tina says that Tessa is a mature child for her age and was surprised that her daughter would "waste a birthday wish on her," after all, weddings are not cheap and disability bills can suck a bank account dry. But Tessa is invested in their happiness and actively advocates, to her youthful ability, for the acceptance of LGBT families like hers.

"Tessa is helping the next generation in her own magical, wonderful way," Tina said to BTL. "Tessa has had to deal with gay issues and not be gay herself."

The young girl understands how her family dynamic is different from other families'. She attends a public school in Ann Arbor and is actively engaging in conversations with her peers, neighbors and with her Momma and Mother. When asked if she was missing out on anything by not having a father in the home, Tessa responded, "I have you to care about

me and you to care about me. You love me so much, I get the love from both moms. However, I get the love from you guys, but you don't let me get away with things."

Tina and Trudi were married Nov. 24, 2015 in their living room. They gathered up black and white chairs, laid down a white runner, gathered casually dressed friends and family together and celebrated a day of love. It just happened to be a girls only event equipped with two flower girls and four maids of honor. Rev. Deb Cox from the Metropolitan Community Church of Metro Detroit officiated the small ceremony.

After the ceremony, Tessa gave a toast for her Momma and Mother. "My eight birthday wish came true," she said. "My moms got to get married today."

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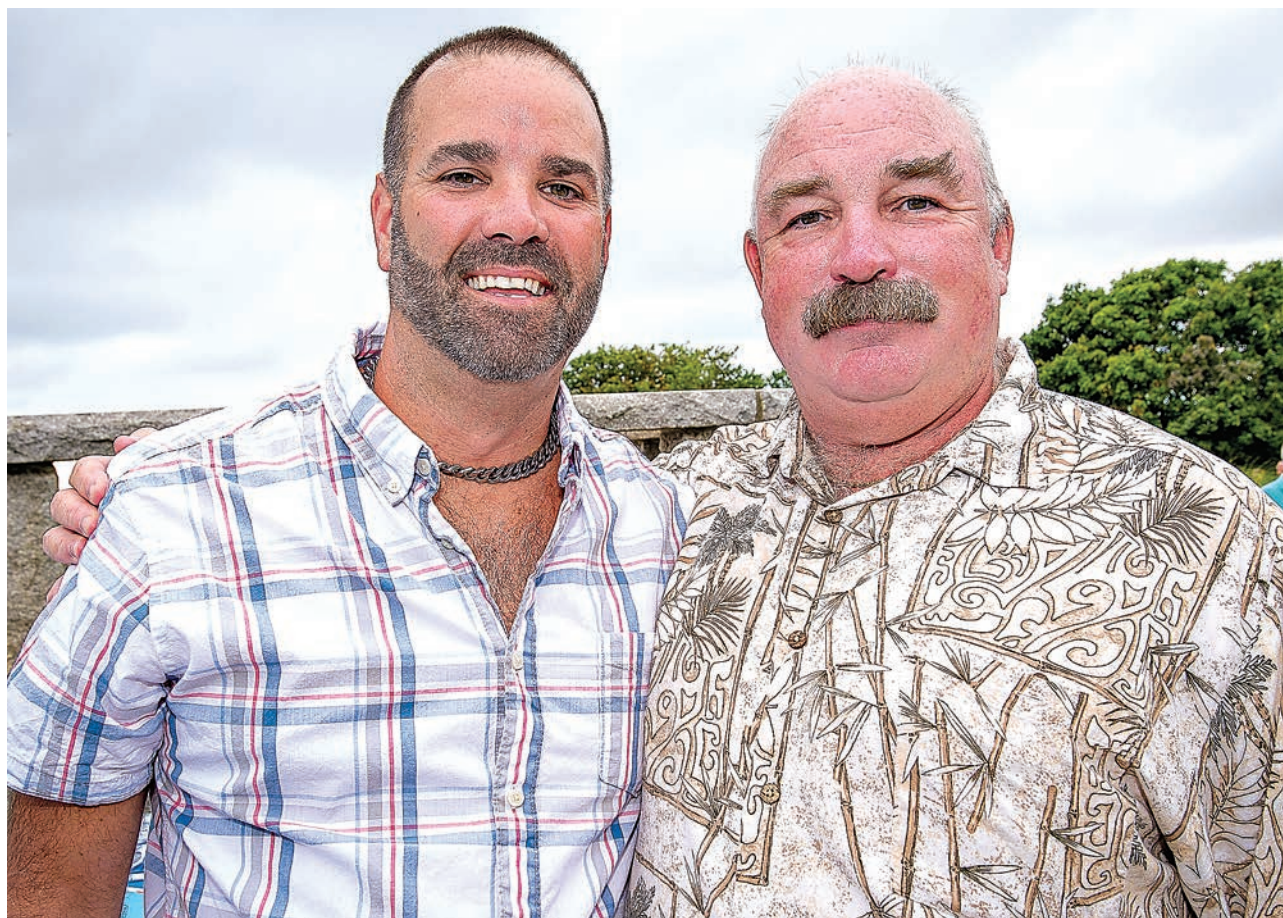
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Join The Conversation



Matt Barrett and his husband Ed Suplee. Barrett is one of many cases around the country that are testing the right of various employers to circumvent laws prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Sexual Orientation Is 'Not A Message' Argues GLAD In Important New Case

BY LISA KEEN

A new case is underway in the ongoing and escalating conflict between laws protecting religious freedom and laws prohibiting sexual orientation discrimination. And this one has the potential to either strengthen or cripple laws that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation across the nation. The case, (Matthew) Barrett v. Fontbonne Academy, has been brought by Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), the organization that won the right to marry for same-sex couples in Massachusetts. GLAD also led the way to strike down the federal Defense of Marriage Act and state bans on marriage for same-sex couples in all 50 states.

Barrett is one of many cases around the country that are testing the right of various employers to circumvent laws prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation. In most of these cases, the employers claim their discrimination is a necessary part of their free exercise of religion. And in most, the conflict has been played out between individual

In most of these cases, the employers claim their discrimination is a necessary part of their free exercise of religion. And in most, the conflict has been played out between individual businesses in the public realm – bakers, florists, wedding vendors – refusing service to same-sex couples getting married.

businesses in the public realm – bakers, florists, wedding vendors – refusing service to same-sex couples getting married. In this case, however, the employer also claims a First Amendment right to “expressive association,” an argument that could have far-reaching implications.

“The expressive association argument could be used by non-religiously affiliated institutions” to justify discrimination based on sex or sexual orientation, explained Bennett Klein, a long-time attorney for GLAD. Klein is representing Matthew Barrett, who lost his new job with Fontbonne Academy after he filled out some paperwork indicating that, in an emergency, his employer should contact his husband, Ed Suplee. Fontbonne, a

Catholic-affiliated secondary school for girls, had hired Barrett to be its director of food services. The school’s student population includes non-Catholics, and the food services director has no explicit duties to instruct any of the students in religious tenets. But at a preliminary argument Dec. 1, an attorney for Fontbonne, John Bagley, said Barrett’s being married to a man would interfere with the school’s Catholic-oriented message.

“How can (the school) credibly talk to kids about the Catholic faith if somebody who’s an employee is involved in activity inconsistent with the message of the school?” said Bagley. As an example, he noted that, if Barrett and his spouse

See New Legal Case, page 22

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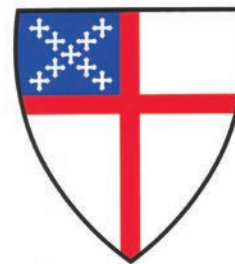
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Unity of Royal Oak, 2500 Crooks Rd, Royal Oak MI 48073
 Email: info@unityroyaloak.org Web: www.unityroyaloak.org
 Phone: 248.288.3550 Rev. Ric Beattie, Spiritual Leader & Pastor

Bring your family and Celebrate the Light of this holy season. Our services are an hour long.

Dec 24 - Two Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Services - 5 and 7 pm
 Children's Church Available at 5 pm

Then release what was and create a space for a Happy New Year
 Dec 31 - New Years Eve - Burning Bowl Service at 6 pm

Unity of Royal Oak is #MoreThanAChurch,
 we're a Center for Conscious Living

► New Legal Case

Continued from p. 20

show up at a school-wide party or event, the students might assume the school is conveying an implicit message that same-sex marriage is acceptable to the church.

To buttress his argument, Bagley pointed to the 1995 U.S. Supreme Court decision in the St. Patrick's Day parade lawsuit, *Hurley v. Irish-American Gay*. That decision held the right to expressive association and permitted the private organizers of Boston's annual parade to bar a gay group from participating in the parade behind a banner which identified them as gay. Bagley's brief also argued that a 2000 Supreme Court decision in *Boy Scouts v. Dale* held that a private organization had an expressive association right to bar a gay man from a leadership position in the group.

Klein argued Dec. 1 that Barrett, by being married to a man, is not attempting to convey a message, like the Irish-Gay parade contingent, and that Barrett is not assuming a role as advocate, as gay scout leader James Dale did. "Sexual orientation is not a message, and there's no distinction between sexual orientation and being married to a person of the same sex," said Klein in court. Fontbonne's decision to withdraw its job offer "was based on (Barrett's) status ... not based on him doing anything (or) saying anything."

Neither of Fontbonne's attorneys, John Bagley nor Jeffrey O'Connor, were available to take this reporter's call, and Bagley begged

off reporters' questions following the hearing. Bagley also argued Dec. 1 that he believes there are some facts in dispute. If Norfolk County Superior Court Judge Douglas Wilkins agrees, he could schedule the matter for a jury trial. If he disagrees, he could rule on the merits of the case. Whenever the lawsuit is resolved, it will almost certainly be appealed to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court and, eventually, the U.S. Supreme Court. GLAD founder John Ward, who argued the Hurley case in the Supreme Court, said he considers the Fontbonne case to be "hugely important" because, for gay people, "the issue around the country is: You can get married on Sunday and fired on Monday."

Ward said he thinks this case could help decide the current conflict over the use of religion to justify discrimination based on sexual orientation. "There's been this trend in U.S. Supreme Court cases that hasn't been real helpful," said Ward, referring to recent decisions. Last year, in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby*, the high court ruled that a federal law can not require a closely held commercial employer to provide health insurance coverage for contraception if that employer claims that to do so violates his or her personal religious beliefs. Prior to that, in *Hosanna-Tabor v. EEOC*, the Supreme Court ruled that the First Amendment bars lawsuits on behalf of "ministers" against their "churches," holding that it is "impermissible for the government to contradict a church's determination of who can act as its ministers."

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 2685 Packard St.
www.kingofkingslutheran.org

• **Lord of Light Lutheran Church**
 801 S. Forest Ave.
www.lordoflight.org

• **Trinity Lutheran Church**
 1400 Stadium Blvd.
www.trinityaa.org

• **Detroit**
Spirit of Hope Church
 1519 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
www.spiritofhopedetroit.org

• **East Lansing**
University Lutheran Church
 1020 S. Harrison Rd
www.ulcel.org

• **Ferndale**
Zion Lutheran Church
 143 Albany St.
www.fernzion.org

• **Kentwood**
Ascension Lutheran Church
 4252 Brenton Rd. SE
www.twochurches.org

• **Livonia**
Timothy Lutheran Church
 8820 Wayne Rd.
www.timothy-lutheranchurch.com

• **Muskegon**
Our Saviors Lutheran Church
 1132 Southern Ave.
www.oslcmuskegon.org

• **Port Huron**
St. Martin Lutheran Church
 805 Chestnut St.
 phone: 810.982.9261

• **Rochester Hills**
Abiding Presence Lutheran Church
 1550 Walton Rd.
www.AbidingPresence.org

• **Saline**
Holy Faith Church
 6299 Saline-Ann Arbor Rd.
www.holy-faith-church.org

• **Trenton**
St. Philip Lutheran Church
 1790 Fort St.
www.stphilipelca.org

• **Toledo, Ohio**
St. Lucas Lutheran Church
 745 Walbridge Ave.
www.stlucastoledo.org



Outloud Chorus will sing at 7 p.m., Monday, Dec. 28 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Ann Arbor. The church is located at 1400 Stadium Blvd.

