

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



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March 31, 2016
VOL. 2413 | FREE

The Artists 'Inn' Detroit

Local LGBT Poet Envisions Future Artistic Neighborhood



**Detroit slam poet and Kresge artist fellow
Natasha "T" Miller on steps of 1574 Cadillac**

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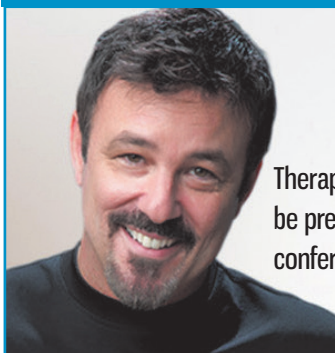
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20222 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone 734.293.7200

PUBLISHERS

Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

MEMBER OF

Michigan Press Association
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Q Syndicate



EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief

Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 12
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

Entertainment Editor

Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200 x 24
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

Assistant Editor

Shelby Clark Petkus, shelby@pridesource.com

Calendar Editor

Shelby Clark Petkus, shelby@pridesource.com

Staff Writers

AJ Trager, ajtrager@pridesource.com

CREATIVE

Webmaster & MIS Director

Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

Contributing Writers

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

Cartoonists

Paul Berg, Dave Brousseau

Contributing Photographers

Andrew Potter
Alexander Godin

ADVERTISING & SALES

Director of Sales

Jan Stevenson, 734.293.7200 x 22
jan@pridesource.com

Sales Representatives

Ann Cox, 734.293.7200 x 13
anncox@pridesource.com

Donelle Kremke, 734.293.7200 x 16
donelle@pridesource.com

National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

ONLINE AT



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Fifth Annual Jim Toy Community Center Birthday Bash April 15



Jim Toy on the Day of Decision, June 26, 2015.

including the Jim Toy Community Center, and helped co-pioneer the University of Michigan's Human Sexuality Office, now known as the University of Michigan Spectrum Center, the first staffed university office for addressing sexual orientation issues in the world.

In 1972, Toy co-authored the "Lesbian-Gay Pride Week Proclamation," which made the Ann Arbor City Council the first governing body of its kind to officially recognize gay pride.

Toy has been honored throughout Washtenaw County for his achievements in LGBT activism. In addition to the JTCC, the University of Michigan's Spectrum center named its LGBT library the Jim Toy Library. The JTL supports LGBT student development by engaging students in the rich cultural, social, historical, psychological, political and relational aspects of LGBT people and their identities, communities and experiences. The library hosts over 1,500 titles including books, videos and magazines.

Come celebrate Toy's birthday at Arbor Brewing Company in Ypsilanti beginning at 6:30 p.m. The event is for those 21-and-over; minors are welcome with a parent. There will be a \$10 suggested donation at the door.

Arbor Brewing Company is located at 720 Norris St. in Ypsilanti. To RSVP, visit the Facebook event page at www.facebook.com/events/1714526335426651.

YPSILANTI – Come join the Jim Toy Community Center in celebrating Jim Toy's birthday April 15 at Arbor Brewing Company in Ypsilanti.

Toy was the first person to publicly come out in Michigan. He is the founding member of many LGBT organizations in the state,

SAGE Metro Detroit Seeks Board Members

DETROIT – SAGE Metro Detroit is seeking qualified individuals to serve on its Board of Directors.

SAGE Metro Detroit values a diverse and inclusive Board of Directors. The organization believes a diverse and inclusive board will help SAGE more effectively develop as an organization and provide greater innovation and creativity in the development of relevant programs and services for a diverse LGBT older adult community living in Metro Detroit.

All those interested in serving on the board, especially those from historically under-represented communities who offer unique experiences and perspectives, are encouraged to apply.

SAGE Metro Detroit was established in 2015 and grew from the roots established by the LGBT Older Adult Coalition, founded in 2010. SAGE Metro Detroit works to ensure no aging LGBT adult will face isolation, be silenced or be denied LGBT culturally competent

medical and care services. The organization also informs and influences the state on LGBT aging through community-based, local and state advocacy efforts; provides leadership and education to organizations, service providers, faith institutions and businesses on the aging LGBT population; introduces professional services and programs to aging LGBT individuals in Metro Detroit; and empowers LGBT older adults to make important life decisions and to advocate on behalf of themselves.

In order to be considered for the position, applicants need to submit a completed nomination form and will soon hear back from the board chair. After an initial meeting with the applicant, the board will then consider their application and will then notify them of their board status.

Interested applicants should visit www.SAGEMetroDetroit.org for more information on the organization and its moving parts. Questions about the application process are to be directed to Kathleen LaTosch, board chair, at klatosch@gmail.com.



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Detroit slam poet and Kresge artist fellow Natasha "T" Miller on the steps of 1574 Cadillac in the East Village neighborhood. Miller plans to renovate the property and create an artist centered bed and breakfast for LGBT and ally artists called "Artists Inn Detroit." BTL Photo: AJ Trager

The Artists 'Inn' Detroit

Local LGBT Poet Envisions Future Artistic Neighborhood

BY AJ TRAGER

DETROIT – Soon traveling and local artists will have a space to create, network and develop artistic opportunities in the city of Detroit. Local activist, poet, author, film producer and three-time Women of the World Poetry Slam top five finalist, Natasha "T" Miller, plans on opening an inexpensive bed and breakfast called Artists Inn Detroit that will provide artist lodging.

Miller purchased 1574 Cadillac and the neighboring house earlier this year. The 1574 house, which has stood vacant for nearly a decade, is located in the East Village neighborhood. The area is home to Pewabic Pottery's headquarters and includes classic apartment towers such as The Kean and The Hubbard. East Village is located between downtown Detroit and Grosse Pointe. The

her performance art. She has had the idea of opening up an artists' inn for years and after winning Kresge, and running into the former owners of 1574 who are working to renovate the Cadillac block, she finally decided it was time to move on the project.

Artists Inn Detroit will provide artists with the opportunity to create while away from home by providing different packages based on the needs of the artist. Anyone, regardless of artist status, can stay at the inn under the standard rate. However, in exchange for discounted rates, artists will have the opportunity to contribute to the culture of the city and the growth of the community by choosing packages that will allow them to go into local schools and neighborhoods and provide workshops for students and local residents.

"What entices investors the most is all the programming that we'll be able to do," Miller explained. "We'll use it as a restaurant and then we'll have different performances. We'll rent it out for different things including LGBT youth programming and workshops and all types of things. It's pretty much a hub for many different things."

