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MARCH 10, 2016
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20th Anniversary
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This Saturday,
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NEWS



Presidential Debates Highlight the Need to Celebrate Inclusive Wedding Vendors

BY AMY LYNN SMITH

DETROIT – You’ve heard them countless times: The stories of bakers refusing to bake cakes for same-sex couples, photographers canceling a booking when they find out it’s for a gay couple – you name it. Opponents of marriage equality often use a “religious liberty” argument to defend their bigoted refusals of service, but the fact is that no religion forbids anyone to bake a cake, make a floral arrangement or provide any other service in the public sphere.

When the topic of “gay cupcakes” came up during a Republican Presidential Debate, Ohio Gov. John Kasich (who is definitely not a moderate, despite his claims) briefly defended the right of LGBT people to be treated equally by companies that serve the public. However, he went on to urge same-sex couples to just go somewhere else if a vendor refuses to work with them.

Gov. Kasich, like the rest of the Republican field, disagrees with the U.S. Supreme Court ruling on same-sex marriage. Along with other marriage equality opponents, they’re working hard to put up roadblocks to equal treatment, including advocating legal challenges to permit refusals of service to LGBT people.

That’s why a focus of the LGBT equality movement in the near future will be the continued fight to ensure full equality in every aspect of life. With that in mind, it could not be more important to support businesses that vocally support equality for the LGBT community – and everyone else.

Those businesses will be front and center at The Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo on March 20 at MotorCity Casino Hotel in Detroit. Couples and families planning a wedding, or any other event, can stop by to get information about inclusive vendors that will be happy to work with them.

Hosted for the sixth year by Between The Lines, The Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo will feature more than 100 vendors – maximum capacity – special guests

and plenty of surprises, all in MotorCity’s state-of-the-art ballroom and Sound Board Theater.

The inclusive vendors on site will showcase everything couples need to plan their upcoming celebrations, including weddings, anniversaries, vow renewals, graduations, bar and bat mitzvahs, adoptions, baby showers and more.

“This year, we are able to extend the full range of goods and services we offer to the gay community,” said J. Robbin Yelverton, who is the co-owner of Blumz by JR Designs in Detroit and Ferndale, along with life partner Jerome Raska. “We are a full-service wedding shop and I’m even an officiant who has been ‘marrying’ people for years. It’s nice to finally be able to do the same for the gay community.”

Of course, same-sex weddings are no different from any other wedding, which means the vendors at the expo will be displaying products and services suitable for any celebration. In other words, the expo is a great way for allies to support the LGBT community, too.

The expo will feature fashion shows and demonstrations throughout the venue, along with live entertainment and an impressive array of prizes for attendees, including a cruise for two donated by Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines; dinner for four at Iridescence and tickets to see Margaret Cho donated by MotorCity Casino; two tickets to see Adam Lambert at the Fillmore Detroit, plus dinner at Angelina Italian Bistro donated by the Fillmore and Angelina’s – and much, much more.

The Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo will be held on Sunday, March 20 from noon to 5 p.m. at the MotorCity Casino Hotel in Detroit. Tickets are just \$10 each. For a full list of vendors and to buy tickets, visit btllweddingexpo.com, where tickets are also available. For updates, follow www.facebook.com/UltimateLGBTExpo on Facebook, @BTLExpo on Twitter and @BTLEXPO on Instagram.

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Trump rallies: Tense, racially charged, immensely successful

BY BILL BARROW AND JILL COLVIN

VALDOSTA, Ga. (AP) – Among the many ways Donald Trump has redefined presidential politics, he stands alone for how he has used large, protest-ridden rallies, often bubbling with raw anger, to fuel his candidacy.

The Republican front-runner says the massive events are evidence of a “movement” of a “silent majority” frustrated by everything from the nation’s uneven economy and immigration laws to a government run by “stupid people.”

“And you know what?” he asked from the stage in Louisville, Kentucky, this week. “It’s not about me. I’m a messenger. It’s really about you. We’re going to take our country back and make it great again.”

While Trump generally exaggerates his crowd sizes, thousands routinely line up for hours to attend. There are almost always protests, and the response to them isn’t always peaceful. Yet Trump supporters, some driving hours to see the former reality television star, appreciate the boisterous performance and see in it a strength they don’t find in Washington leaders.

“Hell yeah, I’m voting for Trump ... that’s a man right there - a man,” said Joe Hash, a 57-year-old building contractor, after a raucous Monday rally at Virginia’s Radford University.

In Texas last week, Arlene Smart attended her fourth Trump rally. “It’s just the feeling,” said Smart, 58, who said she’d be traveling the country to his events if she didn’t have a construction business to run. “There’s pride in America. There’s a reason to believe.”

Detractors see something darker.

“It’s a spectacle driven by pure hate,” said Michael Marmol, a 20-year-old student who was ejected from the Radford event after he yelled at Trump over his plan to construct a wall on the Mexican border.

Indeed, crowds from Nevada to New Hampshire have devoured Trump’s hour-long offerings of economic populism and unrepentant nationalism, all wrapped in promises to “win, win, win” and “make you so proud of this country again.”

A natural showman, Trump peppers his speeches with humorous asides, imitation and dramatic acting. In Texas last week, he threw water across the stage and then tossed the bottle behind him to mock a rival’s sweat.

See Trump rallies, page 15



Brittany Fee protests outside the Fort Worth Convention Center in Fort Worth, Texas on Friday, Feb. 26, 2016. Donald Trump is campaigning in Texas ahead of the Super Tuesday elections next week. Lawrence Jenkins/The Dallas Morning News via AP.

KKK Enters the Presidential Fray

BY LISA KEEN

The Republican presidential race took a particularly nasty turn when frontrunner Donald Trump inexplicably balked at disavowing the support of the Ku Klux Klan and a former KKK leader David Duke.

The issue arose in response to a call from the Anti-Defamation League on Feb. 25, asking that Trump “distance himself from white nationalist and former KKK Grand Wizard David Duke, as well as other white supremacists, and publicly condemn their racism.” ADL noted that, while Duke “did not explicitly endorse” Trump, he encouraged listeners to his radio program to volunteer for the Trump campaign. And ADL said a white supremacist political action committee was using robocalls in some states to urge, “Don’t vote for a Cuban. Vote for Donald Trump.”

At a press conference on Friday, Feb. 26, a reporter asked Trump about the “endorsement” of Duke, and Trump quickly “disavowed” it.

That same day, Trump was confronted with the KKK issue again. At a large campaign rally in Oklahoma City, Trump supporters drew the candidate’s attention to a man wearing a T-shirt that said “KKK endorses Trump.”

According to KOCO-News in Oklahoma City, the man was originally seated onstage behind Trump, and the crowd erupted when he hoisted a sign that said, “Islamaphobia is not the answer.” The man then removed his jacket, revealing a T-shirt with a yellow star taped to it and a hand-written message, “KKK endorses Trump.” The crowd appeared to be startled and unhappy about the man’s presence, then seemed to laugh, and eventually began chanting, “USA.” Trump turned to see what was happening and waited, looking occasionally at the man who smiled, waved to Trump and appeared to say something. Trump watched as someone squatting in front of the man spoke to him. Then Trump walked back to the microphone.

“You see,” he said, “in the good ol’ days, law enforcement acted a lot quicker than this. A lot quicker. In the good ol’ days, they’d rip him out of that seat so fast. But today, everybody’s politically correct. Our country’s going to hell with being politically correct.” According to various reports, the man was eventually escorted out of the arena by police.

The KKK issue escalated dramatically on a CNN program Feb. 28, when State of the Union host Jake Tapper asked Trump for his response to the ADL’s call for him to

disavow the “endorsement” of former KKK Grand Wizard David Duke and other white supremacy groups. Trump said he didn’t want to “condemn a group that I know nothing about.”

“Just so you understand, I don’t know anything about David Duke, OK?” Trump told Tapper. “I don’t know anything about what you’re even talking about with white supremacy or white supremacists. So I don’t know. I don’t know – did he endorse me, or what’s going on? Because I know nothing about David Duke; I know nothing about white supremacists.”

“I will do research on them and certainly I would disavow if I thought there was something wrong.”

The KKK’s history of hostility to African-Americans is well-documented. Less well known is its hostility toward gays. According to several news and educational sources, the KKK is a fragmented collection of groups with more than 100 KKK separate organizations across 26 states, north and south, including Texas, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Ohio, New York and Michigan.

“Klan literature and propaganda is rabidly homophobic and encourages violence against gays and lesbians,” says a 2006 paper from

the Law Enforcement Executive Forum, published by the University of Houston.

Individual KKK groups have their own websites, some of which express their hatred for gays. For instance, the current website of the "White Knights" in North Carolina states, "We hate drugs, homosexuality, abortion and race-mixing..."

Earlier this month, David Duke's website claimed Rubio attended "homosexual meet-up affairs" – or "foam parties" – in Florida. In a March 1 posting, Duke reiterated that "the KKK did not endorse Donald Trump." Duke said he personally offered two reasons to vote for Trump: One, because the policies of other candidates would lead to war with Russia. And two, because Trump's commitment "to secure our border."

Duke was a Republican member of the Louisiana House of Representatives from 1989-1992, but in 1988 he ran as a minor candidate for the Democratic nomination for president. The Southern Poverty Law Center characterizes him as "the most recognizable figure of the American radical right, a neo-Nazi, longtime Klan leader and now international spokesman for Holocaust denial." His involvement in white supremacist activities began at 14 and he founded the "Knights of the Ku Klux Klan" in 1974.

It wasn't just Duke and the KKK's widespread notoriety that spelled trouble for Trump. It was also a number of instances in which Trump was already on record as criticizing Duke. For instance, in August of last year, Trump told NBC News that he "certainly wouldn't want" Duke's endorsement and that he would repudiate it "if it would make you feel better."

Trump's opponents for the nomination immediately lashed out at Trump's failure to immediately and unequivocally disavow any acceptance of support from Duke or the KKK. Rubio said Republicans "cannot be the

party that nominates someone who refuses to condemn white supremacists and the Ku Klux Klan." Cruz's criticism was more narrowly couched, saying, "Racism is wrong." The most strongly critical candidate, Ohio Gov. John Kasich, said, "Hate groups have no place in America."

By Monday, Trump suggested that he didn't disavow Duke or the KKK because he didn't fully hear Tapper's question. He said CNN had given him a "bad earpiece" for the interview and he could "hardly hear" what Tapper was asking.

But even before the KKK signals of support for Trump, the threat of a Trump nomination loomed large for the GOP. The New York Times reported that colleagues of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said McConnell vowed the party would "drop him like a hot rock" if Trump wins the Republican presidential nomination. By Tuesday, McConnell made a public statement that Trump's position on the KKK controversy "is not the view of Republicans."

"I think it's very important that the American people understand that the Republican Party condemns in the strongest possible language David Duke, the KKK and everything they stand for," said McConnell. And Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan publicly read a statement, too, saying, "If a person wants to be the nominee of the Republican Party, there can be no evasion and no games. They must reject any group or cause that is built on bigotry. This party does not prey on prejudices."