Worship Guide: Holiday Services Calendar

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

Check out these inclusive holiday services and events near you.

Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit

2441 Pinecrest, Ferndale
248-399-7741 www.mccdetroit.org

Third Sunday of Advent Theme: Setting the Table
11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 13

Fourth Sunday of Advent Theme: Celebrate the Feast!
11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 20

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
11 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24

Divine Peace Metropolitan Community Church

1400 Scott Lake Road, Waterford
248-332-1186 www.dpmcc.net

Christmas Program
7:30 p.m. Dec. 11

Christmas Pot Luck and \$10 Gift Exchange
11:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 20

Christmas Eve Candle Light Service
11 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24

Woodside Church

1509 E. Court St., Flint
www.woodsidechurch.net

Daybreak Worship
7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17

The Longest Night Worship
7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 21

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion
8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24

Temple Echad

Friends Center, 1420 Hill St., Ann Arbor
www.temple-echad.org

Shabbat Festival Service
6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11

Shabbat Evening Service
6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18

Journey of Faith Christian Church

1900 Manchester Road, Ann Arbor
734-971-4245 www.A2disciples.org

Blue Christmas
5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12

Christmas Eve Worship
6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24

First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham

1669 W. Maple Road, Birmingham
www.everybodyschurch.org

Christmas Eve Worship Services
2 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m. and 11 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 24

Episcopal Diocese of Michigan

Visit www.edomi.org/calendar/ and other local Episcopal churches for services.

Unity of Royal Oak

2500 Crooks Road, Royal Oak
248-288-3550 www.unityroyaloak.org

Children's Church
5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24

Two Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Services
5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24

King of Kings Lutheran Church

2685 Packard St., Ann Arbor
www.kingofkingslutheran.org

Christmas Eve Worship Services
4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24

Holiday Worship Services
9:30 a.m. Sundays Dec. 27 and Jan. 3, 2016

New Year's Eve Burning Bowl Service
6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31

Lord of Light Lutheran Church

801 S. Forest Ave., Ann Arbor
www.lordoflight.org
Visit www.intersectionlcm.org for worship service details.

Trinity Lutheran Church

1400 Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor
www.trinityaa.org

Celebration Worship
11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 13

Cookies & Carols
7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18

Christmas Eve Candlelight with Communion
5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24

Outloud Chorus
7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 28

Timothy Lutheran Church

8820 Wayne Road, Livonia
www.timothylutheranchurch.com

Cookie Walk
10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 12

Midweek Advent Services
7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17

Christmas Eve Service
7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24

Check out other inclusive services in the area at the following places of worship:

Spirit of Hope Church

1519 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Detroit

Zion Lutheran Church

143 Albany St., Ferndale

St. Martin Lutheran Church

805 Chestnut St., Port Huron
810-982-9261

Holy Faith Church

6299 Saline-Ann Arbor Road, Saline
www.holy-faith-church.org

St. Philip Lutheran Church

1790 Fort St., Trenton
www.stphilipca.org

St. Lucas Lutheran Church

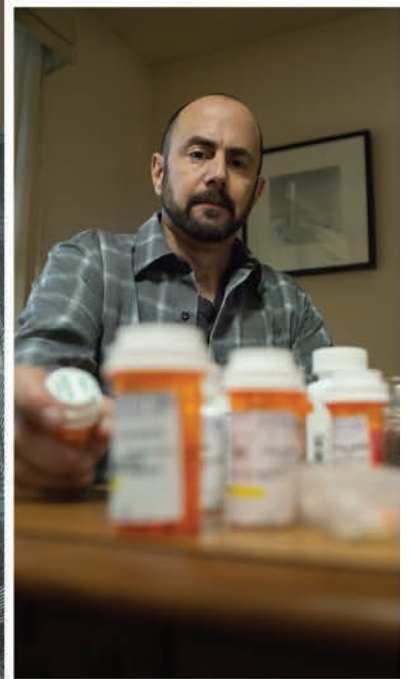
745 Walbridge Ave., Toledo, Ohio
www.stlucastoledo.org

A TIP FROM A
FORMER
SMOKER



HIV alone didn't cause the clogged artery in my neck. Smoking with HIV did.

Brian, age 45, California



Brian had his HIV under control with medication. But smoking with HIV caused him to have serious health problems, including a stroke, a blood clot in his lungs and surgery on an artery in his neck. Smoking makes living with HIV much worse. You can quit.

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Michigan.quitlogix.org



BY SUSAN HOROWITZ

Editor's note: This commentary was originally published online Dec. 4 and updated for print Dec. 8.

An Oct. 30 announcement by a new ballot question committee, Fair Michigan – formed by attorney Dana Nessel – seeks to put LGBT civil rights to a popular vote in 2016. It has caused controversy and a fair amount of confusion and anger among the state's LGBT leaders, allies and the public. The Jim Toy Community Center in Ann Arbor hosted a public meeting Dec. 7 to try and address some serious questions that deserve answers.

Everyone who spoke was clear they want to see Michigan's civil rights law amended to include protections for sexual orientation and gender identity, but that's where the agreement began and ended. How to achieve this, in a state where the political climate offers zero chance of a legislative solution this year, has been the topic of much debate even before the announcement to move ahead with a ballot initiative was made.

Although many are attracted to a ballot initiative route, there are serious unanswered questions about its feasibility and likelihood of success. Supporters and non-supporters have offered a glimpse into the debate heating up across social media since the announcement. History – including the most recent election day in Houston, Texas on Nov. 3 – points to a challenging and expensive battle for any city or state considering the ballot box. And the cost is not being measured in dollars alone, which some experts estimate will take at least \$12 million and perhaps double that in a presidential election year.

The cost is also being assessed for the potential rise in violence; concerns about the time required to educate a distracted, uninformed public being insufficient; and the history of voting in our own state on LGBT issues, to name just a few of the many concerns. All of us should want answers to the serious questions being raised.

Dana Nessel described a poll conducted by Fair Michigan that shows what might seem like an easy win next November. But many political experts in the state and around the country say poll numbers can be highly misleading. Once you sit down and apply what professional pollsters call modeling, the

Commentary: Can And Should We Fight For LGBT Civil Rights At The Ballot Box?

Controversy, Confusion As Stalled Debate Finally Starts

positive polling numbers begin to plummet as you introduce anti-gay and anti-trans messages (like “men in women's bathrooms”). With opposition messaging taken into account, we start to see the real challenges a campaign like

LGBT community is still learning and growing,” she said in the interview. “I think there are people all over our state that don't get it; don't understand why it's not OK to leave some members of our community out, or why

Jon Hoadley, D-Kalamazoo, and Jeremy Moss, D-Southfield.

But what has happened since then?

To say that the Fair Michigan team has been active in the LGBT community's debate would be misleading. Attempts made by BTL to reach Nessel for comment in earlier reporting were left unanswered, including a reminder that the paper actively publishes op-eds and would be more than happy to publish one with a Fair Michigan byline.

During this time, Nessel has spoken to MLive, Gongwer and the Detroit Free Press – none of which are LGBT beat specific. Electablog had planned to sit down with Nessel and discuss Fair Michigan but she declined their offer, despite the fact that they acknowledged the turbulent nature of discussion surrounding the initiative.

BTL did reach out to McLellan, but he declined to comment on the initiative and the role he would be playing.

Nineteen days after Fair Michigan was announced, 40 trans, genderqueer and gender nonconforming community leaders in the state authored a letter to Nessel. In it they called for a meeting between Fair Michigan organizers and the trans community so that the trans community could understand more about the measure and voice their concerns directly to the initiative leadership. Their request was not honored and a meeting was not planned.

Instead, in an interview with MLive, Nessel was quoted as saying, “We are full steam ahead. I won't talk to anybody about stopping (the ballot initiative),” seeming to dismiss the letter at the time.

Trans, genderqueer and gender nonconforming individuals will no doubt face the brunt of this effort. Since January of this year, 22 trans people have been murdered nationally, most of whom were trans women of color. More and more of the trans community is facing more acts of violence from microaggressions to homicide.

“Our basic civil rights should be protected by law and not subject to the capriciousness of a largely uninformed or worse, misinformed public. The transgender community is afforded very few privileges and our rights should not be decided by those who are able to take their privileges for granted. If the opposition succeeds in convincing the majority of voters that we are a threat to their way of life, their

Although many are attracted to a ballot initiative route, there are serious unanswered questions about its feasibility and likelihood of success.

Fair Michigan would face.

Given the enormity of the task at hand, it would seem critical to bring all the stakeholders to the table as an essential first step. Taking this fight to a popular vote would require all hands on deck and yet so far, exactly the opposite has happened.

Recent History

During much of 2013 and 2014, many organizations and businesses worked hard to push a bill through the state Legislature amending Elliot-Larsen, the state civil rights act, to include sexual orientation and gender identity protections. Hope that a 2014 lame-duck session could deliver a bill that Gov. Snyder could sign into law was dashed. At the heart of the battle: Republican legislators wanted to drop gender identity protections. Most in the LGBT community said no to any form of incrementalism and stood unified, looking to a future effort where legislation would be fully inclusive.

In his 2015 State of the State address, Gov. Snyder said that it is time to update Elliott-Larsen so that Michigan can be a competitive destination for top talent and maintain more college graduates who may be leaving the state to pursue careers in more inclusive areas. However, little hope is being placed on the current Legislature moving forward on his request.

Stephanie White, executive director of Equality Michigan, took the helm of the organization this autumn. White arrived in the wake of the failed legislative attempt. In an interview with BTL shortly after her arrival, White said that she saw a willingness between LGBT organizations to work together on issues that affect the community, but she also noted that the LGBT community is not entirely on the same page.

“We have to acknowledge that the whole

gender identity discrimination really is part of sexual orientation discrimination.”

White penned an op-ed, published in BTL the day before the ballot initiative was launched. In it she describes how a multi-year process would include making more friends in Lansing, strengthening the skills and capacity of organizations all across the LGBT movement to work smarter and in coordination towards a common goal, educating and engaging allies, and correcting the fears and misconceptions that the general public now holds thanks to anti-trans messaging that ramped up in Houston.

The next day, Oct. 30, co-chairs of Fair Michigan Dana Nessel and Richard McLellan announced the committee to collect signatures to get the measure on the 2016 ballot. Then, shortly after the Nov. 3 loss of HERO in Houston, 17 LGBT organizations and leaders in the state issued a formal statement calling for a thoughtful approach to updating the state's civil rights act. The letter states that the LGBT community in Michigan stands united in its support of advancing inclusive and comprehensive nondiscrimination protections for the LGBT community in Michigan law, and members agree that working together is the best way to achieve this goal.

“Victory in Michigan requires thoughtful planning and, most 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,” the letter reads.

Among the signatories on the statement were the ACLU-Michigan; Equality Michigan; Transgender Michigan; state Sen. Rebekah Warren, D-Ann Arbor; and state House Reps.