Miller is no stranger to travel and knows that traveling, or wanderlust, comes as naturally to artists as creating. Through her performance and activist work she has traveled all over the country and told BTL that sleeping in hotel rooms gets old really quick, and she would much prefer to stay at an inn, like Artists Inn Detroit.

The future inn needs a lot of work. Miller plans on altering both the interior and exterior of the space to make it more accessible to visitors and also to bring out the style and structure of the home. Miller has already begun discussions with architects and home renovation specialists in the area to plan upgrades for rooms such as soundproofing, better lighting and placing computers in the rooms that will cater to the individual creative processes of each artist.

The top floor of the space will be renovated to provide a residency space for artists who plan to stay in Detroit for longer periods of time, possibly consisting of a two to three month stay.

"Everything is going to look different six or seven months from now, but you have to be able to look at this now and see that it can be something else. Which is hard," Miller said.

On top of all of the services and networking

opportunities Artists Inn Detroit (www.artistsinndetroit.com) will provide, Miller plans on forming a strong relationship with the neighborhood and possibly Pewabic Pottery. She also plans on maintaining an urban garden.

"We want to make it a professional bed and breakfast but still a community space where you can come in and everything is as quality as your most expensive hotel, but you still feel at home," Miller said.

Miller already owns two properties on Cadillac Street and is looking to purchase the neighboring property that is currently laying vacant on the other side of 1574. If all three homes are purchased for the project, Artists Inn Detroit could potentially be looking at 30 available rooms.

"Like with any project, once people see that it (Artists Inn Detroit) is happening and are excited about it, it'll be a whole lot easier finding funding for the second or third property because they'll see that the inn is a real thing," said Miller.

Miller envisions a community with blocks anchored by homeowners, renters and businesses proactively contributing to the stabilization of the neighborhood and is committed to restoring the East Village by redeveloping underutilized, blighted vacant spaces and overseeing the renovations.

The full projected cost for renovations and start up is currently \$250,000. Every dollar will go towards the residency program for local artists, community art workshops, renovations, appliances for the restaurant and creating a space in the backyard for urban gardening. The development team is also applying for grants, housing public fundraisers and investing personal funds to get the project off its feet. Miller has set an initial goal of raising \$100,000 and at the end of March had raised close to \$3,000.

Miller will serve as CEO and founder and is currently joined by Carla Tinsley-Smith, who will serve as president; Chevis Mayes, future top chef; Richard Todd Smith, community consultant; and Shane Romero, board member.

Donations to the project are currently being accepted at www.patronicity.com/project/artists_inn_detroit#. Miller can be contacted by phone at 313-282-1196. Visit the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/artistsinndetroit.



Artists Inn Detroit will provide artists with the opportunity to create while away from home by providing different packages based on the needs of the artist.

neighborhood has the potential to be one of the most desirable affordable housing districts in the city, in a neighborhood rich in history, family and opportunities for young professionals.

"Usually artists go into communities and they'll stay a day or two and they're gone – off to their own city or the next city. But you'll get artists to stay in Detroit longer if they can afford the lodging. Not only are they now in a space where they can afford the lodging, but they're also in a creative hub," she said.

In 2012, Miller became a Detroit Kresge artist fellow and received a \$25,000 grant for

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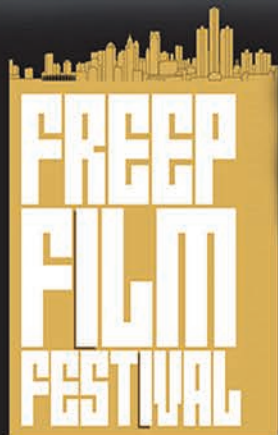
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Suicide Awareness Conference to Discuss LGBT Youth

PLYMOUTH – “The Silent Epidemic: A Conference on Suicide,” a production of Michigan-based suicide prevention charity Kevin’s Song, will discuss how suicide directly impacts LGBT youth in the state, along with many other factors affecting suicide rates.

Kevin’s Song was founded in 2013 by Gail and John Urso in response to the loss of their son, Kevin.

“We lost our son to suicide in 2013. It was at that time that we began to fully become aware of the extent of suicide in our society and that it’s an epidemic affecting 41,000 people a year in this country. We started to look at how we felt we could make a difference. There were a few things we could do. One was to talk about it, spread the word and educate the community,” Gail told BTL.



Therapist Joe Kort, Ph.D., will present his session, “Understanding Males Who’ve Been Sexually Abused and Why They Attempt Suicide.”

The Silent Epidemic conference will be held April 7-9 at the Inn at St. John’s and will feature mental and medical health professionals, first responders, educators, clergy and survivors of and those who have lost ones to suicide.

Nicole Law, PsyD, will present her topic, “The Hidden Risks of LGBT Youth,” twice during the conference. During this presentation, Law will discuss the impact heteronormativity, culture and language have on identity, self-worth and suicide risk. The session will explore methods of reducing the impact these factors have on suicide risk in school, community and healthcare settings.

“After speaking to experts in the field, we found out that there is an extensive risk of suicide for LGBT youth. I’m sure it’s related to bullying, but it’s also the feeling of being different, not being respected and all the factors that accompany being seen as ‘other,’” Gail said.

In addition to Law’s panel, known LGBT therapist Joe Kort, Ph.D., will present his session, “Understanding Males Who’ve Been Sexually Abused and Why They Attempt Suicide.” Kort will explain current reported statistics that say one in three women and one in six men will be sexually abused in their lifetime. The workshop will help participants understand the traits that are characteristic of survivors of sexual abuse, specifically traits that are unique to male survivors.

Other topics that will be discussed at the conference include:

- how Henry Ford Behavioral Health Services transformed mental healthcare
- the risk factors and warning signs of suicide
- youth suicide risk and bullying
- how mental health professionals can support someone through a suicide crisis
- new media messaging for social media
- suicide stigma
- military and veteran suicide risk
- updates on the state of Michigan Department of Human Services and Medicaid
- many more topics with keynote speaker Thomas Joiner, Ph.D., who will deliver his presentation, “Why People Die by Suicide.”

To register for the conference, go to <http://kevinssong.org/conference>. The Inn at St. John’s is located at 44045 Five Mile Road, Plymouth.

State Education Dept. Seeks Public Comment on LGBT Guidance Statement

BY AJ TRAGER

LANSING – The Michigan Department of Education’s Office of School Support Services is requesting public comment on the draft “Statement and Guidance on Safe and Supportive Learning Environments for LGBT Students,” which will be presented to the State Board of Education during a May 10 meeting.