On Tuesday, ABC journalist George Stephanopoulos asked Trump if he was ready to make a "clear and unequivocal statement renouncing support of all white supremacists?"

"Of course I am. Of course I am," said Trump. "There's nobody who's done so much for equality as I have."



Violent protests have broken out at Trump rallies. A demonstration by Black Lives Matters turned ugly last week. The escalation of protests, both in size and in violence, has been growing and Trump only seems to encourage it from the stage.



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Unified Looks Toward a Future of Innovation

BY JASON A. MICHAEL



The new executive leadership team of Unified – HIV Health and Beyond includes Jimena Loveluck, vice president of community research and innovation; William VanHemert, president and CEO; and Angelique Tomsic, vice president of programs and operations. (BTL photo: Jason A. Michael)

Though they officially merged over a year ago, it wasn't until December that the former AIDS Partnership Michigan and HIV/AIDS Resource Center announced the name of their new combined organization would be Unified – HIV Health and Beyond. Now, 90 days out from that name change, the executive leadership team of the agency sat down with *Between The Lines* to look at how things were coming together under that new name and what the future holds for what it is now the largest AIDS Service Organization in the state.

Comprising the executive leadership team are William VanHemert, president and CEO; Jimena Loveluck, vice president of community research and innovation; and the newly appointed Angelique Tomsic, vice president of programs and operations. Together they spoke with excitement about what's happening at Unified, which now serves 10 counties in southeastern Michigan.

"We're really focusing on the programming and the integration of programming," said VanHemert. "In 2014 it was really the due diligence, and 2015 was really more about board structure and looking at what we call the back office, looking at the finance and payroll. Now with Angel coming on board as VP of programming and operations, we're really starting to look at how all three offices – Jackson, Ypsilanti and Detroit – have similar funding, similar programs and seeing how we can cross-train in terms of promoting and also seeing what we do good.

"For example, our Ypsi office is very well known for their harm reduction, their mobile unit and (we're looking at) how to bring that into Detroit," VanHemert continued. "We here (in Detroit) have behavioral health and mental health services and (we're looking at) how to bring that into our Ypsi office. So it's really focusing on program integration and developing those. And that's also staff integration and personnel."

No one has been laid off as a result of the merger and besides the new name, clients have likely noticed very few changes beyond maybe some new forms.

"For our clients, really nothing has changed with the merger," said Loveluck. "Their services have continued as they always have and they will go to the same office and work with the same case managers or testing counselors. So, we've tried to make it a really seamless process for our clients."

For the leadership team and other staff, Loveluck said the biggest challenge of

merging is not having enough time.

"While the merger has legally taken place, there's still a lot of work that we're doing to integrate operations and programs and at the same time we have all these other ideas of what we want to do," she said. "So it's really a matter of prioritizing and being realistic as we set those priorities. We've been working with staff, with our board, to really help us prioritize what are going to be our goals for the future from one year out to three years out so that we're not completely overwhelmed and spinning our wheels, but really being as effective as we can. That's part of why we merged: to increase our capacity and increase our impact. But we want to do that in a thoughtful way."

As VP of community research and innovation, Loveluck said there are three projects occupying a great deal of her time. MFierce is a three year project funded by the CDC that focuses on reducing sexually transmitted infections and HIV among certain populations. "Our target populations are young and gay bisexual men and transgender women," said Loveluck. "So through a very long, year-long planning process that included community forums and the involvement of a youth advisory board, we're focusing on two different areas. One is developing the youth advisory board into sort of an advocacy collective group so that they can provide technical assistance and training to other youth serving organizations, particularly when it comes to HIV and STD prevention.

And also providing training and technical assistance to health care providers to help them better serve LGBT populations, young LGBT populations, in the Metro Detroit area and also the Flint area."

Then there is the HIV Stigma Index, which is a project that has been implemented in more than 50 countries around the world. The Index is a way of measuring the impact that HIV stigma has on the lives of people who live with HIV.

"There was a pilot done in Metro Detroit, and the unique aspect of this project is that people living with HIV are trained to be interviewers and they interview other people living with HIV about their experience with stigma," Loveluck said.

The third project is still in its infancy stage, but Loveluck said it aims to look at how the agency can incorporate better substance use risk assessment in the HIV counseling and testing services they provide.

"It's so we can better address substance use issues and link people to services they might need," she said. "It's just getting started and it's actually a four-year project that's funded federally through the Department of Health and Human Services."

VanHemert said the agency will continue to grow as the face of HIV/AIDS continues to change.

"We were born as an AIDS Service Organization, but now we know that

See Unified, next page



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March 15 Telethon Will Raise Funds To Benefit Flint Children Impacted by Water Crisis

In an effort to provide long-term support for Flint children and families affected by the water crisis in Flint, WDIV-TV, the NBC affiliate in Detroit, will host "Flint Water Crisis: 4 Our Families (#FlintKids)," a telethon benefiting the Community Foundation of Greater Flint and its Flint Child Health and Development Fund (www.flintkids.org), Tuesday, March 15. On air from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., localized versions of the telethon will air across the state of Michigan on WEYI-TV (Flint), WILX-TV (Lansing), WOOD-TV (Grand Rapids) and 9&10 (Northern Michigan).

In Flint, the telethon will be hosted at Art Van Furniture, located at 4577 Miller Road.

Recognizing that once the water crisis is over the lead crisis will remain with Flint's children and families for years to come, the Fund was established at the Community Foundation in January. Its purpose is to provide flexible funding for wraparound services not provided by state and federal government support. These services include optimal child health and development, early childhood education, educational and student support services, continuous access to a pediatric medical home, nutrition education and access to healthy food.

"We are honored that five television stations have come together to help us ensure that the children and families affected by the Flint water crisis get the best possible care now and in the future," said Kathi Horton, President, Community Foundation of Greater Flint.

Added Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, Hurley Medical Center, founding donor of the Flint Child Health & Development

Fund, "An estimated 6,000 to 12,000 Flint children have been exposed to lead in the water. We created this fund to ensure that these individuals, many of whom may face health problems for the remainder of their lives, have access to the proper resources. I thank WDIV for helping us bring our mission to the people of Michigan."

During the telethon, which will feature stories of the people of Flint, viewers will have the opportunity to make donations by calling 844-FLINT KIDS or by visiting any of the news station's websites, all of which will be accepting credit card contributions through www.flintkids.org.

The Flint Water Crisis has had a profound effect on the citizens of the greater Flint area, said WDIV-TV Vice President and General Manager Marla Drutz. When viewers on March 15 make a donation to the Flint Child Health and Development Fund, they can rest assured that their gift will go directly to providing critical interventions for Flint youth.

The Community Foundation of Greater Flint serves the common good in Genesee County, building a strong community by engaging people in philanthropy and developing the community's permanent endowment - now and for generations to come. CFGF helps donors support the causes they care about, today or through their estates. Since 1988 the Community Foundation has granted more than \$100 million to nonprofit organizations to build a thriving community. CFGF serves Flint and all of Genesee County including its Community Funds in Clio, Davison, Fenton, Flushing and Grand Blanc.

► Unified

Continued from p. 10

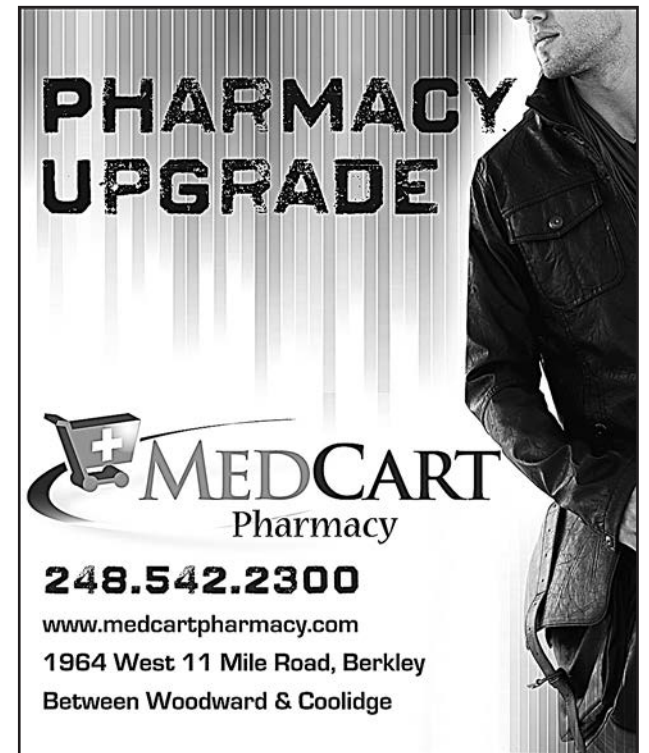
with HIV becoming a chronic disease we're looking at the person as a whole and those other types of chronic illnesses and diseases that individuals may have," he said. "What services do they need? That's why we really are developing the branch that Jimena is VP over in terms of the whole research and innovation. It's looking at substance abuse and how that relates to HIV, looking at mental health services, really increasing mental health services for those who are HIV positive, and also moving on to some advocacy work. That's where with the Stigma Index we really saw that - that letting those who are HIV positive be their own advocates can be beneficial."

So the proud histories of both APM and HARC will now

move forward together to build a better, stronger Unified.

"So much of our history is based on amazing activism and advocacy and we don't want to lose that," said Loveluck. "While HIV is viewed very differently in the situation with treatment - and even prevention has changed tremendously - I think we still need to ensure that the voices of the people living with HIV are heard. So I think that's the other piece that I'm really looking forward to focusing on in the coming years - strengthening that advocacy piece, strengthening the voice in Michigan through the HIV/AIDS Alliance of Michigan and partnering with its members and also partnering through other advocacy groups and being more vocal in terms of the advocacy we need to do in our state around HIV criminalization, around access to PrEP. I think those are messages we really need to focus on, and I'm looking forward to working on that, too."

AJ Trager contributed to this report.



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Heil Who? Micro What? Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

There's a scene in the popular film-musical "Cabaret" where several blond, German, Aryan youths seated at an outdoor cafe, prompted by Nazi zeal, leap up one by one, and contagiously sing, "Tomorrow the world belongs to us."

As far-fetched as it may seem, a big lie that Christian fundamentalists – who really believe that tomorrow the Tea Party world belongs to Jesus (or Trump, or Cruz, or Rubio) – are lip-syncing is that homosexuals have a secret global agenda.

These fundygelicals have it in their collective holy-roller-coaster, biblical brains that gays are members of a secret brotherhood of Satanic subversion...

According to these theocrats, city by city, county by county, country by country, gays plan to take over daycare nurseries, schools, churches, theaters, governments, five-star restaurants and – the Lord of Gospel Prosperity unwilling – several more-popular Las Vegas casinos. (Bring on the Springtime-for-Hitler-and-Germany Drag Queens!)

These fundygelicals have it in their collective holy-roller-coaster, biblical brains that gays are members of a secret brotherhood of Satanic subversion, a Bund – to use the pre-World War II German collective noun – out to do in everything that's red-blooded American.