See Ballot, page 30

► Fair Michigan

Continued from p.10

least should be something that we're considering, these other statistics, as we move forward," Mello said.

Experts estimate that the proposed initiative would cost anywhere from \$12-25 million.

Fair Michigan's Case

Nessel then made her presentation and explained why she decided the ballot proposal to be necessary. She described her experiences since the DeBoer v. Snyder marriage trial and said she is frustrated by the lack of legal remedies for many LGBT Michigan residents who have experienced harassment and discrimination, including some who have sought her legal counsel. Nessel's conclusion is that the only logical route is to amend the state constitution, in part because there is no viable legislative option for the foreseeable future since Republican control in Lansing.

Nessel described how the ballot proposal would change the language of Article 1 Section 2 of the Michigan constitution to read "Sect. 2. No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws; nor shall any person be denied the enjoyment of his **or her** civil or political rights or be discriminated against in the exercise thereof because of religion, race, color, **gender, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation**, or national origin. The legislature shall implement this section by appropriate legislation. **When used in laws of this state prohibiting discriminatory**

practices or policies based upon sex, race, and other factors, "gender" and "sex" shall be construed to include gender identity and sexual orientation.

"Putting this into the constitution, this would effectively take every law on the books where you list classes and you would be adding in these other classes. This is a great opportunity to do that with everything all at once. We shouldn't squander that opportunity. I really think that by locking arms together and moving forward we can make some tremendous progress," Nessel said.

"Rights don't drop out of the sky. You have to go out and get them somehow," Nessel said. "You can achieve rights. I hear people say that we shouldn't be voting on anyone civil rights but the fact of the matter is someone is always voting on your civil rights."

What Next?

Closing remarks were delivered by former Congressman and former gubernatorial candidate Mark Schauer. He suggested a conversation be held out of the public eye within the next week and a half between Fair Michigan and the LGBT community to further discuss the polling and modeling research and the find best road forward.

"It is going to be awhile before things change in Lansing, but we cannot understate the importance of educating and bringing along these very same legislators and holding them accountable for their views that are really out of sync with the attitudes and values of our



Amy Mello urged looking at the numbers through modeling and not top line poll numbers alone. Mello is the public engagement director from Freedom for All Americans, who shared results from a modeling report that paints a radically different picture of the electorate in Michigan than do Fair Michigan's encouraging poll numbers.

state," Schauer said.

Changing 350,000 minds is a significant task, said Hunter who cited a recent poll sponsored in part by the ACLU of Michigan that found only 9-12 percent of the population thinks they know a trans person. Hunter said she is worried about educating the public and spreading awareness of the transgender community within the crucible of a nasty

campaign that will surely use the men-in-women's bathrooms meme, a message that has proven to be an effective weapon against trans people and LGBT equality.

"If those people don't even think they know a trans person, how do you, in this period of time, actually message effectively to them in a way that inoculates the entire population against that hateful messaging? Any nondiscrimination measure will now nationally be about bathrooms. It is the opposition messaging that works," Hunter said.

Members of the audience included representatives from Perceptions, LGBT Detroit, Equality Michigan, Affirmations' Trans Sisters of Color Project, the ACLU of Michigan, Ruth Ellis Center, The Victory Fund, The LGBT Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party, Eastern Michigan University's Equality Research Center and members of the state Legislature.

Not all questions could have possibly gotten answered in the 1.5 hour time frame; however, the questions will be posted to the Jim Toy Community Center's Facebook page and the public is encouraged to participate in a civil discussion.

Fair Michigan is comprised of co-chairs Dana Nessel and Richard McLellan and Arena Communications, The Edelson Group, The Glengariff Group, Truscott Rossman Group and Joe Slade White And Company. To find out more about Fair Michigan visit the website at www.fairmichigan.org.

► Commentary: Ballot

Continued from p. 29

beloved institutions and their families, we cannot win at the ballot," the letter from the trans community reads.

Can There Be Reason?

Last week Michigan Public Radio political analyst Jack Lessenberry chimed in on the Fair Michigan debate. Unfortunately, he chose to attack one of the most loyal, ardent and longstanding agencies for Michigan LGBT people – the ACLU of Michigan – suggesting they lacked backbone and a willingness to fight, headlining his piece, "The ACLU is unwilling to do anything meaningful to help push for LGBT civil rights." This targeted an agency that has battled in the courtroom on behalf of LGBT people tirelessly, pro-bono, for decades. Referencing "multiple sources" without identifying them, Lessenberry noted, "The ACLU's stand has deeply angered attorney Dana Nessel." And?

Kary Moss, executive director of the ACLU of Michigan, promptly responded to the attack.

"The ACLU will not be scapegoated because proponents of a ballot initiative fail to garner the necessary support to win. We find such divisiveness unnecessary, unproductive and unfortunate. Their efforts would be better spent in explaining to Michiganders why the time is now for full LGBT equality. Given how much work remains for those of us who care deeply about the interests and images of Michigan's LGBT community, we refuse to be drawn into baseless and personal attacks. Instead, the ACLU of Michigan will remain firmly focused on the critical work of making positive change for LGBT Michiganders," said Moss.

It is this kind of polarizing tension that has been increasing over the past five weeks, seeming to fill a void where analysis and substantive discussions could be taking place.

Instead, the dialogue has devolved into name calling.

Nessel has had a long standing public beef with national (LGBT) groups and the ACLU. She complained that the ACLU and national organizations failed to support the DeBoer-Rowse case. It is true that at the time, with only

Our community deserves the rigorous analysis and strategic campaign planning that must be done before embarking on a campaign of this magnitude.

six states having secured marriage equality, the ACLU told her it would be impossible to get it passed by the conservative 6th Circuit Court of Appeals. Luckily history had other plans. But at the time, the ACLU was not wrong in their assessment. We, in fact, did lose at the 6th Circuit in November 2014, but by that time 36 states had secured marriage equality - and a surprise move by the U.S. Supreme Court in the fall accelerated this movement. By the time the case met the setbacks anticipated by the ACLU two years earlier, there was much reason to hope that we would in fact go before SCOTUS and now win.

It should be noted that the national ACLU was part of the legal team in the Friedman courtroom in 2014 that helped secure a win for the DeBoer-Rowse case.

Former Congressman Mark Schauer, the final speaker at the Dec. 7 Fair Michigan presentation, called on all parties involved

to meet soon to jointly analyze all the data, including polling done by Fair Michigan, modeling done by Freedom For All Americans, research conducted on behalf of the ACLU and any other available research that has been conducted on the viability of a ballot campaign in Michigan next year. Schauer said once that full analysis is completed, behind closed doors by seasoned political experts, the results should be presented to the large group in a meeting in early January. Only then can an informed decision be made on the best path forward for full equality – hopefully a path that everyone can follow together.

Our community deserves the rigorous analysis and strategic campaign planning that must be done before embarking on a campaign of this magnitude. Once such analysis and planning is completed and presented to the stakeholders, the LGBT community can then unite in the ongoing struggle for equality.

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- Healthy Relationships/Prevention for HIV+ Individuals ⊕
- HIV Counseling and Testing ● ●
- Medical Case Management ⊕
- Medication Adherence Counseling ⊕
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- Michigan HIV/STD Hotline/Website ⊕
- Syringe Access and Overdose Prevention ●
- Peer-Designed Prevention Programs ⊕
- Prisoner Re-Entry Program ●
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AIDS: Lest We Forget (Pt. 2)

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Though perhaps unspoken among gay men and doctors 30 years ago when the AIDS crisis started, the presumption of a death sentence was understood.

When the HIV-3 retrovirus was identified and infection modes publicized – unprotected oral and anal sex, drug usage, multiple partners, STDs and over reliance on therapeutic antibiotics – gay men were told if they tested positive it was time to get personal effects in order.

AZT was the first powerhouse drug offered, hopefully to extend life expectancy for a few precious months, perhaps a year, often just weeks.

AZT was developed at Detroit's Cancer Center, used briefly for cancer patients but soon abandoned because of highly toxic side effects: iatrogenic pathologies that mirrored, or, some pharmacists maintained, caused all of the AIDS-related symptoms ... radical weight loss, pneumocystis pneumonia, purple lesions, dementia, low platelet counts ... AZT was the drug-of-choice. Take it or leave it!

How many gay men died of doing just that is a legitimate question. In spite of the physician's Hippocratic Oath to "do no harm," AZT was scripted. (The chemist who invented AZT lived in the same Cultural Center apartment building where I lived for 24 years. He was gay, had an extensive classical music collection, frequently quarreled with his much younger partner.)

AIDS symptoms like Kaposi's Sarcoma contributed to a mutual silence of shame among gay men.

The stigma of being HIV positive or, dramatically worse, of exhibiting unmistakable AIDS symptoms like Kaposi's Sarcoma contributed to a mutual silence of shame among gay men. The Reagan White House saw the pandemic as unfortunately deserved. If gay men weren't so promiscuous they wouldn't be dying by the thousands.

(Hollywood name star Rock Hudson, who died of AIDS in 1985, was a personal friend of First Lady Nancy Reagan. Other prominent personalities who received "hush hush" treatment include attorney Roy Cohn and Liberace. They were deemed acceptable persons, even though they just might happen to be, well, er, you know, gay.)

For conservative politicians, AIDS was putting a dramatic end to the Gay Power Liberation Movement and in-America's-face leather militancy exhibited in places like San Francisco, New York, Chicago and other cities with large gay populations. "AIDS will shove them back into the closet or, better still, into an early grave!"

There is an AIDS genocide conspiracy theory: that the retrovirus, or a lethal variant, was introduced during the mid-1970s hepatitis inoculation programs in the East and West coasts. Documentation for this alarming so-called "biowarfare" viewpoint can be read in the controversial, "Queer Blood: The Secret AIDS Genocide," by Dr. Alan Cantwell. Cantwell is himself gay.

(A recent meningitis inoculation program – "get inoculated before 2013 Pride Celebrations" – for New York and San Francisco gay men raises fear and concern among those who subscribe to AIDS conspiracy theories, such as those advocated by Dr. Cantwell.)

During the early decades of the AIDS crisis the government initiated little public support or funding. President Ronald Reagan made no mention of AIDS while in office. It wasn't until AIDS activists became loudly vocal – demanding, marching, staging sit-ins – that things changed.

Gays, lesbians, straight allies took charge, developing education and testing programs, buddy one-on-one systems, safe-sex strategies, fundraisers, shelters for AIDS care; and, importantly, offering loving support with requisite human dignity.

Memento mori. Lest we forget. Dare we?

Charles@pridesource.com



"NO, NO – YOU WANT A CHRISTMAS CAROL ON TURNER CLASSIC MOVIES. THIS IS IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE ON AMC."



Viewpoint

We Need Protections & Support for LGBT Older Adults

OPINION BY SHELBY PATTERSON

Michigan is not prepared to work with LGBT older adults. Federal and state civil rights laws do not include the terms sexual orientation and gender identity, and therefore do not protect these individuals. The Offices of Services to the Aging has proposed inclusion for LGBT older adults in the state plan. However, this is not mandated.

Due to the lack of a concrete policy, aging providers are not required to go through cultural competency training. The LGBT older adult population is growing and this community has unique needs concerning later life.

In the U.S. there are an estimated 39.6 million older adults age 65-plus, representing 12.9 percent of the current population. This number is expected to increase to 72.1 million older persons, totaling 19 percent of the population by 2030. Between 1.75 and 4 million Americans ages 60 and older identify as LGBT. By 2030, it is estimated that there will be as many as 7 million LGBT older adults living in the U.S.