The guidance was first announced at the 2016 Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Initiative Conference hosted at Oakland University by John Austin, president of the Michigan State Board of Education, and was further outlined in a Feb. 23 memo from the MDE to the State Board.

“Michigan needs to embrace all our young people and create environments in our schools and communities that helps them feel safe, welcomed and able to tune in and learn,” Austin said Jan. 29. “Our educators are looking for guidance on the best practices and policies that can meet the needs of transgender students. I thank you for working with us at the state to provide this needed guidance.”

The school experience is more difficult for students with marginalized identities. Despite widespread efforts, LGBT students continue to face challenges that threaten their health, safety and learning opportunities in Michigan schools. According to data from the 2015 Michigan Youth Risk Behavior Survey, students who identify as LGB are 2.3 times more likely to be threatened or injured with a weapon on school property than their non-LGB peers; forty-one percent of LGB students report being bullied on school property; and they are 4.5 times more likely to attempt suicide. And according to the GLSEN 2007 National School Climate Survey, 26 percent of trans students were physically assaulted in school in the past year due to their gender identity.

“Not all LGBTQ students are equally affected by these

risk factors,” the Feb. 23 memo reads. “LGBTQ students with intersecting, marginalized identities (e.g., black gay males, LGBTQ students with disabilities) are at greater risk of negative outcomes. The SBE recognizes the role that power, privilege, discrimination and oppression play in creating disparities that exist between LGBT students and their peers, and that only by addressing the underlying structural inequities will the existing disparities in academic achievement and health outcomes be eliminated.”

The guidance recommendations include adopting policies that:

- protect LGBT students from harassment
- designate a staff member who can provide students with information or support related to LGBT issues
- call for students to be addressed by their chosen name and pronouns that “correspond with their gender identity”
- prohibit students from being forced to use locker and bathrooms incompatible with their gender identity
- provide support for the formation of Gay-Straight Alliances in middle and high schools.

Amending Elliott-Larsen, the state’s civil rights act, would provide protections for LGBT Michigan residents. There have been many attempts over the past decade to amend the Michigan constitution to include protections for LGBT individuals; however, no bill has ever made it to the governor’s desk.

Under state law, Michigan schools are required to implement model anti-bullying policies to protect the rights of LGBT students. The policies were promulgated by the SBE in 2003 but have since diminished unsafe learning environments for LGBT youth.

“The draft guidelines from the State Board of Education will promote an enriching educational experience that makes achievement much more possible for transgender students,” Amy Hunter, coordinator of the ACLU Transgender Advocacy

Project, said in a March 24 statement. “Studies show that the healthy expression of gender identity is an appropriate and typical aspect of human development and plays a crucial role in the ability of a young person to succeed both at school and in broader society. The State Board of Education draft policies identify resources and suggestions for supporting all students’ safety and well-being. Adoption of the SBE guidelines will lead to better education outcomes for all students and will assist in the healthy development of transgender students in particular.”

Educators across the state have requested the LGBT guidance statement to help all students succeed. The statement was developed by over 70 minds representing key education and health constituencies from Michigan and the nation’s top education and mental health practitioners who are committed to the expertise and best practices for youth education.

MDE is requesting Michigan residents submit written comments to the statement by April 11 so that they can be reviewed and considered in the final version of the document. Input may be submitted online at the public comment site www.everyvoicecountsmi.org or by going directly to the Public Comment on the State Board of Education Draft Statement and Guidance on Safe and Supportive Learning Environments for LGBTQ Students page at <http://gaybe.am/evc>.

Any written statements should be addressed to Kim Kovalchick at Michigan Department of Education, Coordinated School Health and Safety Programs unit, P.O. Box 30008 Lansing, MI 48909.

A full copy of the draft document is available at www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Item_B_SBE_Statement_and_Guidance_on_LGBTQ_515608_7.pdf.

As of press time the guidance had received 2,617 public comments on the [everyvoicecountsmi.org](http://www.everyvoicecountsmi.org) page.

Huge Week of LGBT Legislation Throughout the US

Immediately following the controversial passage of HB 2 in North Carolina, businesses, universities, celebrities, community leaders and thousands across the country took to social media denouncing the law. Hundreds across NC joined rallies, protests and vigils and tens of thousands signed petitions calling for the law's repeal. Even the White House spoke out against the new law.

In advance of the North Carolina General Assembly's regularly scheduled session beginning on April 25, the ACLU of North Carolina is calling upon Gov. McCrory and the NCGA to repeal the discriminatory HB 2 and replace it with comprehensive, LGBT-inclusive nondiscrimination protections statewide in order to repair the state's damaged reputation as hostile to the LGBT community.

The ACLU reports that a variety of other legislative items that impact equality are being moved on this week.

Georgia, HB 757: Early Monday morning, Republican Gov. Nathan Deal announced that he would veto a broad religious exemptions bill that the Legislature passed late last week. Of note, the NFL came out against this harmful measure. In the press event where he announced the veto, Gov. Deal said that HB 757 "doesn't reflect the character of our state or the character of its people."

Mississippi, HB 1523: A broad First Amendment Defense Act (FADA) that also would allow anyone, including businesses and individuals, to act upon their discriminatory beliefs about marriage for same-sex couples, sexual relations outside of any marriage or gender identity, passed the House and the Senate Judiciary Committee. A vote could occur as early as this week; the legislative session lasts until late April.

Kansas, SB 175: A bill that would require public colleges and universities to fund student groups even if they do not comply with a school's nondiscrimination policy was carried over from the 2015 legislative session after having passed the Senate. This was carried over from the 2015 legislative session, after having passed the first chamber. The bill was revived, quickly passed the House and was signed by Gov. Brownback.

Tennessee, SB 2387/HB 2414: After a stunning defeat last week in a House committee, a bill that targets transgender students was revived and is now expected to be heard again before committees in both chambers over the coming weeks. The bill would force students to use restrooms and locker rooms that match the students' birth certificates regardless of the student's gender identity. Of note, Republican Gov. Bill Haslam has concerns that the bill's passage could cause public schools to lose federal funding.

Missouri, SJR39: A broad FADA-like religious exemptions constitutional amendment would allow religiously affiliated organizations receiving state funds, businesses and individuals to discriminate against LGBT youth, same-sex couples, children of same-sex couples and more. Big companies including Dow Chemical and Monsanto came out against the bill, and the NCAA has raised concerns as well. The measure now moves to the House where timing remains up in the air. If the Legislature passes this bill, it would go on the ballot for a public vote either in a special or general election, to be determined by the governor.