(Actually the closest I've come to participating in a Gay Bund was in the late-'70s at the old Interchange, a leather bar that in its heyday was usually packed on weekends with quasi-military types, looking less and less butch and militant as the evening progressed and the liquor poured.)

I happened to be there one memorable night for a "presentation of colors." Suddenly lights came on full glare. Loudspeakers blared "The Stars and Stripes Forever." American and leather-themed flags waved, each carried by well-groomed standard bearers in crisp blue shirts! Chest straps! Shiny chaps!

Heil Castro! Heil Stonewall! Heil Vic Tanny!

It was impressive, and, given the setting and palatable zeal exhibited, a few zealous patrons actually took off their leather caps, wept and waved. (All in all, it was rather surreal.)

No, you can't convince this old turkey trotter that we gays constitute a secret Bund out to conquer this or any other unfortunately environmentally doomed continent for the gay lifestyle, as opposed to the militant born-again lifestyle.

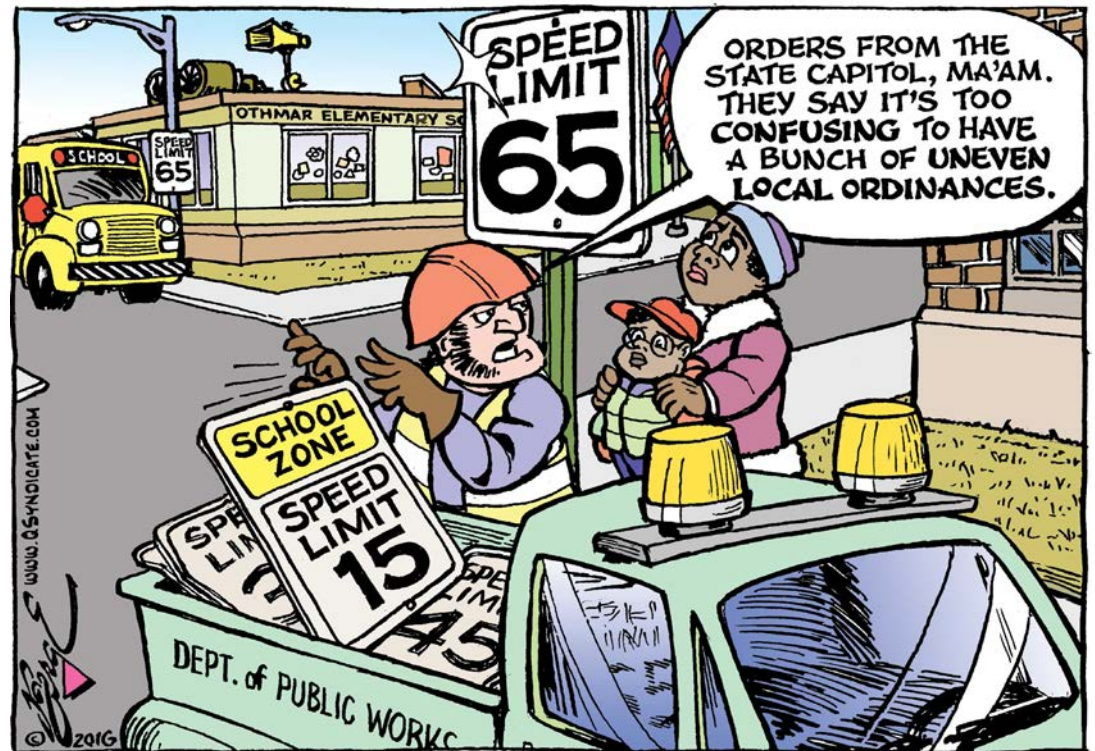
According to an eye-opening article, "Protocols of the Velvet Mafia," in a recent issue of DNA magazine, a now-current right-wing strategy is to claim that a Nazi gay clique was ultimately responsible for the Holocaust that took the lives of 6 million Jews.

"American fundamentalist Christian communities are trying to recast the story of the Nazi Holocaust and lay the blame at the feet of gay men. Behind the Nazi's program of systematic slaughter of Jews, gypsies, leftists, homosexuals and other groups labeled as undesirable by the German state, fundamentalists see a secret battle between two different camps of gay men, with the Jews targeted for their disapproval of homosexuals."

This conspiracy theory is popularized by a book called, "The Pink Swastika" by self-styled historians Kevin Abrams and Scott Lively. This latter mental poop-scooper is an American Bible literalist active in the international – yes, the international! – anti-gay agitating movement known as The Watchmen on the Walls.

The historical facts stand in contrast to lies. Nazi Germany homosexuals

See Heil Who?, next page



THE ARGUMENT AGAINST MUNICIPAL LGBT PROTECTIONS EXPLAINED

Viewpoint



BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

Politics Be Damned: Time for Saner Minds and Voters to Prevail

The recent Trump/Duke mash-up was a reminder that Trump and all he represents is really all of our problem.

We're deep into this election season. Candidates on both sides are vying not only for votes but for those all-important delegates needed to be named the presidential candidates for their respective parties. One name I didn't think we would still be talking about at this point in the game was Donald Trump. Seriously, didn't you think that by now we would have all quit laughing and he would have gone back to "The Apprentice"? I've known a few Republicans in my time – a few women, more men, some gay and even one black Republican. They were a little crazy, but I assumed there were enough reasonable minds still in charge over there that someone would have said, "Donald, you're fired!"

But they didn't! Now the craziest chickens have come home to roost! And those are some mean spirited and angry chickens and "The Donald" is now their would-be "Rooster in Chief," giving them life as he preaches to every fear, insecurity and bias – the worst in too many of us.

For the longest time, I have been content to let the

GOP drown in their own dysfunction; after all, he is their guy, but the recent Trump/Duke mash-up was a reminder that Trump and all he represents is really all of our problem.

Apparently David Duke's endorsement and Trump's response were what it took for GOP leadership to finally grow a pair. In a CNN interview, when questioned about the Duke endorsement, Trump would not condemn the former Ku Klux Klan grand wizard's support for his presidential campaign, saying that "he had no knowledge of the white supremacist leader."

His actually said, "I don't know anything about David Duke, OK? I don't know anything about what you're even talking about with white supremacy or white supremacists. So I don't know, did he endorse me or what's going on."

When asked if he would unequivocally condemn and reject the white supremacists who support Duke, Trump said he would need to conduct research

See Saner Minds, next page

► Saner Minds

Continued from p. 12

into the groups. **Really?** He doesn't know anything about "white supremacy or white supremacists"? Has he listened to his own rhetoric and that of many of his followers? Was he just having a brain fart, because in a 2015 interview he knew about David Duke and said that he didn't want Duke's endorsement. Well, apparently that was the straw that, while it didn't break it, put a serious kink in the GOP's back. Everyone from Paul Ryan to Mitt Romney ran to the mic with varying degrees of condemnation.

Ryan publicly tongue lashed Donald Trump for refusing to denounce Duke and the Klan. Mitt went as close to full on commando as we've ever seen him, calling Trump "a phony,

I assumed there were enough reasonable minds still in charge over there that someone would have said, "Donald, you're fired!"

a fraud, a misogynist and a bully who threatens America's future." Former New Jersey Gov. Christie Todd Whitman went as far as saying she would vote for Hillary Clinton over Trump.

But seriously, GOP dudes, that's just not enough! Trump isn't just some crazy old uncle with the bad toupee saying whatever wanders through his mind that no one takes seriously. You didn't let him come out for dinner, tell a few silly stories, make some crass remarks and then shuffle off to bed so the grown folks could talk seriously. Those new voters he brought out? Well, he's been like the pied piper of rabid rats and those rabid rats have taken over the discourse of the GOP. He is power hungry, reckless, dangerous and he's got your party's nomination process by the short hairs. Now you're scrambling to halt his delegate juggernaut.

The sad thing is the rest of the GOP field isn't much better. Like they say, "If you lie down with dogs, you'll get up with fleas." Everyone was okay with Trump's antics until he started to rack up the wins.

In my humble opinion, you stand up for what you believe in. Sometimes you cut ties

– even if it means a set-back or even a loss – when it's the right thing to do. Hatred, bigotry, misogyny, homophobia and divisiveness are not principles this country stands for – not that they don't exist in this country – but we have continually strived "to be a more perfect union."

If the character of the candidate (Trump) does not represent the values of the Grand Old Party, cut him loose. He's already said he has enough money to run his own campaign, so let him do it and let his ilk go with him

Then stand up and admit your role in creating the political environment from which Trump was spawned; get back to those core, pre-Tea Party values of the GOP and invite those who share these values – candidates and voters – to engage in spirited debates and convention on the issue. You stand up for what you believe in and disavow what you don't.

Maybe they'd lose some of those new voters. Maybe they'd lose the election! But maybe they'd regain some credibility.

If the party leadership doesn't have the intestinal fortitude to do the right thing, then maybe it's time for all those Republicans who don't agree with this politics of division, bigotry and hypocrisy to stand up and throw all the bums out. Now, I'm not expecting this to happen, but it needs to.

The rest of us aren't off the hook! Voter turnout by Democrats has been down. On Super Tuesday, Democratic voting was down from 8,228,763 in 2008 to 5,557,243 in 2016 while Republican voters increased by 3,282,199.

None of us can sit back and hope for the best. The stakes are too high – all three branches of the government are up for grabs, not just the White House. There really is something you can do about it. Stand up for what you believe in and most importantly **VOTE!**

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

undescended testicle – or, recently news reported, a micro penis – but he didn't switch hit. After 15 years he finally married his airhead, longtime mistress, blonde Eva Braun.

Two days later they committed suicide. Alas: 12 years, 35 million lives, 15,000 homosexuals too late. Heil Trump! Heil Cruz! Heil Rubio!

Charles@pridesource.com

Creep of the Week

Donald Trump

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI



A recent episode of "This American Life" featured a gay teenager who was totally gay for Donald Trump. This kid's parents were totally opposed to him being gay and he cited his number one issue as being marriage equality. He believed wholeheartedly that Trump supported marriage equality (he doesn't). And even after being confronted with evidence that Trump has opinions to the contrary, the kid basically said that Trump pretends to be anti-gay to score points with conservatives, but that he doesn't really feel that way.

And maybe that's true. But, as John Oliver pointed out about Trump's racism, he's either racist or pretending to be and after awhile there isn't any difference. The same goes for whether or not Trump is hostile to gays. You can only pretend to be anti-gay for so long before you're anti-gay.

So why is there so much confusion about where Trump stands on issues of LGBT equality?

Well, for one thing, the contenders for the GOP nomination are basically an anti-pride parade. Especially Ted Cruz, who can make anybody standing next to him look like a rainbow flag waving PFLAG member.

But there's also the fact that Trump doesn't seem to be in any hurry to quell the confusion.

During a March 5 press conference, reporter David Martosko asked Trump to clarify his stance on marriage equality and Obergefell v. Hodges, the Supreme Court ruling legalizing marriage equality.