LGBT older adults are often invisible, and people are often unaware that this population even exists. Aging service providers often assume that all older adults are heterosexual. The option for selecting LGBT on an intake form is typically non-existent. That is unfortunate, because this is the population that will be utilizing older adult services more often than their heterosexual counterparts.

Most often, LGBT older adults are estranged from their biological families. These individuals are at a greater risk for social isolation; twice as likely to live alone; twice as likely to be single; and three to four times less likely to have children. LGBT elders are more likely to have delayed care, due to fear of mistreatment. This is concerning because this population has higher rates of HIV/AIDS, and chronic physical and mental health concerns.

Generally, older adult living facilities are not welcoming of the LGBT community. There are no Between The Lines newspapers laid out on tables, posters of older gay couples on the walls or any sign of LGBT support in these facilities.

LGBT older adults that reside in senior living facilities are most likely to hide their sexual orientation or gender identity. People often fear that they may be ostracized in these settings: abused, mistreated or stigmatized by other residents and staff. Long-term care plans can be stressful to LGBT elders. Current laws and institutional regulations generally prioritize biological and legal family members. Same-sex partners and families of choice that do not fall into the traditional categories of "family" are often denied involvement in the care of older LGBT adults.

Most service providers have not been trained to work with LGBT older adults. In Michigan, aging providers are not required to go through cultural competency training. The Area Agency on Aging 1-B in Southfield has call operators that have actually gone through extensive training. LGBT cultural competence training creates more inclusive environments for all older adults. We need to make changes so that all aging providers

See LGBT Older Adults, next page

Creep of the Week Ted Cruz

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

The Dred Scott decision, you guys. Have you heard of it? Because it's kind of famous. Basically this guy, Dred Scott, sued for his freedom because he didn't want to be a slave any more and he wanted to be treated like a human being and stuff. Fair enough! But the Supreme Court was all, "No dice. If we let you go free then we're depriving somebody of their property, a.k.a. you. Oh, and P.S., you're not a citizen because you're a negro so, like, why are we even talking to you?" It was a total dick move on the Supreme Court's part, and the decision was one of the catalysts for the Civil War.



Cruz

President Abraham Lincoln denounced the Scott decision, publicly declaring, "This is some bullshit."

It was, as history has helped to make clear, a terrible ruling. So terrible, in fact, that the anti-gay right has taken to comparing it to the Supreme Court's much more recent Obergefell decision (you know, the one that made same-sex marriage legal throughout the land).

Enter Ted Cruz, a guy who thinks he can actually be president someday, talking to National Organization for Marriage co-founder Robert George on a Catholic TV program about this very thing.

Hey, George asks, if you were president, would you treat the Obergefell decision like Lincoln did the Dred Scott decision?

"Lincoln was absolutely right, I agree with President Lincoln," Cruz responded.

Because two people who love each other and get married is totally akin to keeping black people as property.

Honestly, the ease with which the right makes this comparison really speaks to how little they care about the years and years of slavery that created the foundation of racism that still prevails in this country. But then,

they're not worried about racism. They're worried about two guys in tuxes using little Chihuahuas as ring bearers.

"And courts do not make law. That is not what a court does. A court interprets the law, a court applies the law, but courts don't make law," Cruz continues.

Which is true. Legislatures make laws, and sometimes really, really bad ones! Like laws that won't allow gays and lesbians to get married because they think gays and lesbians are subhuman sex fiends. And so the Supreme Court was all, "Uh, these laws are discriminatory and that's unconstitutional, so nope." Which is not the same thing as abracadabra-ing a law out of thin air, which is how the right-wing sees things.

"And this is an area of really striking divide in this presidential election," Cruz continues. One candidate, Hillary Clinton, agrees with the court and embraces gay marriage and is happy that unelected judges have purported to tear down the marriage laws of all 50 states."

What a monster, that Hillary Clinton! How dare she be happy about equality in these United States.

Cruz then chides some of his fellow Republicans for saying of Obergefell, "It's final, we must accept it, move on and surrender."

"I think they are profoundly wrong. I think the decision was fundamentally legitimate, it was lawless, it was not based on the Constitution," Cruz says.

I'm pretty sure that Cruz meant "fundamentally illegitimate." Then again, maybe that was a Freudian slip.

Then again, earlier this month Cruz said, "My response to (Obergefell) was that it was illegitimate, it was lawless, it was utterly contrary to the Constitution and that we should fight to defend marriage on every front."

Oooh, sounds like war talk. It's not hard to imagine Cruz dreaming of another civil war over marriage equality between heathens and the Christians he believes are the real victims of discrimination in this country. Racism and homophobia are all in our heads. But the War on Christians is real. Real paranoia, that is.

policy change. First, federal and state civil rights laws should be changed to include the specific language of sexual orientation and gender identity. The OSA State Plan on Aging should mandate expanding access to long term services and supports to older adults who identify as LGBT. By making these changes, aging service providers will have to follow suit by changing their nondiscrimination policies. We should then require all aging service providers to incorporate cultural competency training in regards to working with LGBT older adults.

We need to train service providers. Judy Lewis, a board member with SAGE Metro Detroit (Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Elders), is a certified trainer through the National

Resource Center on LGBT Aging. She is qualified to provide cultural competency trainings to aging service providers.

The LGBT older adult population is growing rapidly within the U.S. This group has faced a lifetime of prejudice and continues to be an invisible population today. The LGBT population has unique needs in later life. If these issues are not addressed, this vulnerable population will continue to experience greater health disparities compared to their heterosexual counterparts, a lack of support systems and LGBT affirming services, social isolation and, ultimately, an unacceptable standard of living in the journey that is later life.

Shelby Patterson is a U of M MSW candidate.



Going Too Far

BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

On the 27th of November, as many hit the stores looking for "black Friday" deals, a gunman walked into a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

In the course of his rampage, three people were killed, while several others were injured.

The alleged killer, Robert Lewis Dear, a 59-year-old white male, was taken into custody alive, and will stand trial for his crimes. While the media was lax on citing possible reasons for his spree of domestic terrorism, a law enforcement official did say that Dear told investigators, "No more baby parts."

Dear identifies as a Christian Evangelical and is staunchly anti-abortion. While I am purely speculating, I have to assume that the recent attacks by conservatives, spurred on by a series of videos created by David Daleiden that claim to show Planned Parenthood employees discussing the sale of fetal tissue, could have played a role in this case.

This is not a column about abortion rights, however, but transgender rights.

After Dear was taken into custody, an error was found on his voter registration: it listed him as female. It was a data entry error from the El Paso County Department of Motor Vehicles. Dear had the same error on his driver's license, but had gotten that corrected. The voter registration still had the mistake. This did not stop gatewaypundit.com from reporting that Dear "identifies as woman." They also included that

So the question is this. With foes who will try to paint a killer like Dear as a "transgendered leftist activist" in order to demonize transgender people, and in a time when more transgender people have been reportedly murdered in the United States than ever before, how far will we have to go to defend our rights?

he had been charged in 2002 for being a "peeping tom."

In spite of every other shred of evidence pointing to Dear not being transgender, conservatives went into high gear. The Liberty Counsel, a right-wing group focused on religious freedom, tweeted, "Obvious, only a confused man would think he was a woman." They did not feel that his taking of three lives mattered in that particular Tweet.

Presidential hopeful Ted Cruz went further. During a campaign stop in Iowa, Cruz labeled Dear as a "transgendered leftist activist." None of those three words seems to apply to Dear. He further stated, "We know that he was a man registered to vote as a woman."

Over the last few years, we have seen an increasing drumbeat from the right in opposition to LGBT rights. The fight against marriage rights has failed, tossed onto the dustbin of Bryant and Briggs. In seeking a new group to demonize, they have happened upon transgender people, or more specifically transgender women.

Twenty-four days before Dear opened fire, the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance was defeated. The bill had added sexual orientation and gender identity to the city's anti-discrimination laws. It also made explicit protections based on sex, race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, familial status, marital status, military status, religion, disability, genetic information and pregnancy.

The bill was defeated by anti-equality foes who successfully cast the bill as a "bathroom bill" that would let males into the women's room to harm your wives and daughters.

Buoyed by this, fights are now heating up across the country,

See Going Too Far, page 34

Merged Southeast Michigan ASO Announces New Brand Name

BY AJ TRAGER

AIDS Partnership Michigan and HIV/AIDS Resource Center officially launched the brand of their merged organization on Dec. 1, World AIDS Day, and will now be known as Unified - HIV Health and Beyond.

The two organizations merged earlier this year in January and have spent the last 11 months developing a new brand name and reorganizing how the services that they have provided and will continue to provide could better service the counties that they represent.

Services have not changed. However, the merger does allow for the offices to share services throughout all of the metro Detroit region. The Detroit office, for example, can now share its system for behavior and mental health programs with the Jackson office to

better spread out and help those living with or are at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS, and to integrate and cross-train between offices.

“We want to collaborate, we don’t want to be in competition anymore,” CEO William VanHemert said. “And that’s the whole point: we want to work together and share resources, hopefully get the fundings then, but not compete and not have to go after the same dollars. Really provide a network of collaborative services, comprehended for the client and the consumers not just in the Metropolitan Detroit area but the Southeast Michigan area.”

Unified serves 10 counties in Michigan where 63 percent of those affected by HIV reside. The new organization increases capacity in key areas, including programming, access to funding, community-based research and delivery of HIV-related

healthcare services. A multitude of services will still be available in the three locations of Detroit, Ypsilanti and Jackson.

Unified - HIV Health and Beyond will continue to fight HIV at the grassroots level in both urban and rural communities where it is most prevalent, especially for young people, people of color, men who have sex with men and injecting drug users.

The organization is still rooted in HIV services but is now more focused on treating the person as a whole. Two slogans, “Life Continues, Live Healthy” and “Positive Change,” will be used in upcoming months to encourage dialogue on social media and further HIV/AIDS awareness. Unified is committed to “Getting To Zero.”

APM and HARC received funding from the Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan to hire Up roar Communications

out of Ann Arbor to focus on a new brand for the merged organization. The new logo features a heart for the first “I” in Unified. The red symbol still has roots in the red ribbon, VanHemert says, but it represents not just all of Unified consumers but also the community of those that are affected by HIV/AIDS.

The vision for Unified’s future is to become a nationally recognized multi-service center creating positive change through regional impact, innovation and sustainability to promote HIV health and beyond.

Services

Unified - HIV Health and Beyond will still provide the following services:

- Community mobilization campaigns
- Healthy relationships/prevention for HIV+ individuals
- HIV counseling and testing
- Hepatitis C testing
- Medical case management
- Medication adherence counseling
- Behavioral health services
- Tobacco reduction services
- Health insurance enrollment assistance
- Michigan HIV/STD hotline/website
- Syringe access and overdose prevention
- Peer-designed prevention programs
- Prisoner re-entry program
- Housing assistance and homelessness prevention
- Support service including: food and cleaning, supplies pantry, emergency financial assistance, transportation for medical appointments and support groups.

Visit the Unified - HIV Health and Beyond website at <http://miunified.org>.



AIDS Partnership Michigan and HIV/AIDS Resource Center officially launched the brand of their merged organization on Dec. 1, World AIDS Day, and will now be known as Unified - HIV Health and Beyond

► Going Too Far

Continued from p. 33

including a brand-new initiative effort in California designed to prevent the government from mandating “co-ed facilities.” Note that language, which is deceptive: it is not about “co-ed” facilities, but about allowing transgender people to use facilities that match their gender identity or expression. It is not about “protecting privacy,” nor is it about “keeping predators out of women’s rooms.” It is about discrimination, and will be used to strip not just transgender protections, but also anything that opponents can muster. Consider again that long list that was stripped away in Houston.