Kentucky, SB 5: Last week, SB 5, a bill that would have

required separate marriage licenses for same-sex and opposite-sex couples, was amended so that there would be only one marriage license in Kentucky (The new marriage license "would allow applicants to identify themselves as bride, groom or spouse and would not require the county clerk's signature. That could be done by a deputy clerk"). Both Gov. Bevin and the Clerks Association are supporting this version. This may pass this week.

Virginia, SB 41: The ACLU is still waiting to see whether Gov. Terry McAuliffe will veto SB 41, which passed the

Legislature over two weeks ago. The governor has until April 10 to act on this bill, which would allow any person or religiously connected organization to refuse service to a married same-sex couple. This means, for example, that a religiously connected hospital could refuse to recognize a married gay or lesbian person as a spouse for medical decision-making or visitation rights, or a homeless shelter that gets government funding to offer housing assistance to families could refuse shelter to a gay couple and their children.



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Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Lemon Merin(gay), Anyone?

It was totally unexpected. Shocking. Downright naughty, even. Yet so deliciously thrilling to the hundreds of angry gays who just happened to be watching a late Des Moines TV newscast 39 years ago.

Anita Jane Bryant, America's homophobe du jour, beaming her famous Sunshine State, cocoa butter-wouldn't-melt-in-my-mouth smile ("as God is my witness"), got pie plastered right in her pert-and-pretty little kisser by a brazen gay activist in the studio.

For once, the out-of-state, visiting demonessa of Dade County, Florida – the self-styled Queen of OJ, the titular forerunner to now infamous, quarterback Simpson – was struck dumbfounded. Speechless. It was, well, heavenly.

But in spite of her castor-oil-in-the-OJ hostility, her pulp-and-pits deceitfulness about us gays, in the long run we owe the 1959 Miss America runner up turned popular, saccharine "Paper Roses" songstress a footnote of thanks.

Pert angelic Anita Bryant, spokesperson for the Florida Citrus Commission, wasn't too happy when a gay rights Dade County ordinance passed. Six months later, speaking as a born again, Southern Baptist mom, she launched a Save Our Children repeal crusade. She mouthed lies, lip-syched stereotypes.

It was Anita who, more than anyone else then (and perhaps now), served as a catalyst by default to bring our communities together, uniting our movement to an unexpected solidarity. History in a nutshell...

Pert angelic Anita, spokesperson for the Florida Citrus Commission, wasn't too happy when a gay rights Dade County ordinance passed. Six months later, speaking as a born again, Southern Baptist mom, she launched a Save Our Children repeal crusade. She mouthed lies, lip-syched stereotypes.

She crooned to the media rafters. Gay people are wicked. Godless. Out to stalk school playgrounds. "As a mother I know that homosexuals cannot biologically reproduce," she shrilled.

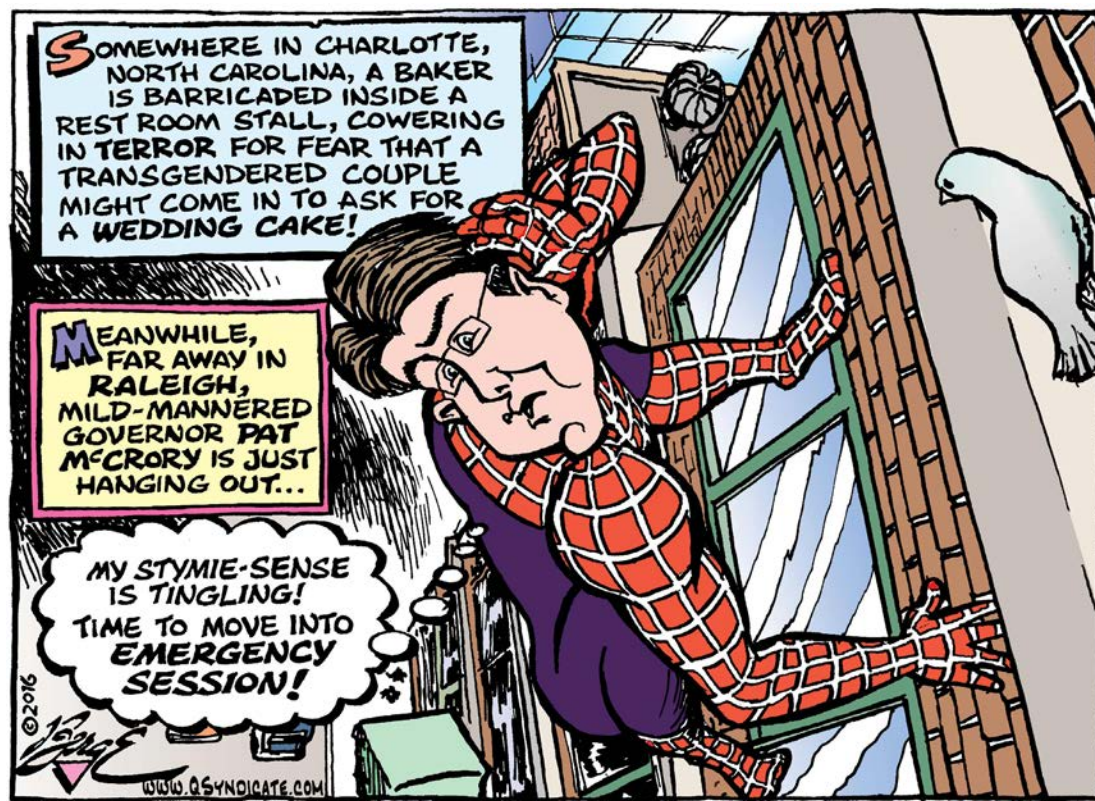
"They must recruit children. If gays are granted rights, next we'll have to give rights to prostitutes, people who sleep with St. Bernards, nail biters."

Her blend of nail technician, canine venom worked. On June 7, 1977, Dade County's anti-discrimination ordinance was rescinded by a margin of 69 to 31 percent. But her cohorts didn't count on a gay backlash.

"Anita brought us together big, big time," says a nameless lesbian interviewed in a 1970s documentary about the Dade County catalyst to unity of action. Across America, hundreds of thousands militantly marched.

Sorry to say (yeah, sure you are, Mary!), things haven't gone too well for Anita. Gay activists brilliantly organized a nationwide OJ boycott (some enclosing \$2 and asking for a copy of a nonexistent pamphlet linking OJ with homosexuality.) The fallout from her political activism poisoned her career.

See Parting Glances, page 11



Transmissions



BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

North Carolina: The Cost

In a special session, the North Carolina state Legislature pushed through House Bill 2, delivering it to Gov. Pat McCrory in roughly 12 hours. The governor signed the bill nearly as soon as it could hit his desk, wasting no time to enact what must have been a vital piece of legislation to be enacted this quickly.