And Trump wouldn't do it.

"Well, I've made it very strong. We have policy on it, and I've said it very, very strongly, and I think you know it," Trump responded to Martosko. "And it's all done and, you know, how many times do I have to say it? It's like, as an example, what is my position on 900 different things? I've said it 150 times. We're not here for discussing that. But everybody knows how I feel on it."

Well thank the lord that's cleared up. It's exactly his position on 900 different things. Everybody knows! The end!

In all seriousness, I honestly think that Trump's brain kind of resets itself in the middle of his sentences, much like how a

But, as John Oliver pointed out about Trump's racism, he's either racist or pretending to be and after awhile there isn't any difference. The same goes for whether or not Trump is hostile to gays.

space heater automatically turns off if it gets tipped over. While this might keep his brain from catching on fire, it also prevents him from making any sense.

To be clear, Trump has never come out in support of marriage equality. In fact, Trump has very recently asserted that if he were elected, he would appoint conservative Supreme Court justices with the goal to overturn Obergefell, a point he alluded to in the same press conference.

"Today I was thinking, for the first time really thinking about this. We lost a great man," he said of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia who died on Feb. 13. "He needs to be replaced, and you can only replace him with somebody truly great."

Really? Trump had never really thought about the implications of Scalia's replacement before? I doubt it, but if true then it's further proof that Trump has no business being president. Also note that Trump says nothing specific about who he would like to see replace the notoriously anti-gay Scalia, except that they be "truly great."

If you think that Trump is LGBT friendly, then I have some Trump Steaks to sell you. Lesbian and gay rights have come so far (still a lot of work to do when it comes to transgender rights), so fast. We can't risk decades of advancement on the wink-and-a-nudge evasiveness of a megalomaniac.

Alabama Court Refuses to Defy Supreme Court on Gay Marriage

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) – The Alabama Supreme Court refused Friday to defy the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that effectively legalized same-sex marriage nationwide, cutting off a conservative bid to prevent gay weddings in the state.

The court issued a one-sentence order dismissing a challenge by a probate judge and a conservative policy group that wanted the state to bar gay marriage despite the landmark federal decision.

In one of several written opinions accompanying the order, Justice Greg Shaw called the decision a “clear refusal” to ignore the Supreme Court ruling last June.

Several other state justices railed against the high court’s ruling while noting they can’t overturn it.

Chief Justice Roy Moore, a Christian conservative who has repeatedly spoken out against same-sex unions, wrote that previous state orders barring gay marriage in Alabama remain. Most probate judges already are ignoring that directive, however, and hundreds of same-sex couples already have wed in Alabama.

Eric Johnston, an attorney for the Alabama Policy Institute, which went to court seeking to prevent more gay marriages in Alabama, said the decision left opponents nowhere to turn in the court system.

“The order effectively ends the case,” he said in an email interview. “It appears to give us no option.”

Most Alabama counties have been issuing same-sex licenses for months. Randall Marshall, legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Alabama, said that while some of Alabama’s 67 counties quit issuing marriage licenses completely, none was issuing licenses to straight couples while denying licenses to gay couples.

“I don’t think that we will see any change going forward,” he said by email.

While the court used only 11 words in its order, members of the all-Republican bench railed against the U.S. Supreme Court decision in multiple written opinions totaling 169 pages.

Quoting everything from past court rulings to the Bible and the 1974 song “Feelings,” the chief justice called the court’s ruling “immoral, unconstitutional and tyrannical.” He referred to homosexuality as a “disgrace to human nature” which can’t be compared to opposite-sex intimacy.

The justices’ writings revealed what seemed to be deep splits within the court.

“Whether any participation or vote by (Moore) violates the Canons of Judicial Ethics is an issue I do not address,” wrote Shaw.

U.S. Supreme Court Orders Adoption Recognition



BY LISA KEEN

In what is being hailed as a “terrific” victory for gay and lesbian parents, the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday reversed a decision of the Alabama Supreme Court that had refused to recognize a lesbian mother’s adoption of the children she raised from birth with the children’s biological mother.

The National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) brought the case to the U.S. Supreme Court last November, hoping the court would hear oral arguments this year. Instead, the high court voted unanimously to simply reverse the Alabama Supreme Court decision.

“We are thrilled by today’s unanimous decision,” said NCLR Legal Director Shannon Minter. Minter said the order confirms that the Alabama Supreme Court’s decision was such a “blatant violation of settled Full Faith and Credit principles that it warranted summary reversal without the need for further briefing or argument.”

“The order provides everything we were seeking for our client,” added Minter, “and also makes clear to other states that adoptions by same-sex parents must be given full faith and credit.”

The U.S. Supreme Court takes very few family law cases, noted Nancy Polikoff, a well-known expert in LGBT family law.

“It is extraordinary to have a per curiam opinion with no dissents treating (the same-sex couple case) as the pretty straightforward kind of (adoption) case it should be treated as,” said Polikoff. “It is terrific ... It’s a huge victory at every level.”

The March 7 order in *V.L. v. E.L.* was released “per curiam,” meaning without any one justice being identified as the author.

The case involved an adoption that took place in Fulton County, Georgia in 2007. The adoptive mother, identified only as V.L. in court papers, adopted the three children she was helping to raise with her partner and the children’s biological mother, E.L. The two women agreed to use insemination to have the children.

“It’s an extraordinarily strong rebuke of more than two decades of Alabama courts disrespecting gay parents ... The Supreme Court drew a pretty big line.”

– Attorney Nancy Polikoff

After the adoption, the family moved to Alabama and later split up. The biological mother then sought to prevent the adoptive mother from having any contact with the three children, ages 14 and 11. That’s when V.L. filed suit for visitation and/or custody.

All this took place before the 2015 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, striking down state bans against recognizing or licensing marriages for same-sex couples. Both Alabama and Georgia had bans on marriage for same-sex couples, and the women in this case were never married. So the *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision did not come into play, although *Obergefell*’s “affirmation that same-sex couples and parents must be treated equally certainly provides a helpful context,” said Minter.

In Alabama, the biological mother’s attorney argued that the adoption granted by Georgia was not valid in Alabama. The Alabama Supreme Court agreed, saying that the Georgia family court had not properly followed Georgia family law when it granted the adoption to V.L. (The Alabama court said Georgia should have first required the biological mother to surrender her rights to custody.)

NCLR argued that no state supreme court in the country had ever refused to recognize any out-of-state adoption “based on a disagreement with how the court issuing the adoption interpreted its own adoption laws.”

“Because the Alabama Supreme Court’s decision was such a clear departure from established law,” said Minter, “we were hopeful the court would summarily reverse, as they now have done.”

The U.S. Supreme Court in December granted a stay of the Alabama Supreme Court decision and ordered that the adoptive mother be allowed visitation with the children, pending the high court’s decision on whether to take the appeal. But on Monday, March 7, the eight members of the current U.S. Supreme Court (since Justice Antonin Scalia’s death last month) issued an order without oral argument: It reversed the Alabama Supreme Court’s ruling.

The Supreme Court ruled that the U.S. Constitution’s “Full Faith and Credit” clause requires each state to “give effect to valid judgments” of courts in other states.

“A state may not disregard the judgment of a sister State because it disagrees with the reasoning underlying the judgment or deems it to be wrong on the merits,” stated the Supreme Court order. It also noted that Georgia law gave the Georgia court that granted the adoption “exclusive jurisdiction in all matters of adoption.”

“It follows that the Alabama Supreme Court erred in refusing to grant that judgment full faith and credit,” said the order. In reversing the state supreme court decision, the Supreme Court order remands the case to the Alabama trial court, which initially granted the adoptive mother visitation.

Polikoff said she doesn’t think the Supreme Court ruling guarantees equal treatment of LGBT parents in custody battles in Alabama.

“Nothing the Supreme Court did today will stop Alabama courts from preferring straight parents as custodial parent. The vulnerability that we see in cases decided between gay and straight (parents) remains.” But, she added, “It’s an extraordinarily strong rebuke of more than two decades of Alabama courts disrespecting gay parents ... The Supreme Court drew a pretty big line.”

► Trump Rallies

Continued from p. 8

He frequently holds events in open airplane hangars, circling in his private jet with giant gold “T-R-U-M-P” letters as thousands hold cellphones up to capture its descent as soaring music from the movie “Air Force One” plays.

The crowd anticipates applause lines like rock concert throngs.

“We’re going to build a wall. And who’s going to pay for the wall?” Trump shouts.

“MEXICO,” they yell.

“Who’s going to pay for the wall?”

“MEXICO,” they thunder back.

But the atmosphere sometimes turns darker, with booming chants that can shake arenas. Young men pound their fists in anger, attendees sometimes shout racial slurs.

Police are investigating at least two alleged assaults against protesters at a recent Kentucky rally. One, captured on video, involves a young African-American woman who was repeatedly shoved and called “scum.”

In recent weeks, one of Trump’s biggest applause lines has been his vow to bring back waterboarding and other methods of torture. “We don’t go far enough,” he told a Las Vegas crowd before the Nevada caucuses, prompting thundering applause and chants of “USA! USA!”

Anti-Trump protesters have also become increasingly common as the election calendar has moved away from the more subdued early-voting states.

“Get ‘em outta here, get ‘em outta here,” Trump often booms when he spots one. “Are you protesting, darling?” he asked a demonstrator at Radford. He mocked another: “He just got on television. He’s happy.” Sometimes, he suggests they’re high on drugs.

Occasionally Trump complains police are being too gentle with protesters, bemoaning the “old days” when police didn’t fear for their jobs when they roughed up citizens.

“You know what they used to do to guys like that when they were in a place like this?” he asked in Las Vegas as a protester was removed. “They’d be carried out on a stretcher, folks.” Amid cheers, he added, “I’d like to punch him in the face.”

On Friday, Trump recalled an incident at a New Hampshire rally where a protester started “swinging and punching.” Trump said some people in the audience “took him out.”

“It was really amazing to watch,” he told an audience in Warren, Michigan.

Later Friday in New Orleans, Trump’s rally was interrupted by a near-constant stream of protesters, including many from the Black Lives Matter movement. At points, campaign manager Corey Lewandowski was spotted personally assisting police as they escorted protesters out of the building. Members of Trump’s personal, private security detail were also on hand to assist.

Months ago, Trump’s team began telling

supporters they should not harm demonstrators. Instead, crowds are instructed before rallies to surround protesters with signs and chant “Trump! Trump! Trump!” until authorities arrive.

Some incidents have carried racial undertones. At Radford, Trump asked one protester, who appeared to be of Asian descent, “Are you from Mexico?”

Later, as black demonstrators were led out, Trump recalled Democratic presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders once yielding his microphone to Black Lives Matter protesters. “That’s never gonna happen here,” Trump boasted, saying the Vermont senator acted “like a little boy.”