There’s one thing standing in the way of these laws, and that’s facts: nondiscrimination ordinances do not remove laws against rape and sexual assault. Crimes remain crimes, no matter if someone had a right to a given restroom. More importantly, there’s no increase to risk when these nondiscrimination ordinances are on the books.

From research provided by Brynn Tannehill of SPARTA, encompassing over 35 years of such ordinances covering transgender people worldwide, there has been only one single case of these laws being manipulated in a fashion close to what opponents want to claim. That’s out of a countless number of people using public restrooms around the world.

Let me get back to Robert Lewis Dear. Let’s take a moment and look at his moment

of domestic terrorism through the fun house mirror of Cruz and others. Let’s say that we do call Dear a “transgendered leftist activist” for a moment, and consider that Dear forced his way into a women’s space, using his – or hers, if we continue to assume the voter identification is correct with Dear’s identity – purported rights to public accommodations in the state of Colorado to allow him to enter without repercussion. In doing so, he killed three people, and would be a model candidate for the repeal of anti-discrimination laws.

Except, of course, Dear is not transgender, and none of the above even makes sense.

For decades – and especially this year – the right has been attacking Planned Parenthood. Yet this time, they were more than happy to demonize a person who was literally doing

their dirty work at a Planned Parenthood clinic because it would fit an anti-transgender narrative. It would see that there is no step that is too far for them to go, and no level they won’t stoop to in order to strip away our rights.

So the question is this. With foes who will try to paint a killer like Dear as a “transgendered leftist activist” in order to demonize transgender people, and in a time when more transgender people have been reportedly murdered in the United States than ever before, how far will we have to go to defend our rights?

Gwen Smith is mighty tired of cruel lies. You’ll find her on Twitter at @gwenmers.

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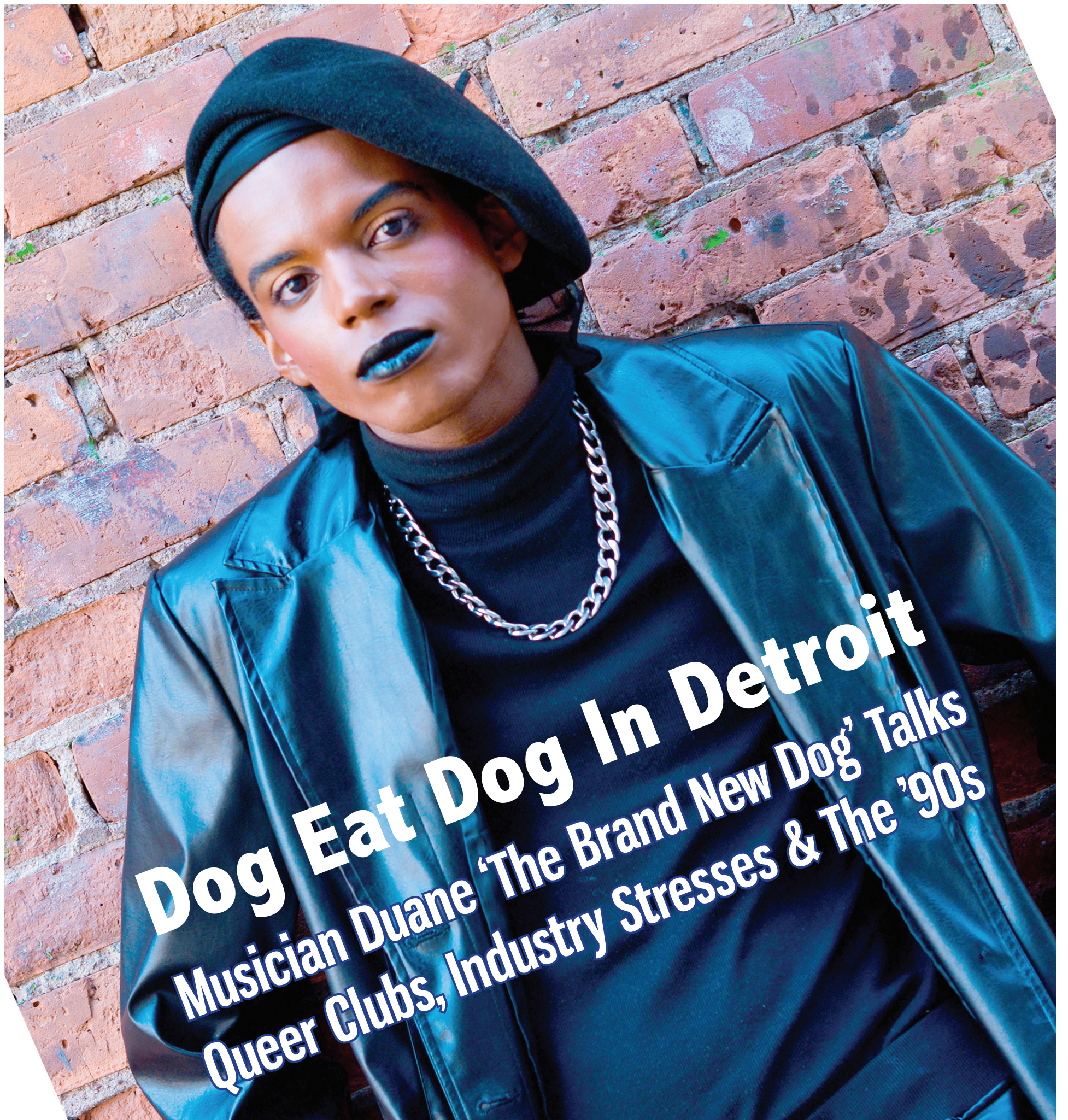


OUT FRONT



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Dog Eat Dog In Detroit

Musician Duane 'The Brand New Dog' Talks
Queer Clubs, Industry Stresses & The '90s

“If I do go to gay bars or clubs, it’s always an awkward feeling... not saying ‘not welcome,’ but the few times, I’ve just had not so good experiences. I’ve never been able to get in contact with anyone in the queer community. I know lots of gay people that go and see my show, but I’ve never been asked to play a gay bar or club.”

– Duane The Brand New Dog on trouble playing local LGBT clubs and bars.

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

Queer musician Michael Duane Gholston – formerly Duane the Teenage Weirdo, currently Duane the Brand New Dog – has been steadily bringing his retro music to Detroit (and even to Poland) over the last several years. Between his old-school house beats and attire straight out of a “Fresh Prince of Bel-Air” episode, the performance artist is adding fuel to the fire of the early-’90s revival currently sweeping the country.

Duane, who talked to BTL right before his Dec. 5 show at Detroit’s UFO Factory, has been performing since 2010, when he premiered his musical work at the now-defunct gay bar, R&R Saloon. Since then, the 23-year-old Detroit native’s career has been whirlwind as he’s opened for the Black Lips and Jack White and wrestled with the darker side of the music industry. Fittingly, Duane’s latest single, “This Be That Time,” asks, “Can you read *between the lines*?”

The musician is a Detroit native, though he’s not entirely sure he would say the city influenced his work. “Yeah, I’m from Detroit. I’ve been here all my life,” he admits. “I’d be lying if I said it (Detroit) did totally influence my work, but I do take a lot of references from a lot of big music that was crazy here in Detroit, like Detroit techno music, some house-inspired stuff from Detroit and Chicago. I do incorporate that into my music. But I’d be lying if I said, ‘Oh, I listened to this music all my life.’ I grew up around it, and I had a little exposure to it as a child, like listening to DJ Assault. I listened to that a little in elementary school from neighbor’s house parties, but I didn’t listen and think, ‘Oh, I’m going to grow up and make this music.’”

What he grew up with did inspire his

ultimate career, though, particularly when it comes to his 1990s inspiration.

“I’m a big retro music fan. I love mostly a lot of ’80s stuff and slowly but surely have been getting into early-’90s stuff – stuff that came out when I was a toddler. I’m a huge Madonna fan, I love Technotronic and I love early-’90s pop music that was house-inspired.”

This admiration for the era of bright-color clothing and loose fits is apparent in his own style. “I really do love (the ’90s look). I’ll watch ‘The Golden Girls’ and fall in love with outfits. I’ll watch ‘X-Files’ – I love Scully’s pantsuits. I love suit jackets; I love going to the thrift store and getting \$5 jackets. Shoulder pads! Slacks. And berets – I love wearing berets. That’s sort of my creation – do-rags and berets; I just like the shape of it. I’m not even sure where I got that from!”

With touches of Prince and David Bowie-inspired makeup, Duane says, laughing, “There’s definitely an androgynous note. I am gay for sure.”

Because Duane has such a unique look, gender or otherwise, he finds that describing himself to people can sometimes be difficult. “I’m a musician, I’m a producer, I’m a songwriter. I’m everything, I do everything. I’m an artist. The first thing I say is, ‘I’m a musician,’ and people ask me what kind of music I play, or what instruments do I play. If I say I’m an artist, people ask me, ‘What kind of art do you make?’ So I go into these long detailed things about what I do, and sometimes it’s hard to explain. And if there’s a really sheltered person, they’re not going to get what I’m saying, or they’ll have to see it just to believe it.”

This self-described “Teenage Weirdo” grew

See Dog Eat Dog, page 38

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► Dog Eat Dog

Continued from p. 37

from that moniker to the “Brand New Dog” in a fairly organic way: He grew up. “Well, I turned 20!” he says about the transition, laughing. “I just like to create new personas for myself – well, they’re not fake, they’re who I am – but people change in real life, and I want my art to reflect that. I like how David Bowie and Prince have phases and name changes and different looks and sounds, and I wanted to have a career similar to that. Right now it’s the Brand New Dog, but two or three years from now it’ll be something different. I grow as a person, and I grow as an artist, so I just want to reflect that.”

While his Teenage Weirdo days are a bit more self-explanatory, Brand New Dog has a bit more “bite.” “Honestly, I just like how the words sound. You take random words out of the air, and like how they sound,” he says of the name creation. “I’ve thought about a serious meaning behind it, and basically, it’s the term ‘dog eat dog world,’ which is the music business in general. I have a little bit of experience with the business side of that, dealing with label people and attorneys and all that, and I got to see how it’s not all sunshine and roses. So I’m the brand new dog.”

Duane specifically recalls dealing with U.K. label XL Recording. He told Metro Times in July that part of the problem stemmed from

their desire to trap him into the “Teenage Weirdo” role – a move that clearly was at odds with the ever-evolving artist.

“That keeps coming up, and the more I talk about it, the more I’m asked!” Duane says when asked about the label. “I don’t mind talking about it; I just don’t want it to come off as a sob story or me bashing them, that’s all I’m ever worried about. It happened so fast; I had my first show and a guy saying they were working for a manager signed me right on the spot, and that stuff doesn’t really happen. You don’t know how to deal with it all, because people make all this decision making, and it can be discouraging, but you just have to get back on the horse again.”

Despite the semi fallout with XL, Duane has been finding plenty of success outside of Michigan, including a recent gig in – of all places – Poland.

“It was my first time leaving the country,” he says. “Someone saw my show in Detroit in 2014, opening for the Black Lips at the Majestic. His parents are in Detroit but he’s from Poland and his girlfriend’s in Poland, and she works as a curator at the National Gallery of Art, the Zachęta, in Warsaw. Every year they put together a festival, and this was the third one. This was the first year they were getting an American act, and she suggested



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talking to people, talking to friends of friends of friends, contacts, because I want to do a small tour outside of Michigan soon. Next year, of course,” he adds.