The bill, titled the "Public Facilities Privacy & Security act," is on its surface a reaction to the passage of anti-discrimination protections passed a month ago in Charlotte, North Carolina. That ordinance added citywide protections based on both sexual orientation and gender identity.

"The basic expectation of privacy in the most personal of settings, a restroom or locker room, for each gender was violated by government overreach and intrusion by the mayor and city council of Charlotte," said McCrory in a statement released shortly after the passage of House Bill 2. "This new government regulation defies common sense and basic community norms by allowing, for example, a man to use a woman's bathroom, shower or locker room."

The bill goes much further, however, than simply nullifying Charlotte's anti-discrimination protections: it removes any protections from local hands across the state, requiring localities to rely on state protections that do not cover LGBT individuals. It also repeals protections for other groups in other municipalities, such as veterans and others. The only explicitly covered classes in North Carolina are race, religion, color, national origin, biological sex, and in some cases, age and disability.

As expected, House Bill 2 prohibits the use of restrooms at schools and public institutions across the state by anyone whose gender does not match their birth certificate. It does not clarify how one would challenge a person in a restroom, or how that same person would respond. One has to presume that this "privacy" act does not extend to the privacy of transgender residents of North Carolina, who are now expected to answer to any challenge to their gender. Or, of course, people who are not transgender but who may still be challenged because someone else decides they are not masculine or feminine enough for a particular set of facilities.

See Transmissions: North Carolina, next page

► Transmissions: North Carolina

Continued from p. 10

House Bill 2 also removed the ability of people to bring a civil suit over discrimination, even if the discrimination actually does fall within the categories explicitly banned under the bill. Oh, and for whatever reason, the bill also prohibits “all local ordinances, regulations or resolutions imposing any requirements on employers pertaining to compensation of employees.” This is broad reaching, affecting minimum wage fights, leave, benefits and even rights involving minors in the workplace.

To push this bill through, the state spent approximately \$42,000 to hold a special one-day session. Adding insult to injury, State Sen. Tom Apodaca is pressing to have Charlotte cover the bill for the special session – perhaps by taking the cost out of appropriations or other state funds the city would be expecting from the state.

But the final tally on the passage of House Bill 2 does not end with the cost of this one-day session.

Institutions across the state have spoken out on the bill, with statements from Bank of America, Lowe’s, Google, PayPal, Apple, American Airlines and many other companies. The NCAA is raising questions about their desire to host events in the state and the NBA is suggesting a move of the 2017 All-Star Game. San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee has also opted to ban city staff from traveling to North Carolina at city expense.

The bad press and backlash from the aforementioned institutions prompted the governor to present an overly-cheery assessment dressed up as a “Myths vs. Facts” release. The release does an amazing job of answering only the questions it presents, in as couched a language as it can.

By challenging the ability of trans students statewide to use appropriate gender changing facilities and restrooms, Gov. McCrory puts an estimated \$4.2 billion in federal funding by going against Title IX protections for transgender students. McCrory’s office is claiming they will not face this in the aforementioned “Myths vs. Facts” release, stating that House Bill 2 will not affect federal funding “according to a federal court which has looked at a similar issue.”

► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 10

She lost her Florida Commission hefty salary, followed by contracts with Coca Cola, Kraft Food, Holiday Inn and Tupperware TV commercial accounts. Her marriage to hubby Bob Green squeezed out. In 1980, she dumped him.

She married a second spousal lemon, Charlie Hobson Dry, in 1990. They tried to salvage her career, booking a series of small venues (including Windsor, Ontario)

Comeback proved elusive, and the Dries left behind them unpaid employees and creditors. Bankruptcy pie hit them twice. In 2005, Anita, matronly bigot of 65, was parodied on “Will & Grace.” The lemon merin(gay) moment now plays on YouTube.

Let’s drink to that! (Milk over OJ, anytime.)

Charles@pridesource.com

But the final tally on the passage of House Bill 2 does not end with the cost of this one-day session. Institutions across the state have spoken out on the bill, with statements from Bank of America, Lowe’s, Google, PayPal, Apple, American Airlines and many other companies.

The Department of Justice affirmed its position on Title IX protections for transgender students last June in a case in Virginia, seemingly in opposition to McCrory’s views.

“Prohibiting a student from accessing the restrooms that match his gender identity is prohibited sex discrimination under Title IX,” stated the DOJ in that case. “There is a public interest in ensuring that all students, including transgender students, have the opportunity to learn in an environment free of sex discrimination.”

While the state has tried to limit who can sue, this will not stop legal challenges. The ACLU of North Carolina and Equality North Carolina have filed the first in U.S. District Court. This will be a further financial drain on the state.

The cost of this bill, in the end, is not one of currency, and it is not a cost that will be borne by North Carolina, let alone taken out of funds intended for the city of Charlotte.

As I said above, in some attempt to provide “privacy and safety” for non-transgender people, based on a “bathroom predator” myth that has been disproven at every turn, trans people like me are not provided safety nor privacy.

The cost will come out of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals in North Carolina, now forced into further second-class citizen status and declined even the most basic right to use a restroom appropriate to their presentation – and ultimately, I fear the cost will be measured in lives lost, not dollars spent.

Gwen Smith has her North Carolina friends in her heart and mind. You can find her at www.gwensmith.com.



In 1977 Anita Bryant was pied by gay activist.

Creep of the Week

Michael Brown

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Backlash. That’s what we’re seeing here in the flurry of anti-LGBT (and heavy on the T) legislation that’s been proposed and passed across the nation (or, in the case of Georgia, vetoed).



Michael Brown

Thank you, Gov. Deal). North Carolina is a shining example of what happens when the people in charge are a bunch of assholes. No wonder it’s called the Tar Heel State, because they’ve really stepped in it this time.

In case you weren’t paying attention, North Carolina just passed the harshest anti-LGBT law in the country. It all started when Charlotte, one of the state’s more civilized cities, passed an anti-discrimination law that included protections for LGBT people.

And rather than let something so terrible happen in their state, North Carolina lawmakers held a special session so they could bang out a sweeping law that banned all cities from enacting any laws that would dare to protect fags, dykes or trannies.

They made sure to put particular emphasis on making sure that transgender students can’t go to the bathroom. Or, more specifically, can’t use the bathroom at school that matches their gender identity. You know, because trans students just have too many rights.