While Trump often talks about how much he likes protesters – suggesting he’ll hire some



Black Lives Matter protester Mercutio Southall Jr., who was thrown to the ground and kicked by supporters of Donald Trump at a campaign rally last week, claims he was called a ‘n****r’ by people in the crowd. AP photo.

because they encourage television cameras to show his crowds – his aides have, at times, become aggressive about ejecting them.

On Monday, black Valdosta State University students were escorted out of a campus event in Georgia before it began. Ameer Junious, 19, said police directed him to the back of the arena – with no explanation given – before Trump arrived. Videos shot by Junious show a person who appeared to be police officer telling him, “They asked me to have y’all moved,” adding, “I can’t explain that, OK?”

In a statement, Trump campaign spokeswoman Hope Hicks said the campaign “had no knowledge of the incident.”

Video of a fall rally in Birmingham, Alabama, captured Trump supporters physically assaulting Mercutio Southall Jr., an African-American activist Trump ordered removed – “Get him the hell out of here, will you, please?” – after Southall shouted “black lives matter!”

Trump later said on Fox News, “Maybe he should have been roughed up.”

Yet as he continues his march toward the nomination, Trump reassures his backers they have the moral high ground. “I’m not an angry person,” he said at Radford. “You’re not angry people.” Then, pointing at demonstrators, he said, “They’re angry people.”



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Getting to the Goal: Making Michigan a No Kill State

BY AJ TRAGER

In efforts to end the killing of healthy and treatable homeless cats and dogs in Michigan, 40 percent of the counties in the state practice the “No Kill” equation model for animal shelters.

Since 2003, the Michigan Pet Fund Alliance has been advocating the No Kill equation model where euthanasia is only used in the truest sense of the word: when the animal is immediately suffering or is intensely vicious, and is not administered to healthy or treatable animals. According to the organization’s website, open admission shelters that do not

turn animals away are achieving save rates of over 90 percent with this model accompanied by collaboration and partnerships with other organizations in the area.

Debbie Schutt, chair of the board of the MPFA, says that the biggest hurdles to getting animal shelters in Michigan to adopt this model are the myths surrounding the practice, which include: allowing sick animals to suffer, euthanizing poorly mannered and possibly vicious animals, promoting hoarding or warehousing, advocating for limited admission in municipal shelters, and that extending an animal’s life is more expensive than euthanasia.

“We reach out to all of the shelters and have invited them to our conferences. We do offer various services and anybody can contact us. We are more than welcome to go work with them. In the last year we have worked directly with three shelters to finally implement some changes,” Schutt said.

As a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, MPFA advocates, educates and provides tech assistance to shelters across the state. Over the last year MPFA has worked with Genesee County, the Macomb County Humane Society and the city of Detroit to improve their no kill practices.

As is common with a change in leadership,

Schutt says that Genesee County in particular has experienced an “about face” and change is happening dramatically; Detroit is experiencing this as well. She credited Dr. Abdul El-Sayed, executive director of the Detroit Department of Health & Wellness Promotion, with helping to get newly hired shelter director Melissa Miller for the Detroit Animal Control. Miller was hired in December and since then has really begun changing the shelter around, Schutt says.

The treatment of domestic pets has evolved over centuries – even more so in recent years.

“Companion animals have developed a different place in society. There was a time

where the dog was out in the backyard and the cat roamed around and you threw out the table scraps and no one would ever think about taking their animal on vacation. It has taken quite awhile for us as individuals to see them as members of our family, and that didn't easily translate over to the shelters system," Schutt explained.

She says that 60 percent of Michigan residents have one or more pets and the vast majority of households are treating their pets like members of the family. But what happens when the pet runs away from home or gets separated from the family? The clock starts ticking in some counties, and the family would only have a small window of time to find and collect their pet.

"There are too many of those stories out there," said Schutt. "That their pet was euthanized before they got to them."

Annual Shelter Report

Every year the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development produces the "Annual Shelter Report." Statistics over the last year are collected in March. Results are released before the end of June. In 2014, 162 shelters filed reports. The MPFA uses this report to compose their annual "Shelters by Save and Live Release Rate" report.

While the number of shelters in the state practicing the No Kill model is growing, many shelters still practice with a live release rate of below 70 percent.

Based on the MPFA report, the majority of the 40 percent of Michigan counties dedicated to engaging in best practices for euthanasia reside in the Upper Peninsula and northern counties.

Counties rich in population such as Oakland, Wayne, Ingham and Kalamazoo all have a long way to go before they achieve a No Kill rate of 90 percent or better. Five counties in the state – including St. Clair, Arenac, Lake, Cass and Oscoda counties – have received a less than 50 percent live release rate from MPFA.

"If they have low save/release rate, we've found it's a process to get folks to understand they need help. Sometimes it's a knock out, drag out process. We've offered help for years in the city of Detroit – they weren't interested. Offered Macomb County help for years, too. Sometimes it involves two to three years of advocating, working and pushing until finally something changes. That's what happened in Genesee and Macomb (counties)," Schutt said.

Roscommon, Montmorency, Mecosta, Manistee, Leelanau, Keweenaw, Alger, Alpena, Baraga-L'Anse, Barry, Branch, Chippewa, Crawford, Gogebic, Grand Traverse, Houghton, and Huron counties all received a 100 percent live save rate.

Counties rich in population such as Oakland, Wayne, Ingham and Kalamazoo all have a long way to go before they achieve a No Kill rate of 90 percent or better. Five counties in the state – including St. Clair, Arenac, Lake, Cass and Oscoda counties – have received a less than 50 percent live release rate from MPFA.

Fourth No Kill Conference

Every other autumn the MPFA hosts a "No Kill" conference to discuss the No Kill movement and how to advance best practices for euthanasia in shelters and/or organizations. The conference provides six different educational tracks for shelter workers, home based animal care workers, veterinarians and the general public.

In addition to the animal care specialist focused tracks, the organizers of the annual conference are developing a track specifically for police officers.

"We are going to reach out to a group that we haven't reached out to before because often times the police, in their line of duty, are getting confronted by a lot more pets," Schutt said. "So it's a matter of helping them understand animal behavior and how to deal with the animal – which is training they don't normally get. We want to step up and help educate them. Our animal control officers understand the laws about abuse and neglect of animals. But regular officers may not recognize the danger signs."

This year MPFA is participating in the national "1 million cat challenge," an effort to get 1 million cats adopted that would normally be euthanized. The program started a year ago and includes different components for working with cats, including removing barriers to adoption or foster care.

The conference will be held Sept. 15-16 near Flint. Check out the MPFA website later in the year for more concrete details about the event and to obtain a schedule and registration guidelines.

Online Resources

The full 2014 Michigan Shelter's report can be read at <http://gaybe.am/shld>.

The full MPFA shelter save and live release report can be found at <http://gaybe.am/shrp>.

Visit the MPFA website at <http://www.michiganpetfund.org>.

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Managing the Effects of Pet Caregiver Fatigue

BY AJ TRAGER

It's never easy dealing with the death of a loved one. With loss comes the restless thoughts, sleepless nights and the inevitable wait for the passage of time to ease the pain. When the loved one is a pet that was under our care and protection, this time can be even harder.

Many people struggle with deciding when to let a pet go. Whether they are suffering from a terminal illness, old age or attempting to recover from an accident or medical emergency, caregivers often wrestle with the question of when is the time to finally make the call and assist in ending a pet's life.

"I think we all have a hard time letting go, whether it is a family member or a loving pet. And for many people, that is their family member. Many of my clients are alone and their animal has been their sole companion for 15 years. It is incredibly devastating and very difficult for them to sometimes wrap their minds around the fact that they are going to lose their family member," says Dr. Courtney Graham, a Lap of Love veterinarian who spends her days assisting pet owners in the most difficult time: hospice and end of life care.

Graham, a practicing veterinarian for 16 years, works in in-home euthanasia and consultation and sees the effects of caregiver fatigue daily. While the time she spent working in the veterinary clinic was enjoyable, she found the clinic atmosphere to interfere with making the end of life process as personal, quiet and peaceful as she could. She wanted to find a way to make it more intimate for the family.

Filling A Need

"I just saw a need for it, I think. At the time I was debating about doing this as my cat was terminally ill. I knew that when it was time for euthanasia I would be doing it at home so he could be where he is comfortable. It started like that, and I was at a big national veterinary conference and met the organizers for Lap of Love," she explained.

An average consultation call lasts 15-20 minutes and most people just need someone to talk to and have someone tell them, "It's OK to make this decision," Graham told BTL. She says that many people suffer a great deal when making end of life decisions. It can be hard for someone to grapple with making the best decision for their pet while anticipating the grief and guilt following the end-of-life choice.

"They just want me to tell them, 'It's OK if



Despite the difficult nature of her job, Dr. Courtney Graham says that this is the least burnt out she's been since working in veterinary medicine. It's not easy, but it is rewarding to her to know that she's helped bring loved animals to peace in a gentle way.

“They just want me to tell them, ‘It’s OK if you’ve decided it’s time. I’m going to support your decision.’”

– Dr. Courtney Graham

you've decided it's time. I'm going to support your decision," she said.

The best way to figure out if it's time, Graham told BTL, is to take a look at their past week. She talks about good days and bad days and which type of day is outweighing the other. If a five minute tail wag is all the excitement the pup expresses and the rest of the time they are tired and laying around, she said, it may be time to assess the pet's quality of life.

Pain and anxiety also factor into the calculations. Many pet specialists believe that cats and dogs feel anxiety stronger than they do pain. But both cause a shift in behavior and can greatly affect the quality of life.

"Everyone's barometer is different," Graham said. "We use budgets. How much time do you have to care for an ailing pet? What about a monetary budget? Some clients feel guilty when they don't have the money for veterinary visits. We all have these different budgets, and you can't forget that you've given

your pet a wonderful life. What you've done is enough. They're happy."

Other "budgets" to consider would be if one can physically lift their pet in the event of an emergency. There is also one's emotional budget to consider, factoring in the anticipatory grief that accompanies caregiver fatigue. Graham says that she sees some clients stay by their pet's side for years, often times not taking a vacation because the pet is diabetic. Owners often stress all day about if their pet is happy at home, if they've remembered to administer medications, if they're eating, etc., which can add great stress to someone's plate, regardless of how full it is.

"The biggest thing with caregiver fatigue is that it's normal to feel overwhelmed. It's normal to feel the stress and worry and guilt and all that – it's all normal. People feel that every day. All you can do is work your way through it, just like you would another loss. It's okay to feel that loss very acutely and to have a

Many people suffer a great deal when making end of life decisions. It can be hard for someone to grapple with making the best decision for their pet while anticipating the grief and guilt following the end-of-life choice.

hard time making the decision," Graham said.

Despite the difficult nature of her job, Graham says that this is the least burnt out she's been since working in veterinary medicine. It's not easy, but it is rewarding to her to know that she's helped bring loved animals to peace in a gentle way. Graham admitted that she does cry a lot and empathically feels the sadness from her clients.

"I tell my clients, 'I'm not crying for your pet, because they're free now. I'm crying for you because I know how much that loss hurts.' But I only feel it when I'm there so that when I leave I don't take it with me. I try to think, 'I did a good job. I helped their beloved pet and grieved with them, and now you have to move on.' That's how I can do this. If I carried all that with me, there's no way," she admitted.