Though Duane is gay, he rarely plays LGBT venues – but not by choice.

“You know, in all of the shows I do, when people see me, they automatically assume I will play mostly LGBT establishments,” he says. “It’s not that I don’t because I don’t like to or I have some aversion to it – it’s that I don’t get asked. And if I do go to gay bars or clubs, it’s always an awkward feeling. I’ve just had not so good experiences. I’ve never been able to get in contact with anyone in the queer community. I know lots of gay people that go and see my show,

but I’ve never been asked to play a gay bar or club.”

He adds, “I don’t mean to come off a certain way! It’s probably just been misunderstandings. I want to bridge the gap.”

Duane’s recently released “CD-R LP” is available at <https://duanethebrandnewdog.bandcamp.com> for \$5. Visit www.pridesource.com/calendar.html to keep up on his upcoming shows.

me to them.

“I was worried, because I’m used to being the odd man out to some of the more conventional acts here, and there I was the second to last to go on. I was watching the whole festival and there were a lot of weird, unusual acts, and I thought, ‘Maybe I won’t faze them at all.’ But they really liked it – I was quite surprised!”

He hopes to continue to venture outside of Michigan in the near future, as well. “I’m trying to get together some shows, and I was

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GUTS Training Center Opens To Serve Special Needs Children, Adults

BY BTL STAFF

FERNDALE – Physical fitness is a challenge for everyone, but it’s especially true for special needs children and young adults whose disabilities are not only mentally challenging, but physically challenging as well. In fact, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, children with disabilities are 38 percent more likely to be obese than their counterparts.

The problems and challenges start early. “About 12 percent of babies born every year are at risk for being overweight and obese before their second birthday. (With) all of our early intervention over the last 20 years, involving Down Syndrome especially, we’ve learned how to produce a more physically active baby with Down Syndrome that improves their health and functioning,” said Dr. Dale Ulrich, director of the Center on Physical Activity and Health in Pediatric Disabilities at the University of Michigan.

Many children with special needs lead

sedentary lifestyles driven by a lack of social and recreational opportunities, as well as low motivation to be physically active. The lack of motivation only gets worse as they reach adulthood. While the mainstream population can decide on its own whether to pursue a healthy lifestyle, individuals with special needs are often unable to make that sort of choice. Hence the low fitness levels and the high incidence of obesity, which in many cases leads to other major health issues that can largely be prevented.

In Oakland County alone there are an estimated 20,000 families with a special needs family member, according to government statistics. Consequently, the need for fitness options for the special needs community is much needed.

Enter the newly opened GUTS Training Center (ground up training system), the state’s only year-round facility primarily dedicated to helping children and adults with special needs get physically fit and maximize their health for a lifetime. The center opened in August of this year.

Operated by brothers Todd and Paul Turner, the new facility offers classes and programs for individuals with special needs such as martial arts, Zumba, yoga, soccer, dance and one-on-one training, and with its 501(c)(3) nonprofit arm, Team GUTS, lower-income families can qualify for scholarships to participate.

Todd Turner, whose own 7-year-old daughter has a dual diagnosis of Down Syndrome and autism, points out that fitness is really a year-round activity.

“While many organizations offer programs on a periodic basis, GUTS Training Center has offerings year-round,” Turner said. “We’re very encouraged by the response of those who have taken advantage of the facility so far, and encourage anyone with a family member with special needs to learn more about the advantages of helping their loved ones get physically fit and enjoy healthier, more productive lives.”

The GUTS Training Center is located at 1008 Orchard St. in Ferndale. Phone is 855-998-GUTS. Find out more information at www.TeamGUTSMichigan.com.

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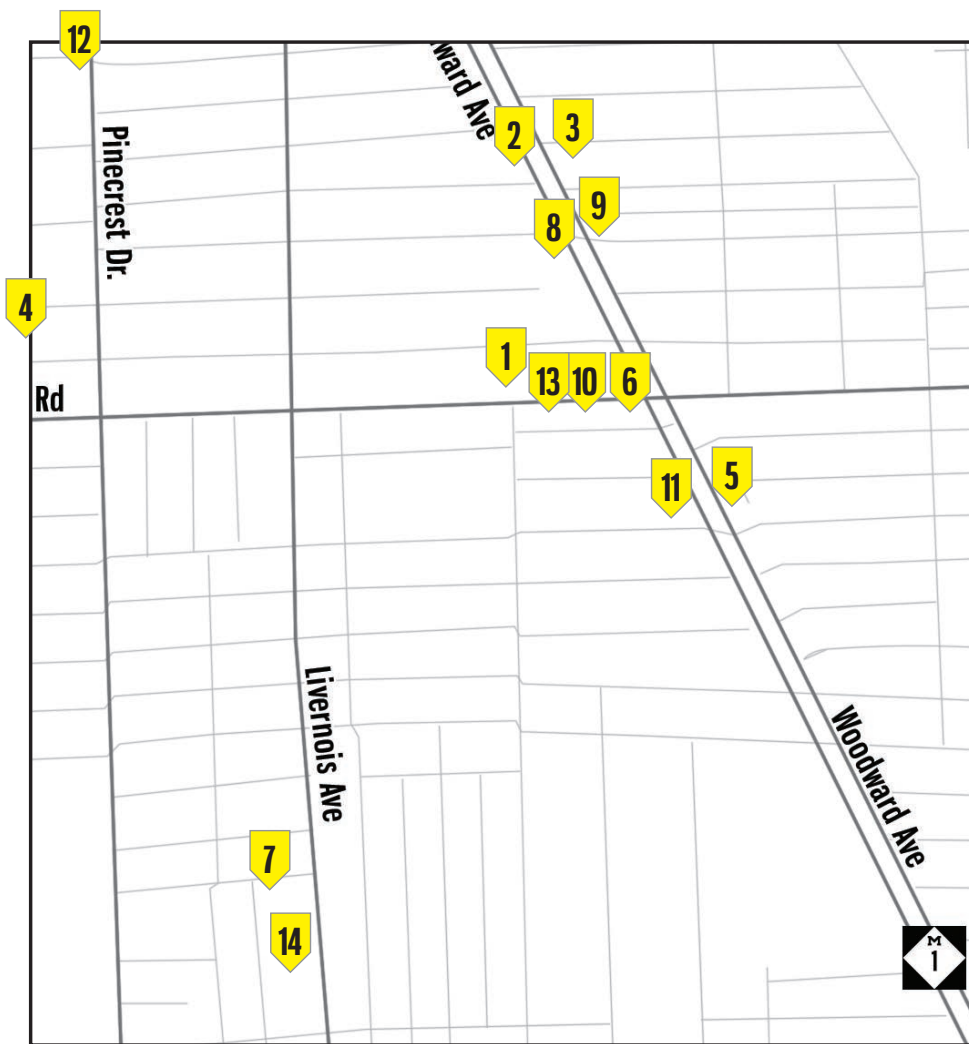
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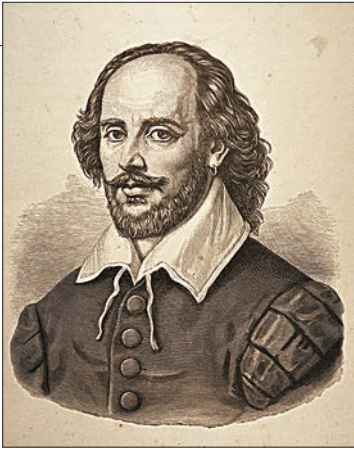
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Join The Conversation



Editor's Pick

The University Musical Society presents a high-definition broadcast from the Royal Shakespeare Company. Presented in partnership with the Michigan Theater, "Henry IV" will be shown this month. RSC Artistic Director Gregory Doran continues his exploration of Shakespeares history plays with "Henry V" performed in the 600th anniversary year of the Battle of Agincourt. Following his performance as Hal in "Henry IV Parts I & II," Alex Hassell returns as Henry V.

Henry IV is dead and Hal is King. With England in a state of unrest, he must leave his rebellious youth behind, striving to gain the respect of his nobility and people. Laying claim to parts of France and following an insult from the French Dauphin, Henry gathers his troops and prepares for a war

that he hopes will unite his country.

The show will begin at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13 at the Michigan Theater. Tickets are \$18-22. The Michigan Theater is located at 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. For more information, email umstix@umich.edu or call 734-764-2538.

Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, Dec. 10

AIDS Walk Detroit Awards and Thank You Party 6 p.m. AIDS Walk Detroit, 96 W. 14 Mile Road, **Clawson**. 248-399-9255. info@aidswalkdetroit.org

Throwback Thursday 7:30 p.m. Different movie each time. Tickets: \$12. The Berman, 6600 W. Maple Road, **West Bloomfield**. 248-661-1900. www.theberman.org

Friday, Dec. 11

First Interfaith Synagogue Temple Echad, **Ann Arbor**. temple.echad@icloud.com www.temple-echad.org

Saturday, Dec. 12

2015 Holiday Open House and Hot Cocoa Bar 10 a.m. Admission during the open house is two people for \$10. Join us for our hot cocoa bar and cookies! The Piquette store will be open for those who have auto history lovers on their lists! Ford Piquette Avenue Plant, 461 Piquette St., **Detroit**. 313-872-8759. info@fordpiquetteplant.org

Tiny Expo: Indie Art & Craft Fair 11 a.m. Ann Arbor District Library, 343 S. Fifth Ave., **Ann Arbor**. www.facebook.com/events/1499658856993169/

MDSL 2015 Holiday Party 2 p.m. Metro Detroit Softball League, 917 N. Main St., **Royal Oak**. www.facebook.com/events/1708272162737908/1709288095969648/

Affirmations Holiday Bazaar 3 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Wreck the Halls 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$15-25. Detroit Together Men's Chorus, 610 W. 13 Mile Road, **Madison Heights**. www.dtmc.org

Sunday, Dec. 13

Holiday Services 11 a.m. Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit, 2441 Pinecrest, **Ferndale**. 248-399-7741. www.mccdetroit.org

Home Sweet Home 4 p.m. Sing Out

Detroit, 20500 W. 13 Mile Road, **Franklin**. www.Eventbrite.com/e/sing-out-detroit-chorus-presents-home-sweet-home-tickets-18823443426

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

Tuesday, Dec. 15

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

Wednesday, Dec. 16

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 Road, **Ferndale**. khug@goaffirmations.org <http://goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups>

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

Thursday, Dec. 17

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

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

The Parent Network 6 p.m. This group aims to assist parents in understanding their child's identity, while also giving parents the opportunity to socialize with other adults who have LGBT children. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource

Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. www.kglrc.org

Are You phubbing with Phone Apps? 6:30 p.m. Fee \$20 a person. For more information and to register, contact 248-399-7447. Center for Relationship and Sexual Health (CRSH), 25600 Woodward Ave., Suite 215, **Royal Oak**. 248-399-7447. OfficeMgr@CRSH.com <https://crsh.com/phubbing-phone-apps/>

Friday, Dec. 18

Temple-echad.org

Bright and Gay Cabaret 8 p.m. Tickets: \$12-15. Sistrum, 215 N. Capitol Ave., **Lansing**. www.Sistrum.org

Saturday, Dec. 19

Cirque Dreams Holidayze Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, 750 E. Shaw Lane, **East Lansing**. 800-WHARTON. www.Whartoncenter.com