The business community has come out in strong opposition to the law. Companies like American Airlines and Bank of America are like, “Stop it, this is bad for business.” This law’s passage in spite of what corporate America wanted highlights the fissure going on in the GOP between the pro-business and pro-Jesus Republicans, two factions that used to be basically one in the same.

And if you’re Michael Brown, author of “Outlasting the Gay Revolution: Where Homosexual Activism Is Really Going and How to Turn the Tide,” then you see

In case you weren’t paying attention, North Carolina just passed the harshest anti-LGBT law in the country.

these companies as just a bunch of schoolyard bullies trying to steal the Christian kid’s lunch money so that they can go spend it on sex-change operations or something.

Criticism from these companies – or anyone – will not stand!

“It is time for Christians and all people of conscience to say: ‘Enough is enough with your bullying,’” Brown writes on CharismaNews.com. “We are not going to bow down to your threats. We will do what is right, regardless of cost or consequence, and in the end, we will be vindicated for taking a stand.”

Yeah! Stop trying to bully Christians out of bullying everybody else. If you’ve a threat of economic or legal significance, take it to Jesus! Specifically the Jesus we made up that hates homos and stuff.

The “regardless of cost or consequence” part is intriguing. I hope that the result is both economic and spiritual bankruptcy.

Brown also points out that “some of the companies protesting the loudest already have policies to protect LGBT ‘rights’ and those policies are completely unaffected by the new law.”

It’s as if Brown thinks that these companies exist in a vacuum and that the LGBT people who work for them and who live in North Carolina aren’t negatively impacted by a law that basically states they aren’t worth a damn.

Brown claims that “the activists who came out of the closet want to put you and me in the closet.” He adds, “That will never happen, and we will go to jail rather than compromise our convictions.”

To which I say, is that a threat or a promise? It would be karmic justice if people like Brown who are so concerned about the “threat” of trans people being allowed to use bathrooms never get to take a shit in private again.

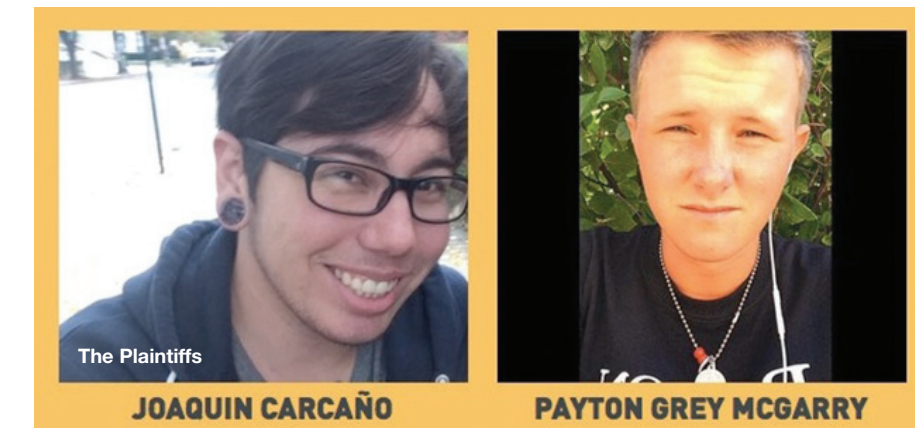
North Carolina Passes Discriminatory Law, ACLU Files Lawsuit

BY BTL STAFF AND AP WIRE

The North Carolina General Assembly convened a \$42,000 special session on March 23 to pass into law a sweeping measure that prevents local governments in the state from extending nondiscrimination policies to LGBT people and requires restroom access in public facilities, including schools, based on birth assigned sex regardless of a person's gender identity and lived gender. It also jeopardizes the more than \$4.5 billion in federal funding that North Carolina receives for secondary and post-secondary schools under Title IX, which prohibits sex discrimination in educational institutions receiving federal funding, including discrimination against transgender individuals.

Gov. Pat McCrory, who signed the law 12 hours after it was introduced, said the bill was a response to a recently passed LGBT nondiscrimination ordinance in Charlotte, North Carolina's largest city, but the scope of the law is much broader, impacting local employment policies and more. More than 200 cities, including Myrtle Beach and Columbia, South Carolina, have adopted nondiscrimination ordinances similar to Charlotte's without negative consequences.

The North Carolina League of Municipalities, Attorney General Roy Cooper, and major companies including PayPal, Red Hat,



American Airlines, Dow Chemical and Biogen, have announced their opposition to the law. A Public Policy Polling survey released on March 22 showed widespread, bipartisan agreement among state voters that the Legislature should leave Charlotte's ordinance alone.

Other anti-transgender measures have failed recently in South Dakota and Indiana. Close to 200 bills that authorize discrimination against LGBT people have been introduced in state legislatures across the country since January 2016.

The American Civil Liberties Union, ACLU of North Carolina, Lambda Legal, and Equality North Carolina filed a lawsuit March 28

challenging North Carolina's sweeping anti-LGBT law, HB 2. The case, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina against North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory, Attorney General Roy Cooper and the University of North Carolina, is on behalf of two transgender North Carolinians: Joaquín Carcaño, a UNC-Chapel Hill employee, and Payton McGarry, a UNC-Greensboro student, and Angela Gilmore, a lesbian and North Carolina Central University law professor.

"HB 2 is hurtful and demeaning. I just want to go to work and live my life. This law puts me in the terrible position of either going into the women's room where I clearly don't

belong or breaking the law," said plaintiff Joaquín Carcaño. "But this is about more than bathrooms, this is about my job, my community, and my ability to get safely through my day and be productive like everyone else in North Carolina."

"We're challenging this extreme and discriminatory measure in order to ensure that everyone who lives in and visits North Carolina is protected under the law," said Chris Brook, Legal Director of the ACLU of North Carolina. "This cruel, insulting and unconstitutional law is an attack on fairness in employment, education and local governance that encourages discrimination against thousands of LGBT people who call North Carolina home, and particularly targets transgender men and women. HB 2 aims to override local school board policies, local public accommodations laws and more."

"No Legislature should be using its power to require cities, counties or school districts to discriminate against anyone. This law is a targeted and unprecedented attack on the LGBT community, particularly against transgender people, both young people and adults," said Tara Borelli, Senior Attorney with Lambda Legal. "Clearly HB 2 is unconstitutional as it not only violates the guarantees of equal

See North Carolina, next page

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Georgia Governor Says He Will Veto Religious Exemption Bill

BY KATHLEEN FOODY

ATLANTA (AP) – Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal on Monday said he will veto legislation shielding opponents of same-sex marriage, after a groundswell of opposition from companies threatening to boycott the state if it became law.