Graham is the only certified Lap of Love veterinarian in Michigan. She is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association as well as a member of the International Association of Animal Hospice and Palliative Care. On her profile she lists the usuals: her contact information, professional history, availability and reputable mentions.

"I feel there is no greater gift that I can give to my clients than a peaceful goodbye for their beloved pet," she says on her Lap of Love profile. And she certainly does give this gift.

For those struggling with deciding if "now is the time," Graham recommends visiting www.lapoflove.com/Quality-of-Life/How-Will-I-Know-It-Is-Time. The site provides many resources and helpful points for those who are starting to have this conversation with themselves and their partners.

To contact Graham, go to www.lapoflove.com/Locations-Michigan-Southeast.

Written with contributions from Shelby Clark Petkus.

Protecting Adoptable Pets in Michigan

Michigan's Sodomy Controversy Earlier This Year May Have Caused Further Problems

BY TODD A. HEYWOOD

In April of 2012, a Michigan State University medical student accepted a plea deal for killing at least 12 Italian greyhound puppies. The puppies, contemporary reports said, were ordered from out of state puppy mills and Andrew Thompson, then 25, would kill the animals and dispose of their bodies in a nearby dumpster.

He was sentenced to five years on probation, and given credit for the 107 days he served in jail awaiting trial. As part of his probation he was expected to work at least 30 hours a week and maintain mental health care. He was also prohibited from having contact with pets.

But when his probation ends in 2017, Thompson could walk into any humane society, animal shelter or rescue group in the state and adopt a dog, cat or other pet; and it's pretty unlikely anyone at those nonprofits would have any idea he had been convicted of killing a dozen puppies. State lawmakers say those who abuse animals – either physically beating them, neglecting them, fighting them or having sex with them – should be barred from accessing pets in the future.

For bill sponsor and state Sen. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge, his background as a former county sheriff plays into his support for the legislation.

"Many of the worst, most horrible serial killers started out as animal abusers," Jones noted in an interview. "The FBI has actually begun tracking people convicted of animal abuse so that when and if they have serial murders, they have a suspect pool."

Jones has been trying for four years to pass a package of bills that would create a list of those convicted of such crimes. It's called Logan's Law, named after a Siberian Husky that was splashed with battery acid and eventually died of complications from the wounds sustained in that attack. Two bills in the package originated in the state House, and two originated in the state Senate. Both chambers have passed their respective bills and passed them to the other chamber.

An earlier version of the legislation would have created a whole new registry system and barred anyone convicted of abusing animals from adopting or owning a pet for life. But Jones and other lawmakers said that proposal was too expensive.

"It was far too expensive and that would have come out of the Michigan State Police budget," said Jones. "And there would be continuing annual costs to maintaining the database as well."

Instead, in consultation with the MSP, Jones, along with his Senate colleague Sen. Steve Bieda, D-Warren – who together sponsored the Senate bills – and House sponsors Rep. Harvey Santana, D-Detroit, and Rep. Paul Muxlow, R-Brown City, discovered that a database of those convicted of animal abuse already existed.

The MSP hosts an internet system called the Internet Criminal History Access Tool (ICHAT). Anyone can use the system for \$10. The system keeps a record of all convictions in the state. But Jones and Bieda said the cost of the ICHAT system was too unwieldy for struggling animal nonprofits.

"They're often surviving on a shoestring budget," said Jones.

So the legislation was drafted to give free access to nonprofit humane societies, county animal shelters and rescue groups.

Under the legislation, if someone convicted of abusing animals applies to adopt an animal from one of the nonprofit groups, their conviction would pop up in an ICHAT search. If the conviction occurred in the previous five years, the animal abuser would be prevented from adopting the animal.

"The hope is that this will help those people convicted of these crimes get mental health help," Jones said.

The legislation has not been without controversy. When the Senate bills passed the state Senate earlier this year, on a 37 to 1 vote, the Internet exploded with allegations the bill criminalized consensual sodomy in the state. Reporting said the bill contained a provision which strengthened the state's ban on bestiality, which is found in the state's law of "crimes against nature." That law had been used to prosecute consensual gay sex, until a Supreme Court ruling determined sodomy laws were unconstitutional.

Activists painted the legislation as an assault on gays which sponsors, including Bieda and Jones, said was not accurate. The controversy may have caused the Senate bills to be held up in the House, Jones said, as lawmakers wrestle with how to address the controversy. It is possible the legislation could move ahead without adopting changes to the state's bestiality ban, effectively making it possible for a person convicted of bestiality to still gain access to pets through human societies and other nonprofit animal programs.

Jones and Bieda said they were disappointed by the controversy and believe it missed the bigger issue – protecting animals.

"(Protecting animals) has always been something near and dear to my heart," said Bieda. "This is a chance to protect animals from neglect and abuse."

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OUR PETS

Animal Welfare Fund Provides over \$134,900 to Local Animal Shelters

LANSING – Each year the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Animal Industry Division distributes thousands of donated dollars to animal shelters in Michigan through Animal Welfare Fund grants. This year, the fund will provide approximately \$135,000 to 23 registered animal shelters throughout the state.

Since 2010, the Animal Welfare Fund, provided for by tax checkoff monies from generous Michigan taxpayers, has distributed more than \$967,000 to 131 facilities. The funds go directly to registered shelters to increase the number of adoptions through spay and neuter programs, improve staff knowledge of proper animal care through educational programs and training and assist shelters with unreimbursed costs of care for animals housed for legal investigations.

"These funds allowed one shelter to increase dog adoptions by 63 percent and cat adoptions by 23 percent, providing more opportunities for animals to be taken into their shelter," said Dr. James Averill, MDARD's state veterinarian. "Thanks to the generous

support of Michiganders, local shelters across Michigan have more opportunities to make a positive impact in their community."

This year MDARD received 68 applications totaling over \$580,000 in requests. Some of the innovative projects chosen this year included:

- Public education outreach campaign, in collaboration with a popular local television station and its advertising team, to increase the public's knowledge of the proper care of pets.

- In-house assembly at the local school, with selected shelter pets teaching students about animal care and handling, the importance of spaying and neutering, recognizing and reporting neglect or abuse, and more.

- Take home handouts and puzzles for an "in-class fostering" program at a school where a shelter pet is virtually fostered. The shelter pet's information and photos are kept in the classroom and the students help raise funds and promote the shelter pet's adoption.

Find the list of 2016 grantees online at www.pridesource.com

FDA Now Requires Animal Testing For Personal Lubricants

WASHINGTON D.C. – The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has changed testing regulations for personal lubricant to require that all products undergo animal testing.

As of Dec. 31, 2015 all personal lubricants must undergo mammalian safety testing. The FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health informed personal lubricant industry stakeholders last year that 100 percent of products would be required to submit premarketing notifications that would include irritant and hypersensitivity safety testing in rabbits and guinea pigs.

The new FDA required tests now include injecting guinea pigs and rabbits with the lubricant to look for evidence of skin allergy and vaginal irritation. However, the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals say that humans and these small animals have "very different physiologies."

"We've been in touch with a number of lubricant companies, and none of them are pleased with the new rules that require testing products on animals. Nevertheless, there are non-animal test methods that can replace the

use of animals in some of the tests FDA is requiring, and PETA has been working to clarify how companies can put these non-animal methods to use," Jeffrey Brown, research associate with PETA's Regulatory Testing Department, wrote to BTL in an email.

PETA scientists have been working with lubricant companies, including Oregon-based Good Clean Love, to persuade the FDA into amending their new requirements. After being told of the alternative science, GCL conducted the non-animal test and shared the results with the FDA. According to PETA, the results of the non-animal test demonstrated that this approach should be accepted by the FDA in place of using animals.

"Good Clean Love, in partnership with PETA, has proven that non-animal methods are not just good for animals: they are also good science. We will work with any company that has the tenacity and vision to make their products cruelty-free," says PETA Vice President of Regulatory Testing, Jessica Sandler.

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OUR PETS

Spring Has Sprung with Upcoming Pet Events

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March

Pet Parade

The Michigan Humane Society will escort animals from their old Detroit Center for Animal Care at 7401 Chrysler Dr. to their new Detroit Animal Care Campus at 7887 Chrysler Dr.

MHS staff, current MHS volunteers and board members will be escorting the animals to their new home by walking the parade route up Cameron Street to the MHS Detroit Animal Care Campus.

They will be accompanied by the Detroit Mounted Police Division and representatives from the Detroit Police Department K9 Unit, as well as WDIV Local 4/ClickOnDetroit who will be broadcasting portions of the event.

10 a.m. Friday, March 11, Michigan Humane Society, 7401 Chrysler Dr., Detroit

www.facebook.com/events/551511938364888/

Spring Photo Day

Photos are taken by a professional, in front of a green screen, then you choose from over 10 backgrounds including Easter, spring time, Detroit Tigers, etc. Cost is \$10 and includes a photo in a paper frame with partial proceeds going to Tail Waggers 1990 in Livonia. People and pets of all kinds are welcome.

12-5 p.m. Saturday, March 12, Lucky Dog Luxury Daycare & Boarding, 5921 Middlebelt Road, Garden City

www.facebook.com/events/745305532273504/?active_tab=highlights

Euchre Party to benefit C.H.A.I.N.E.D. Inc.

Door prizes, snacks and refreshments. Donations of pet food will result in additional door prize tickets. To play: \$10. RSVP to Joei at 734-718-1111.

5:45 p.m., Saturday, March 19, Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill Road, Garden City

www.facebook.com/events/470945523030210/

March Birthday Party

Monday, March 21

Happy Hounds Dog Day Care & Lodging, 673 S. Main St., Plymouth

www.happyhoundsdaycare.com/special-events



The Detroit Zoo hosts this semi-annual event in partnership with the Michigan Humane Society. Since the event's inception in 1993, more than 21,000 dogs, cats and rabbits have been placed into new homes at the spring and fall events. The spring event takes place May 13 and May 14.

April

'Rescue Dogs' Release

A family film starring real rescue animals debuts in theaters. The film is partnering with 20 animal rescues across the country to host animal adoption events during opening weekend.

Friday, April 1, Various Theaters

rescuedogsmovie.com

April Birthday Party

Monday, April 18

Happy Hounds Dog Day Care & Lodging, 673 S. Main St., Plymouth

www.happyhoundsdaycare.com/special-events

Pontiac Shot Clinic at Centerstage

All About Animals Rescue in Warren is putting on a special pet wellness event in Pontiac that will offer \$10 vaccine package, \$10 bordetella, \$10 FELV, \$20 Microchip ID, \$20 Heartworm Test, dewormer and more.

No residency is required.

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, April 30

Centerstage Rental Hall & QTMC, 536 N. Perry, Pontiac

www.facebook.com/events/989689187768406/

May

Meet Your Best Friend at the Zoo

Hundreds of dogs, cats, puppies and kittens will be available for adoption from 35 animal welfare organizations.