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

America You Kill Me 9 p.m. 21+. Tickets: \$6. Northern Lights Lounge, 660 W. Baltimore, **Detroit**. 313-873-1739. www.Northernlightslounge.com

Pride Holiday Bash 9 p.m. Upper Peninsula Rainbow Pride, 911 Lakeshore Blvd, **Marquette**. www.Facebook.com/events/1099949436705944/

Todds & Liedernacht Reunion Retro Dance Party! DJ Charles English 9 p.m. \$6 cover with a portion of the proceeds to benefit the local film American You Kill Me documentary on gay rights. Static Network, 660 W. Baltimore, **Detroit**. 313-873-1739. info@staticrecords.com www.Facebook.com/events/1676473895906021/

Sunday, Dec. 20

Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., **Williamston**. 517-655-SHOW. www.Williamstontheatre.com

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

Yule 1 p.m. Michigan Pagans, 37060 Huron River Dr., **New Boston**. www.Meetup.com/michiganpagans/events/226824956/

Livingston County PFLAG Monthly Meeting 2 p.m. Please join us for our



Editor's Pick

MotorCity Casino Hotel welcomes Andy Grammer, with special guest and Detroit's own Jeff Gutt and the RCH Band, to Sound Board on Sunday, Dec. 13. With his 2011 self-titled debut album, Grammer became the first male pop star in a decade, since John Mayer in 2002, to reach the Top 10 at Adult Pop Radio on his first two singles, "Keep Your Head Up" and "Fine By Me." The singles were certified Platinum and Gold respectively, selling more than 1.5 million downloads combined. In just a few short years, Grammer has gone on to sell over 100,000 albums, play sold-out venues nationwide, perform with Taylor Swift, Trai, and Colbie Caillat, and receive two BMI Pop Music Awards, along with many other accomplishments.

Jeff Gutt, a musician and vocalist, competed in two seasons of the reality television series "The X Factor." He first appeared in Season 2 where he drew international acclaim for his heartfelt rendition of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah." Gutt also competed in Season 3, finishing in second place. In 2014, Gutt was dubbed one of the "all-time most influential" contestants of "The X Factor" by Fox Weekly.

The Detroit concert begins at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 13. The event is presented by 98.7 Amp Radio. Tickets are \$32-43. To purchase tickets, please call Ticketmaster at 800-745-3000 or visit www.ticketmaster.com. Tickets are also available through the Sound Board Box Office Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and on show days.

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

Shabbat Service 6:30 p.m. Temple Echad, 1420 Hill St., **Ann Arbor**. www.temple-echad.org

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

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee 2 p.m. Tickets: \$18-20. Farmington Players, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, **Farmington Hills**. 248-473-1856. www.Farmingtonplayers.org

MUSIC & MORE

The Ark "Griffin House" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. July 12 - Dec. 13. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

Concerts

Sound Board - Motor City Casino "Andy Grammer wsg Jeff Gutt and the RCH Band" Tickets: \$32-42. Sound Board, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Dec. 13. 800-745-3000. www.Soundboarddetroit.com

The Ark "Iris DeMent: The Ark's 50th Anniversary" Tickets: \$35. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Dec. 10. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

The Benard L. Maas Foundation Not Just For Kids "Not Just For Kids". Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 1:30 p.m. Dec. 12. 734-668-8397.

Ypsilanti Community Choir "Annual Holiday Concert" Special guests: Four Old Men and a Babe. Towsley Auditorium, Ypsilanti. 7:30 p.m. Dec. 17. www.ypsicomchoir.org

Film & Video

UMS "Royal Shakespeare Company Live in HD Shakespeare's Henry V" Tickets \$18-22. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. Dec. 13. 734-764-2538. <http://ums.org/performance/rsc-hd-henry-v/>

Other

The Scarab Club "The 102nd Annual Boar's Head Dinner & Gold Medal Awards Ceremony" Tickets: \$50-102. The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. 6:30 p.m. Dec. 12. 313-831-1250. www.thescarabclub.com

Nova, Yellow Barn, 416 West Huron, Ann Arbor. Through Dec. 20. 734-635-8450. www.Artful.ly/theatre-nova/store/events/7195

Auditions for Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead Auditions. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, A2CT Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. Dec. 12 - Dec. 13. 734-971-2228. www.A2ct.org/audition

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

Michigan Playwrights' Festival Pay what you can. Suggested donation of \$10. Theatre Nova, The Yellow Barn, 416 W. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Dec. 8 - Dec. 13. 734-635-8450. www.Theatreanova.org

National Theatre of Scotland Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol Tickets \$60. UMS, Power Center, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. Dec. 17 - Dec. 30. 734-764-2538. www.Ums.org/multiperformance/christmas-carol/

National Theatre of Scotland: A Christmas Carol UMS, Power Center, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. Dec. 17 - Jan. 3. 734-764-2538. <http://ums.org/multiperformance/christmas-carol/>

Royal Shakespeare Company Live in HD Shakespeares Henry V High-Definition Broadcasts from Royal Shakespeare Company. University Musical Society, Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. Dec. 13. 734-764-2538. ums.org/performance/rsc-hd-henry-v/ College/UniversityTheater

It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play Tickets: \$10-25. The Theatre Company, Marlene Boll Theatre at the Boll Family Y.M.C.A., 1401 Broadway St., Detroit. Through Dec. 13. 313-993-3270. www.UDmarts.com

ART 'N' AROUND

Cranbrook Art Museum "Lou Reed, Metal Machine Trio: The Creation of the Universe" Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Dec. 1 - March 26. 877-462-7262. www.Cranbrookart.edu

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 "The Art of Collecting" Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Nov. 27 - Jan. 3. 810-234-1695. www.Flintarts.org

MOCAD "The Sick Man of Europe" Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 27 - Jan. 3. 313-832-6622. www.Mocadetroit.org

River's Edge Gallery "Title Goes Here" Leo Kuschel, Master Artist painting for over six decades. River's Edge Gallery, 3024 Biddle, Wyandotte. Nov. 24 - Dec. 31. 734-246-9880.

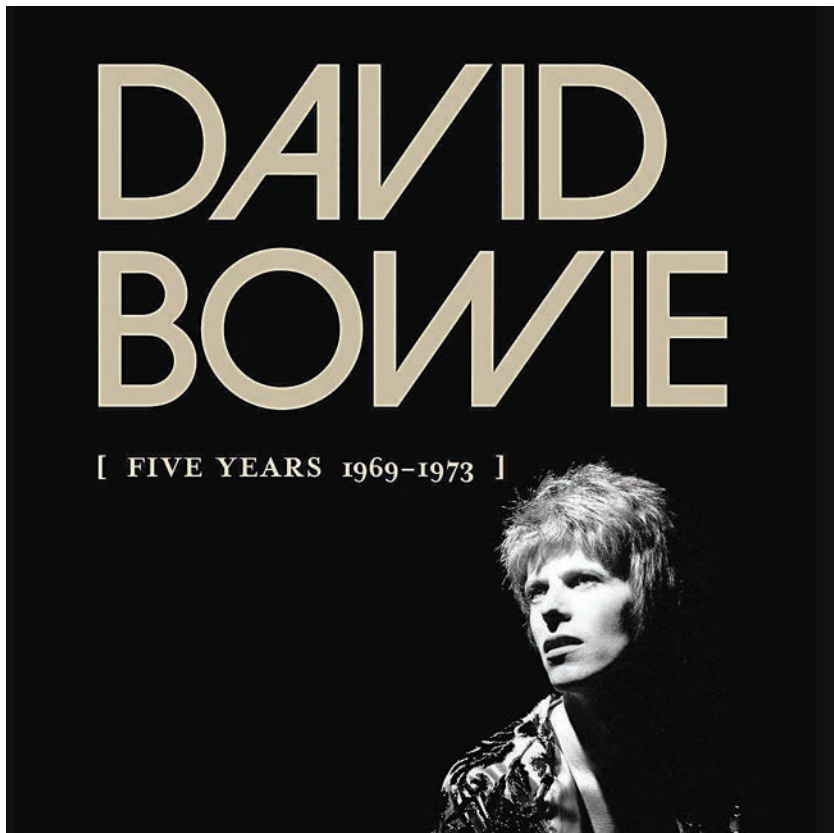
robert kidd gallery "Rick Vian: Using the Whole Chicken" robert kidd gallery, 107 Townsend St., Birmingham. Nov. 21 - Dec. 19. 248-642-3909. www.Robertkiddgallery.com

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

Yourist Studio Gallery "Yourist Studio Gallery Annual Holiday Sale" Yourist Holiday Sale, featuring ceramic works by our Resident Artists and select students, opens with gala preview 5-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11. Yourist Studio Gallery, 1133 Broadway, Ann Arbor. Dec. 11 - Dec. 13. 734-662-4914. www>Youristpottery.com/

Hear Me Out

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI



[FIVE YEARS 1969-1973]

David Bowie, 'Five Years 1969-1973'

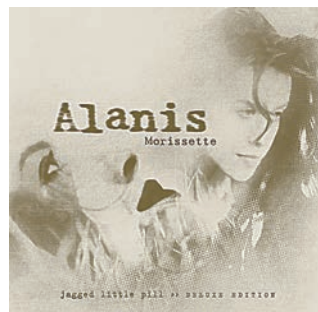
The iconic cover of the U.K. edition of David Bowie's 1971 release "The Man Who Sold the World" features the queer icon sprawled out in a silky gown, pensively gazing forward. His skin is soft; his hair is long. He looks like a pastel painting. "The Man Who Sold the World" was just Bowie's second album and already it was clear: Bowie would not be playing by the rules. Some 50 years later, he still doesn't.

A new album due in early January, "Blackstar," Bowie's 25th, is said to bend all expectations, morphing his left-of-center rock genesis into Kendrick Lamar-influenced hip-hop. It sounds crazy, and hopefully it is. But even in the early '70s, Bowie's restless curiosity and his own fantastical forays were apparent as he challenged the zeitgeist with deviations of gender and genre. He crushed the paradigm. He made waves. He reinvented.

In just five years, from 1969-1973, he released six studio albums. His eponymous debut established his short-lived psychedelic folk phase, characterized by the landmark single "Space Odyssey" and the career-foreshadowing sound of Bowie's life-affirming, nine-minute anthem, "Cygnets Committee" (producer Tony Visconti and Bowie himself offer track-by-track commentary on the album in a comprehensive book within the collection).

December 1971 signaled a shift in Bowie's sound. "Hunky Dory" was the first time Bowie shed his musical skin, introducing a prominent theatricality that would mark most of his later recordings. It surely wasn't coincidence that "Changes," a single from the disc, launched his latest career chapter. (Nor was it accidental that he exuded femininity as Marlene Dietrich on the album's glam cover – he was inspired by a photo book of hers he brought to the cover shoot.)

With later releases, especially the sexually wound "The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars," Bowie continued to cut through convention, queering his aesthetic, mapping a road less traveled. Why yes we did need an entire album about a bisexual alien rock star, and this was it. Heck, we did need (and still need) David Bowie, period. And so did Boy George. And so did Adam Lambert. This expansive collection capturing Bowie's first very prolific five years, which also includes two live offerings, is a thorough exploration of the stage Bowie set – the one that would change rock music and queer culture forever.



Alanis Morissette, 'Jagged Little Pill (Deluxe Edition)'

Alanis Morissette knows a good burn when she writes one. In 1995, she lashed out at an ex-lover, a transcendent career move that catapulted the Canadian songstress to international Grammy-winning stardom. "Are you thinking of me when you fuck her?" was the burn, the "Hello. It's me" meme of 1995. And the song it's from, Morissette's mega-hit "You Oughta Know," was one of the greatest early-'90s catharses.