The Republican announced his decision during a news conference in his office at the Georgia Capitol, saying, “I have examined the protections that this bill proposes to provide to the faith based community and I can find no examples of any of those circumstances occurring in our state.”

Deal added, “I do not think that we have to discriminate against anyone to protect the faith-based community in Georgia.”

Republican majorities passed the bill to broadly protect people whose actions were rooted in their religion. It also would have protected clergy who won’t perform gay marriages and people who won’t attend a wedding for religious reasons.

Churches and affiliated religious groups could have used their faith as an argument for refusing to serve or hire someone.

The bill’s opponents said it excused discrimination and could trample local ordinances protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Coca-Cola and other big-name Georgia companies joined the NFL, prominent Hollywood figures and film studios urging Deal to reject the proposal. Some threatened to boycott the state if Deal didn’t veto.

Deal, in his second and final term, heatedly said that those threats and questions about “my convictions and my character” from some in the religious community were misguided.

“I do not respond very well to insults or to threats,” he said. “The people of Georgia deserve a leader who will make sound judgments based on solid reasons that are not inflamed by emotion.”

Deal said he would sign the bill had it passed in its original form, which was limited to protecting clergy who declined to perform same-sex marriages. He said his decision to reject the bill was “about the character of our state and the character of

our people. Georgia is a welcoming state; it is full of loving, kind and generous people.”

Georgia’s General Assembly already has left the Capitol for the year, adjourning after midnight on March 23. Lawmakers can ask the governor to convene a special session, but need a three-fifths majority in both the House and Senate.

If they can reach that threshold, overriding a governor’s veto requires a two-thirds vote in each chamber. Republicans don’t hold that margin in either the House or Senate, and all Democrats voted against the bill.

Leaders in the House and Senate didn’t call for that step on Monday.

House Speaker David Ralston said he respected Deal’s “thoughtful consideration” but said he doesn’t believe the bill permits discrimination. Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle said the bill struck the “right balance,” adding that the state should actively protect religious belief. He blamed “hyperbole and criticism” for the raging debate.

“I’ve always advocated for Georgia’s status as the number one state to do business, but as we move forward I will never lose sight of the importance of an individual’s right to practice their faith,” Cagle said.

However, one Republican state senator, Mike Crane of Newnan, called for a special session to override the veto. Crane is running for a congressional seat. Another supporter of the bill, Republican Sen. Josh McKoon of Columbus, wouldn’t make any guess about whether there is enough support for a special session.

“I’m just disappointed,” McKoon said. “Governor Deal ran for office as someone the faith community could rely on.”

National gay-rights organizations immediately hailed Deal’s decision.

“We thank Governor Deal for doing the right thing,” said Matt McTighe, Freedom for All Americans executive director. “The governor understands that while our freedom of religion is of critical importance, it doesn’t mean there’s a need for harmful exemptions that can lead to discrimination.”

respect and protections afforded others in the state. The complaint argues that HB 2 is unconstitutional because it violates the Equal Protection and Due Process clauses of the 14th Amendment because it discriminates on the basis of sex and sexual orientation and is an invasion of privacy for transgender people. The law also violates Title IX by discriminating against students and school employees on the basis of sex.

On March 29, North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper said that his office “will not defend the constitutionality of the discrimination in House Bill 2,” the sweeping anti-LGBT law the North Carolina General Assembly passed and Gov. Pat McCrory signed last week.

In response, the American Civil Liberties Union, ACLU of North Carolina, Equality NC and Lambda Legal – four organizations challenging House Bill 2 in federal court – released the following joint statement.

“North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper, the state’s top law enforcement official, has concluded House Bill 2 is unconstitutional and harms North Carolinians without justification. As our lawsuit highlighted yesterday, House Bill 2 singles out the LGBT community for discrimination. That’s not only incompatible with the state’s constitutional and legal obligations but also our shared values as North Carolinians. We’re grateful the Attorney General stands on the on the right side of history with the many cities, states, businesses and individuals who have come out against this harmful measure.”



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► North Carolina

Continued from p. 12

protection and due process in the U.S. Constitution but it also violates Title IX by requiring discrimination in education. North Carolina legislators cannot strip equality out of the Constitution and the law. “

“The rhetoric on display last week by some members of our Legislature showed just how transparent their anti-LGBT motives were. Not only did they keep the bill language secret until the morning it was introduced but it only took 12 hours to pass and sign into law a bill with terrible consequences for thousands of North Carolinians. North Carolina may also now face a loss of federal education funding, revenue from businesses that relocate or choose not to set-up shop here, and potential income-generating sporting and entertainment events,” said Chris Sgro, Executive Director of Equality NC, the statewide LGBT advocacy group. “Now is the time to be on the right side of history, because together we will show the politicians that North Carolina refuses to be a leader in bigotry.”

The ACLU and the ACLU of North Carolina, and Lambda Legal are filing the lawsuit together as co-counsel in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina. In the complaint being filed, the plaintiffs allege that through HB 2, North Carolina sends a purposeful message that LGBT people are second-class citizens who are undeserving of the privacy,



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ATRIPLA does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS and you may continue to experience illnesses associated with HIV-1 infection, including opportunistic infections.

See your healthcare provider regularly while taking ATRIPLA.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

ATRIPLA can cause serious side effects:

- Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA (which contains nucleoside analogs) have developed lactic acidosis (build up of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a serious medical emergency that can lead to death.

Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of lactic acidosis:

- feel very weak or tired
- have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
- have trouble breathing
- have stomach pain with nausea and vomiting
- feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
- feel dizzy or lightheaded
- have a fast or irregular heartbeat

- Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA have developed serious liver problems (hepatotoxicity), with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death.

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

- skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
- urine turns dark
- bowel movements (stools) turn light in color
- don't feel like eating food for several days or longer
- feel sick to your stomach (nausea)
- have lower stomach area (abdominal) pain

- You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking nucleoside analog-containing medicines, like ATRIPLA (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate), for a long time.
- If you also have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and you stop taking ATRIPLA, you may get a "flare-up" of your hepatitis. A "flare-up" is when the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before. Patients with HBV who stop taking ATRIPLA need close medical follow-up for several months to check for hepatitis that could be getting worse. ATRIPLA is not approved for the treatment of HBV, so you need to discuss your HBV therapy with your healthcare provider.

Who should not take ATRIPLA?

You and your healthcare provider should decide if ATRIPLA is right for you. Do not take ATRIPLA if you are allergic to ATRIPLA or any of its ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking ATRIPLA?