1-7 p.m. Friday, May 13

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, May 14

Detroit Zoo, 8450 W. 10 Mile Road, Royal Oak

www.michiganhumane.org

May Birthday Party

Monday, May 16

Happy Hounds Dog Day Care & Lodging, 673 S. Main St., Plymouth

www.happyhoundsdaycare.com/special-events

Walk and Wag and Run

The Humane Society of Huron Valley's 37th Annual Walk & Wag and Run: a dog walk, run and all-around-fun day. Registration fee: \$30-50.

8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, May 21, Rolling Hills Park, Ypsilanti

www.hshv.org/site/TR?fr_id=1270&pg=entry

See more events, pet-related or otherwise, at www.pridesource.com/calendar.html. To submit pet related events for the future, contact calendar@pridesource.com.

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Photo: Steve Vaccariello.

IN GOOD COMPANY

Alan Cumming on Sappy Songs, Bisexuality & His Proudest Moments

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

As a child, Alan Cumming cried as his older brother sang “Danny Boy” to him from across the bedroom they shared.

“He would do it to make me cry,” Cumming says, recalling his reaction to the Irish staple. “It’s just the emotion of the song. I’m Scottish, so the ‘pipes’ are kind of a direct route to my tear ducts.”

“Danny Boy” was the first song to break the singer-actor into pieces – but it wouldn’t be the last. There’d be Annie Lennox’s “Why” and Adele’s “Someone Like You” and Billy Joel’s “And So It Goes,” all of which are among the tear-inducing tunes on the performer’s latest release, “Alan Cumming Sings Sappy Songs: Live at the Café Carlyle.”

And when Cumming cries, it’s no act. Those

are real tears. After all, this is not Broadway, where the actor has appeared in a mélange of shows including “Macbeth” and “Cabaret,” for which he won a Tony. Nor is this “The Good Wife” (he plays Eli Gold on the CBS show, which wraps in May). It’s also not “Spy Kids” or “Smurfs” or his U.S. film debut, 1997’s “Romy and Michele’s High School Reunion.” On that Carlyle stage, Cumming is only one person: himself.

You’re pretty naked on that album cover. Are you wearing anything?

I’m not wearing anything! I was performing at the Carlyle and (photographer Jordan Matter and I) ended up texting dancers at 2 in the morning to see if they wanted to come over to the Carlyle and get naked. Two did, and we did that photo. Just took our clothes

off at 2:30 in the morning.

How do you explain your appreciation for music that makes you cry?

For me it’s about connecting personally. These songs are songs that have things in them that I can really understand. I feel my singing them makes people listen to them in a different way, maybe. But, really, they’re all songs that I felt compelled to sing because I connect to them in an emotional way.

Which one resonates with you most?

I think it would be “Dinner at Eight.” I find that really quite difficult to get through some nights because I think about my dad. I do normally shed a tear during that song. Yeah, it’s really difficult, and you have to go with it and understand that it’s emotional because it’s

PERFORMING

Alan Cumming

8 p.m. March 19

Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center
3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit
alancumming.com

an emotional song and you’re connected to it and the audience is really with you. I’m not incapable of getting through the song and I am really crying, but I think that’s all right. It makes sense. It’s a song that’s gonna be hard to sing. As long as there’s no falling to the floor into a heap of tears, I think it’s actually all right to show your emotion. In a way, the whole show is about me showing my emotions.

The album's coda is "The Ladies Who Lunch," made famous by the late Elaine Stritch in "Company" on Broadway. Elaine was a beloved presence at the Carlyle up until she performed her last show there in 2013. Is your performance of the song in that space a tribute to her?

Years ago I did a workshop with John Tiffany who directed me in "MacBeth." We did this workshop of "Company," and a lot of the couples' genders were changed, so I was playing the Elaine Stritch role. I sang that song in the workshop. I thought it worked really well, but ultimately it didn't go any further. Then when I was doing this show I thought, "I can't *not* sing that song at the home of Elaine Stritch."

When I was doing "Cabaret," in my dressing room I would always turn on Elaine singing "Ladies Who Lunch" as the last song. Whenever it came on, it was time to go. Everyone would be quiet and listen to the song and then at the end everyone would go crazy and that was the end of the night. So, she has a very special place in my life in a lot of ways. By doing it in that venue, this is very much a tribute to her.

Your résumé is expansive. When a gay guy stops you on the street, which career endeavor of yours are they most likely to compliment you on?

It's very difficult to tell nowadays – it really is. You know, some mention the "Romy and Michele" thing. But now it's really hard to tell. It may be my book ("Not My Father's Son: A Memoir"); it's a variety of things. With lesbians, I know it's always gonna be "The L Word."

Having accomplished as much as you have, what's been a career highlight for you?

The things I'm most proud of are the things that are the most personal, the biggest challenges. I thought I was never going to be able to do "Macbeth" on Broadway. I thought I was going to die. Doing "Alan Cumming Sings Sappy Songs" is really an amazing thing because I am sort of being myself. Also, my book a couple of years ago – that was a great sort of achievement because it was a terrifying thing to do. It was so vulnerable. For me, personally, it's the things that I might have failed at, or when I make myself really vulnerable in a personal way. Those are my best achievements.

What about ones that were not your best achievements – do you regret those projects?

I don't. If you're happy where you are then it's impossible to regret things, because everything you've done has made you who you are as a person and who you are at the moment. I get snarky journalists saying, "Why did you do this, blah, blah?" and I go, "Why do you think I did that?" Because it made money! People get a bit offended that you've done some commercial thing, but I did those things in order to do XYZ,

(projects) that don't make very much money. So, I'm actually doing you a favor by doing those things that make money.

So I don't really regret. I'm not a regretter. There are things I had a terrible time on, and at the time I was like, "Fuck, I didn't know it was gonna be like this. I thought it was gonna be great fun," but there were asshole people and the experience went wrong. Ultimately, there's always something you can learn a lesson from. And nobody died, hopefully.

As a bisexual person yourself, you're known for being outspoken on bisexuality and gender fluidity. How do you explain bisexuality to people who still don't get it?

I'm not here to change people's minds about whether they believe in bisexuality. All I'm saying is that I think my sexuality and most people's sexuality is gray. And yeah, I like cock. I *love* cock. But I also feel that I have an attraction to women. I've never lost it, actually. I've always been attracted to both sexes, and whether I act on it or not is not anyone's business, really. I'm not going to close myself off to the possibility of experience just because society says we must stick within these rigid boundaries. I find it really self-hating that the gay community, which has been so bullied, are especially the ones who might be chiding people about their bisexuality. I think, let everyone be who they are.

The point I'm making is that it seems more ironic for a gay person to chide someone about their sexuality – they're chiding all of us at heart. It seems particularly galling that that would be coming from a fellow LGBT person. I really do believe people today, especially young people, have a much more fluid idea about sexuality and gender, and I should think we're in a really great place with the youth of today. It's people who are a bit older who are still struggling with it.

Reflecting on your early days as an activist: Why was it so important for you to start speaking out on LGBT issues?

I have a voice. I have a platform. I have a great life. I have a *really* great life, and I live the way I want to live. I am the person I want to be, and I feel like it's my duty to take care of people who don't have those opportunities. I have a personal connection to people who have been prejudiced against who are gay or bisexual or transgender. I'm Scottish and I grew up with fairness and justice. Where I come from, it's very important that we adhere to making sure that everyone is looking after each other. So, it's partly my genetic makeup (laughs), but also in the privileged position that I am in, I feel it's my duty to give back and help other people along. Being an artist is understanding other people and wanting to reach and connect with other people, so helping other people is absolutely a part of that. When there's injustice and persecution, I can't really live in a society with that going on and not do something about it.

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Poppy Champlin

ComedyFest begins at 8 p.m. on **Saturday, March 12** at the Dearborn Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. Tickets are \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door. Tickets are available at www.comedyfest.org or at Five15 in Royal Oak and Common Language Book Bar in Ann Arbor.

Read our interviews with the comics online at www.pridesource.com

Editor's Pick

Yes, this winter hasn't been funny... but laughs can still be found at **Equality Michigan's 20th Annual ComedyFest**. The LGBT fest is sponsored by Between the Lines and Metra.

Over 1,000 people are expected to attend the Dearborn-based event. Featured comedians this year are Poppy Champlin of Providence, Rhode Island; Karina Dobbins of San Francisco; Jaye McBride of Albany, New York; and Sampson McCormick of Washington, DC.

Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, March 10

Here's to Life Latrice Royale's one-woman show. Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., **Royal Oak**. 248-541-6430. www.Stagecrafters.org

Saturday, March 12

Michigan LGBT ComedyFest 8 p.m. Tickets: \$35+. Equality Michigan, 15801 Michigan Ave., **Dearborn**. 313-537-7000. info@equalitymi.org www.Comedyfest.org

Monday, March 14

Happy Hour 4 p.m. Come join us for happy hour and Man Crush Monday. Grenadier Club, 3101 McDougall, **Detroit**. 313-910-6867.

Friday, March 18

Thunder from Down Under 8 p.m. Tickets: \$23-40. Sound Board - Motor City Casino, 2901 Grand River Ave., **Detroit**. 800-745-3000. www.Soundboarddetroit.com

Sunday, March 20

The Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo. Between the Lines. 12 p.m. Sunday, March 20. Motor City Casino, 2901 Grand River Ave., **Detroit**. btlweddingexpo.com. Tickets: \$10. The event will feature more than 100 vendors, a fashion show, prizes, entertainment and more

Tuesday, March 22

Genderqueer Family Memoirist Time TBD. Michigan State University, **East Lansing**. www.Transgresspress.org

Thursday, March 24

Brackets For Good Online Tournament Starting Feb. 26, online donations to help your favorite nonprofit organization advance in Brackets For Good and get one step closer to \$10,000 can be made by visiting annarbor.bfg.org. \$1 equals 1 point. Brackets For Good, **Ann Arbor**. www.Annarbor.bfg.org

MUSIC & MORE

Comedy

Gilda's Club "LaughFest," Multiple, Grand Rapids. March 10 - March 20. www.gildasclubgr.org

Film & Video

Michigan Theater "CineManga Film Series" Different anime or Japanese film each Wednesday night. State Theater, 233 State St., **Ann Arbor**. Jan. 13 - April 27. 734-668-8397. www.Michtheater.org

Other

Ann Arbor Film Festival "David O'Reilly." Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., **Ann Arbor**. 5:10 p.m. March 17. 734-668-8397. www.Aaafilmfest.org

Shows

Royal Oak Music Theatre

"A Conversation on "Making a Murderer"" 18+. Tickets: \$55+. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., **Royal Oak**. March 19 - March 19. 248-399-2980. www.RoyalOakmusictheatre.com

UMS "Nufonia Must Fall"

Tickets: \$24-\$54. Power Center, 121 Fletcher St., **Ann Arbor**. March 11 - March 12. 734-764-2538. ums.org/multiperformance/nufonia-must-fall/

UMS "Apollo's Fire & Apollo's Singers: Bach's St. John Passion"

Tickets: \$50-60. St. Francis of Assisi, 2250 E. Stadium Blvd, **Ann Arbor**. 7:30 p.m. March 15. 734-764-2538. www.Ums.org/performance/apollos-fire-st-john-passion/

THEATER

Butler Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, **Detroit**. Through March 13. 313-868-1347.