By the time the song blazed the radio charts, Alanis had already recorded two other albums (this was her third), but "You Oughta Know" – and the album it would appear on, "Jagged Little Pill" – elevated the singer-songwriter to massive mainstream heights because who doesn't like a song about a woman taking the piss out of a man. With Tori Amos and Fiona Apple on her team, The Great Estrogen Takeover was in full force. When it came to Alanis, the world was transfixed and transformed. Her anger translated to unheard-of-these-days-unless-you're-Adele album sales, moving a whopping 33 million copies around the world. And for those who found moxie in Alanis' scathing tear-downs (a lot of us, apparently), or her not-so-ironic ironies or her chill "Hand in My Pocket," it was just what the music doctor ordered.

That emotion-fueled candor teemed throughout "Jagged Little Pill," defining not only Alanis' career but the very complicated facets of our own lives. How we're all sinners. How we're all imperfect. How we're all still learning.

Morissette wasn't even 20 when she recorded these songs, a fact made clear on a collection of demos released in conjunction with this anniversary reissue. The intriguing demos reveal an artist still in self-discovery mode. On "London," she muses on pimples, her cervix and "the boy with the androgynous song"; "Superstar Wonderful Weirdos" celebrates fringe life, and "No Avalon" examines white privilege.

The album's official tracks and those aforementioned demos make one thing clear: The truth of "Jagged Little Pill" is timeless. Morissette doesn't pretend to know everything. She knows we don't know everything. We still don't. "What it all comes down to," she says, "is that we haven't got it all figured out just yet." Twenty years later, the question "Jagged Little Pill" now poses is: Do we ever?

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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Julianne Moore is 'Wonderstruck' with Todd Haynes

Julianne Moore and director Todd Haynes – his recent film “Carol” is generating lots of Oscar buzz – go way back. In 1994 she starred in Haynes’ critically acclaimed drama “Safe,” then again in 2002’s critically acclaimed drama “Far From Heaven,” and again in the critically acclaimed drama “I’m Not There.” The two of them and “critically acclaimed” are kind of a thing at this point, that flashpoint where like-minded artists meet and make fire. So it’s no surprise that the Academy Award-winning Moore and her preferred auteur are teaming up again. She’ll star in “Wonderstruck,” Haynes’ adaptation of Brian Selznick’s children’s novel. It’s about two hearing-impaired children – a boy in the 1970s and a girl in the 1920s – whose lives entwine when they both flee their homes and run away to New York City. Yes, in different decades. Look, we trust these people to make it work. Longtime Haynes collaborator Christine Vachon will produce, and the words “critically acclaimed” are fairly certain to make another appearance when all is said and done.



Julianne Moore. Photo: Kath Click

earned an Oscar nomination – and there might be a title: “Bohemian Rhapsody.” Smart move there, really. Instant name recognition and all that. As for a star? That’s trickier. So many names have been tossed around. Currently the producers are hot for Ben Whishaw, which would be another smart move, because he’s terrific, and also because he looks more like Mercury than Benedict Cumberbatch or Tom Hardy, England’s other go-to hotshot young actors. And if they can’t get him, then... well, we have no idea. This could go on for longer than that Janis Joplin movie that still hasn’t shown up on screens.

Adele’s ‘Hello’ director to keep working in English

Prolific and highly lauded gay French-Canadian filmmaker Xavier Dolan is in his late 20s and has already directed several films that have made the arthouse world sit up and take a lot of notice: “I Killed My Mother” and “Heartbeats,” to name two. But it’s his most recent work, his first big project in English, that has earned him half a billion YouTube views: Adele’s “Hello” video. Now the director will tackle a feature film in that language, “The Death and Life of John F. Donovan.” It will star Susan Sarandon, Kathy Bates, Jessica Chastain, Taylor Kitsch and Kit Harington in the title role. The film concerns a young actor who corresponds with an American TV star who dies, the fallout of that relationship affecting everyone connected. As of this stage in the development process, there would appear to be no role written for the world’s most famous British singer. But you know it would only help raise the movie’s profile.

Chris Colfer is in the ‘Absolutely Fabulous’ movie, sweetie

Post-“Glee” life continues to look absolutely fabulous for Chris Colfer. Not only will he star as the legendary Noel Coward in an upcoming biopic, but he’s also about to work with Kim Kardashian. OK, he might not share any scenes with the co-star of “Tyler Perry’s Temptation: Confessions of a Marriage Counselor,” but he will share a credit crawl with the infamous reality star, because they’ve both taken roles in the “Absolutely Fabulous” movie. Colfer will play the (we assume gay) hairdresser/social media consultant to Edina (“AbFab” creator Jennifer Saunders) as she cavorts around Europe with Patsy (Joanna Lumley), desperately maintaining their connection to youth and glamour. The only thing more delightful than this news is the clip going around online where Colfer explains “Absolutely Fabulous” to a befuddled Larry King, who appears to have never heard of such a thing. Your day will be made, trust us.

Hey, remember that Freddie Mercury movie they keep promising?

It’s still happening, for starters. Sacha Baron Cohen has dropped out, as we reported earlier, and frankly, after that, everything sort of seemed to be falling apart. But now it looks as though a new screenwriter is on board – Anthony McCarten, whose “The Theory of Everything” screenplay

Romeo San Vicente thinks Kim K’s coffee table book of selfies is totally misunderstood. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS - COMMUNITY SERVICES

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IN A GAY OR BISEXUAL MALE RELATIONSHIP?



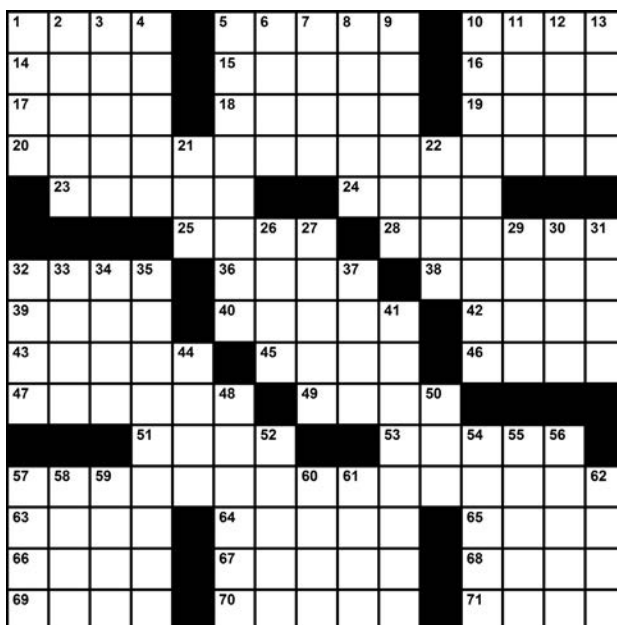
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Q Puzzle



What Utah Taught You

Across

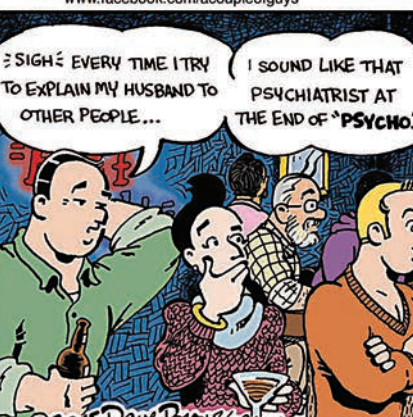
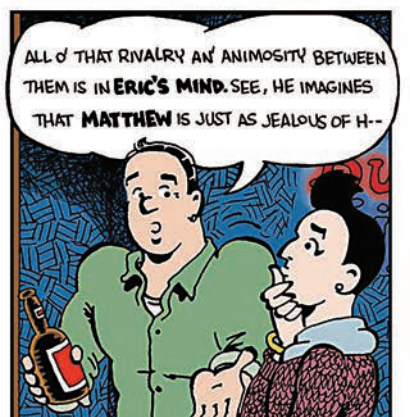
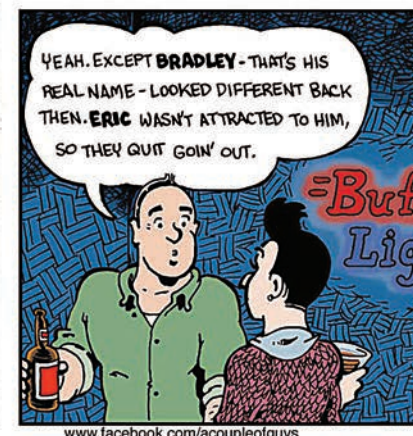
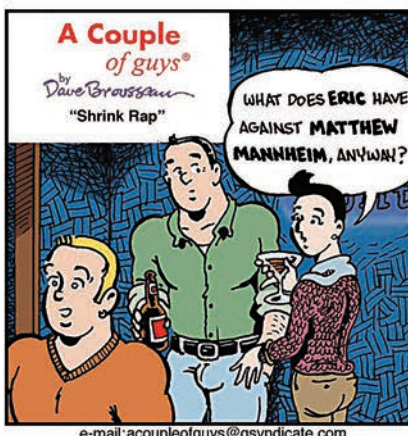
- 1 Openly lesbian Jackie Biskupski was just elected mayor here (with 39- and 42-Across)
5 Takes off
10 Balls of queens
14 "Would ___ to you?"
15 Head dog
16 Publisher of same-sex couples' legal guide
17 "Sin City" star Jessica
18 Sashay
19 Member
20 Start of what Utah taught about a lesbian couple?
23 Contemporary of Schubert
24 ___ B'rith
25 Caesar's way
28 Really go after
32 Deck foursome
36 It grows on you
38 Diana's accessory
39 See 1-Across
40 Org. for ending AIDS

- 42 See 1-Across
43 Tatum of "The Bad News Bears"
45 The Crystals' "___ Rebel"
46 Greek love
47 Ted Casablanca item
49 Balkan dweller
51 Vibrator in a mouthpiece
53 Last stop before home
57 More of what Utah taught
63 Off-Broadway prize
64 Like someone blown away
65 Take a risk
66 City of Baudelaire's land
67 "Our" for Ulrichs
68 La Douce role of Shirley
69 "___ me!" (computer nerd's taunt?)
70 Wife and wife, for example
71 End of what Utah taught

Down

- 1 "The King and I" setting
2 Islam's deity
3 Martina's sign
4 Wet-eyed
5 TV wife of two gay Dicks
6 Sink problem
7 Recess at St. Peter's
8 "Dawson's Creek" network
9 "We are everywhere," e.g.
10 Precariously situated, especially for Doug Mattis
11 Cheer for the Chicago Sky, e.g.
12 Pleasure orally
13 Like autoeroticism
21 "The Last King of Scotland" character
22 Having no play
26 A pop
27 Removing the foreskin and more
29 Like my lady, on Broadway
30 "... ___ take arms against ..." ("Hamlet")
31 Catch them at P-town
32 Loads
33 Permission request
34 Barely made, with "out"
35 South Beach cooler
37 Trojan Horse, e.g.
41 Wife and wife, e.g.
44 Property right
48 The monotony of monogamy, e.g.?
50 All-natural food no-no
52 Journalist Minkowitz
54 Urvashi Vaid's birthplace
55 Update the arsenal
56 Skin layer
57 Where orientation is determined, some say
58 Heed a master
59 Fly catcher
60 Witch's area in "The Wizard of Oz"
61 Popeye's ___' Pea
62 "Giant" James

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