The Odd Couple Tickets: \$19-43. The Purple Rose Theatre, Purple Rose Theatre, 137 Park St., **Chelsea**. Through March 30. 734-433-7673. www.Purplerosetheatre.org

Civic/Community Theater

A2CT Presents Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead **Ann Arbor Civic Theatre**

presents Tom Stoppard's tale of Hamlet's hapless duo, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead, directed by David Widmayer, March 10-13, at the University of Michigan's Arthur Miller Theatre. Shows 3/10 @ 7:30 pm, 3/11 - 3/12 @ 8 pm, 3/13 @ 2 pm. Ticket prices \$17 on 3/10, 3/11-3/13 adults \$22, \$20 for seniors, students all shows \$11. **Ann Arbor Civic Theatre**, Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave, **Ann Arbor**. March 10 - March 13. 734-971-2228. www.a2ct.org/shows/rosencrantz-and-guildenstern-are-dead

College/University Theater

Love's Labour's Lost By William Shakespeare. Hilberry, Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., **Detroit**. Through March 13. 313-577-2972. www.Hilberry.com

Low Hanging Fruit The Theatre Company of University of Detroit Mercy and Matrix Theatre Company, The Marlene Boll Theatre, Boll Family Y.M.C.A., **Detroit**. Through March 20. www.TheTheatreCo.com

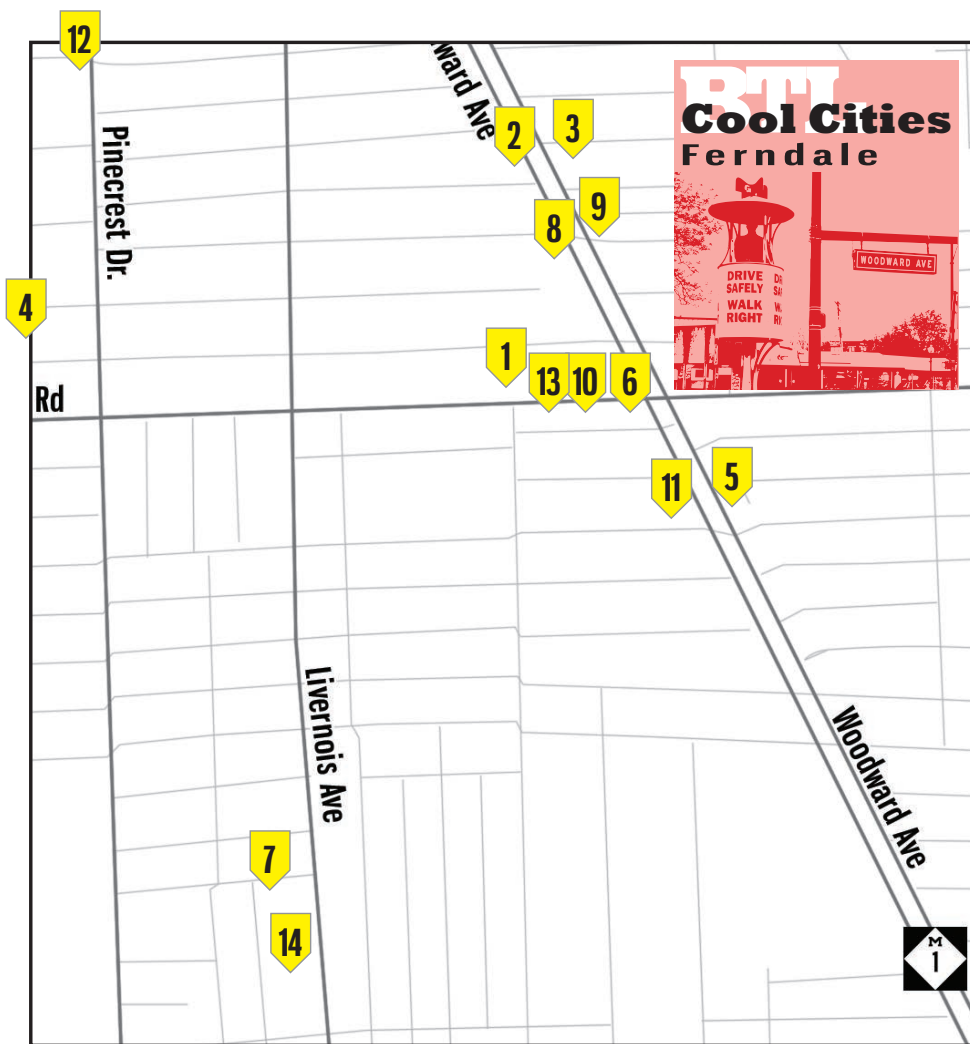
Professional

agua de luna (psalms for the rouge) 18+. Matrix Theatre, Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley, **Detroit**. Through March 20. 313-967-0999. www.Matrixtheatre.org

ART 'N' AROUND

Ann Arbor Film Festival "DIY Workshops" Free. University of Michigan North Quad, Space 2435, **Ann Arbor**. March 15 - March 19. www.Aaafilmfest.org

See Happenings, page 29



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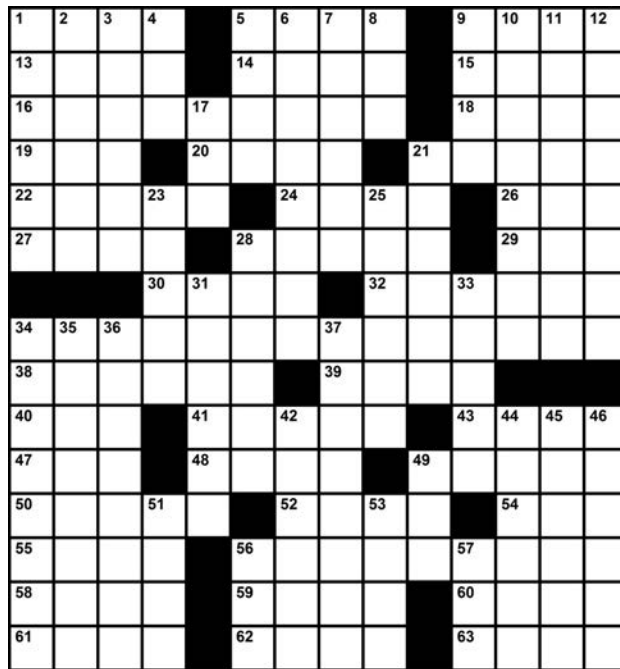
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14 Signorile's column, with "The"
15 Tallulah Bankhead's home, for short
16 ___ Square (Zion Square's

new name in honor of Shira Banki)

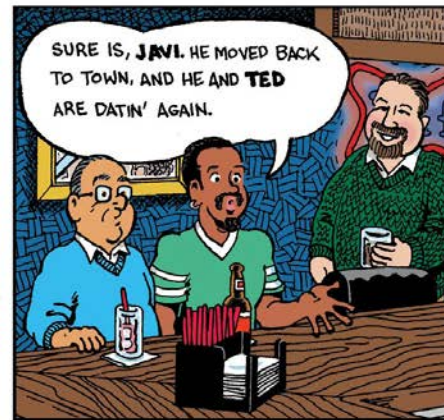
- 18 "Like ___ not"
19 Get behind
20 Spread it and lick it
21 Leather band
22 Like the Seven Dwarfs
24 It makes watching porn harder
26 First person in Berlin
27 Practice for a boxing match

- 28 Flynn role opposite Davis
29 Comedienne Margaret
30 Highly competent
32 Painter Freud
34 Event at which Banki was murdered
38 Flees to become wife and wife
39 Trust (with "on")
40 Pre-Epstein Beatle Sutcliffe
41 Out in front
43 Throw rocks at
47 It comes before Jack
48 Cameron and Mitchell, to Lily
49 You can use it to go down
50 First indications of orientation
52 Eats without one's dentures
54 Horny African animal
55 San ___ of the Italian Riviera
56 Location of 16-Across
58 Richard of "A Summer Place"
59 Deity on _Xena_
60 Rowlands of film
61 Roos and others
62 "Hey, over here!"
63 The A in GLARP (abbr.)
- 6 Handed tactfully
7 Foppish neckwear
8 No. 6 to P-town
9 Some
10 "The Price of Salt" author Highsmith
11 Pleasured orally
12 Stick it in an orifice
17 Siegfried's partner
21 Like some relations
23 "The Sound of Music" name
25 Cried like a bitch
28 Inventor Otis
31 Coats with crumbs
33 Where one may be laid in the grave
34 Flipped off, perhaps
35 Bruce Wayne, for Batman
36 Chicken hawk's target
37 Evidence of rubber usage
42 They can cut leaves of grass
44 Two under scores for Sheehan
45 They come out of the closet when beds are made
46 "Breakfast at Tiffany's" author Capote
49 Sound a snake makes
51 Many, many moons
53 Can't help but
56 Tokyo's nation (abbr.)
57 Khan's title

Down

- 1 Rupert Everett and Simon Callow
2 Make an appearance
3 "All's Well That Ends Well" heroine
4 Before, once
5 It gets a gel hard

Find solution to this puzzle at
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Editor's Pick

Matrix Theatre Company is currently hosting the last weeks of the world premier play, "agua de luna (psalms for the rouge)." The play is by Caridad Svich and directed by Sherrine Azab.

The work traces the personal lives of three couples as they are intertwined with the life of Teresa de Los Angeles, a woman of 108 years. Written in close-up snapshots of ache, hunger, passion and missed connections amongst this

community of individuals, it is a story of those often "left behind" who want the possibility of a better life. It's about surviving, taking stock in memories and believing in the everyday magic that may be possible in all of our lives.

"agua de luna (psalms for the rouge)" runs through March 20. Friday and Saturday shows are 8 p.m., Sundays are at 3 p.m. Matrix Theatre is located at 2730 Bagley St., Detroit. Visit www.matrixtheatre.org for more information.

▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 26

Cranbrook Art Museum

"Empire by Andy Warhol" The presentation at Cranbrook Art Museum is shown in relation to "Lou Reed, Metal Machine Trio: The Creation of the Universe." Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221

Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Dec. 1 - March 13. 877-462-7262. www.Cranbrookart.edu

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 "Dance! American Art 1830-1960" The exhibition is organized by the DIA and presents more than 90 paintings, sculptures, photographs and costumes brought together for the first time to celebrate and

explain the important place of dance in American culture. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. March 20 - June 12. 313-833-7900. www.Dia.org

Flint Institute of Arts

"From Heart to Hand: African American Quilts from the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts" Throughout history, quilts have held an important and cherished place in our culture, particularly in the American South. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Jan. 24 - April 10. 810-234-1695. www.Flintarts.org

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