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Are pregnant or planning to become pregnant:

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SELECTED IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

- Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA have developed build up of lactic acid in the blood, which can be a serious medical emergency that can lead to death.
- Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA have developed serious liver problems, with liver enlargement and fat in the liver, which can lead to death.
- If you also have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and you stop taking ATRIPLA, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse. ATRIPLA is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION (continued)

Women should not become pregnant while taking ATRIPLA and for 12 weeks after stopping ATRIPLA. Serious birth defects have been seen in children of women treated during pregnancy with efavirenz, one of the medicines in ATRIPLA. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control, while on ATRIPLA and for 12 weeks after stopping ATRIPLA. Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because ATRIPLA may make these contraceptives ineffective.

- **Are breastfeeding: Women with HIV should not breastfeed** because they can pass HIV and some of the medicines in ATRIPLA through their milk to the baby. It is not known if ATRIPLA could harm your baby.
- **Have kidney problems or are undergoing kidney dialysis treatment.**
- **Have bone problems.**
- **Have liver problems, including hepatitis B or C virus infection.** Your healthcare provider may want to do tests to check your liver while you take ATRIPLA or may switch you to another medicine.
- **Have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol**
- **Have ever had seizures or are taking medicine for seizures.** Seizures have occurred in patients taking efavirenz, a component of ATRIPLA, generally in those with a history of seizures. If you have ever had seizures, or take medicine for seizures, your healthcare provider may want to switch you to another medicine or monitor you.

What important information should I know about taking other medicines with ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA may change the effect of other medicines, including the ones for HIV-1, and may cause serious side effects. Your healthcare provider may change your other medicines or change their doses.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH ATRIPLA

- ATRIPLA should not be taken with:
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Epivir® or Epivir-HBV® (lamivudine),
Epzicom® (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine),
STRIBILD® (elvitegravir/cobicistat/emtricitabine/tenofovir DF),
Trizivir® (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine/zidovudine),
TRUVADA® (emtricitabine/tenofovir DF), or VIREAD® (tenofovir DF), because they contain the same or similar active ingredients as ATRIPLA. ATRIPLA should not be used with SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) unless recommended by your healthcare provider.
- Vfend® (voriconazole) should not be taken with ATRIPLA since it may lose its effect or may increase the chance of having side effects from ATRIPLA.
- ATRIPLA should not be used with HEPSERA® (adefovir dipivoxil).

Please see Important Safety Information continued on the following pages.

*Undetectable was defined as a viral load of fewer than 400 copies/mL.

† In this study, 511 adult patients new to therapy received either the meds in ATRIPLA each taken once daily or Combivir® (lamivudine/zidovudine) twice daily + SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) once daily.

‡Symphony Health Solutions, PatientSource APLD and Source® PHAST Prescription Monthly, counts are cumulative and equalized. January 2007–February 2015.

§Symphony Health Solutions, Source® PHAST Prescription Monthly, equalized counts, July 2006–May 2015.

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IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION (continued)

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take ATRIPLA. Tell your healthcare provider about all prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, or herbal supplements you are taking or plan to take.

What are the possible side effects of ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA may cause the following additional serious side effects:

- **Serious psychiatric problems.** Severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior have been reported by a small number of patients. Some patients have had thoughts of suicide, and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems may occur more often in patients who have had mental illness.
- **Kidney problems** (including decline or failure of kidney function). If you have had kidney problems, or take other medicines that may cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should do regular blood tests. Symptoms that may be related to kidney problems include a high volume of urine, thirst, muscle pain, and muscle weakness.
- **Other serious liver problems.** Some patients have experienced serious liver problems, including liver failure resulting in transplantation or death. Most of these serious side effects occurred in patients with a chronic liver disease such as hepatitis infection, but there have also been a few reports in patients without any existing liver disease.
- **Changes in bone mineral density (thinning bones).** Lab tests show changes in the bones of patients treated with tenofovir DF, a component of ATRIPLA. Some HIV patients treated with tenofovir DF developed thinning of the bones (osteopenia), which could lead to fractures. Also, bone pain and softening of the bone (which may lead to fractures) may occur as a consequence of kidney problems. If you have had bone problems in the past, your healthcare provider may want to do tests to check your bones or may prescribe medicines to help your bones.

Common side effects:

- Patients may have dizziness, headache, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with ATRIPLA (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate). These side effects may be reduced if you take ATRIPLA at bedtime on an empty stomach; they tend to go away after taking ATRIPLA for a few weeks. Tell your healthcare provider right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. These symptoms may be more severe if ATRIPLA is used with alcohol and/or mood-altering (street) drugs.
- If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, and/or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.
- Rash is a common side effect with ATRIPLA that usually goes away without any change in treatment. Rash may be serious in a small number of patients. **Rash occurs more commonly in children and may be a serious problem.** If a rash develops, call your healthcare provider right away.
- Other common side effects include: tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, gas, and diarrhea.

Other possible side effects:

- Changes in body fat have been seen in some people taking anti-HIV-1 medicines. Increase of fat in the upper back and neck, breasts, and around the trunk may happen. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these changes in body fat are not known.
- Skin discoloration (small spots or freckles) may also happen.
- In some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS), signs and symptoms of inflammation from previous infections may occur soon after anti-HIV treatment is started. If you notice any symptoms of infection, contact your healthcare provider right away.
- Additional side effects are inflammation of the pancreas, allergic reaction (including swelling of the face, lips, tongue, or throat), shortness of breath, pain, stomach pain, weakness, and indigestion.

This is not a complete list of side effects. Tell your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you notice any side effects while taking ATRIPLA.

You should take ATRIPLA once daily on an empty stomach. Taking ATRIPLA at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.

Please see the following Patient Information for more information about these warnings, including signs and symptoms, and other important Safety Information.



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ATRIPLA® (uh TRIP luh) Tablets

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with ATRIPLA (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate).

Please also read the section “**MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH ATRIPLA.**”

Generic name: efavirenz, emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (eh FAH vih renz, em tri SIT uh bean and te NOE' fo veer dye soe PROX il FYOU mar ate)

Read the Patient Information that comes with ATRIPLA before you start taking it and each time you get a refill since there may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment. You should stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking ATRIPLA. **Do not change or stop your medicine without first talking with your healthcare provider.** Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you have any questions about ATRIPLA.

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

- **Some people who have taken medicine like ATRIPLA (which contains nucleoside analogs) have developed a serious condition called lactic acidosis** (build up of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of lactic acidosis:**
 - You feel very weak or tired.
 - You have unusual (not normal) muscle pain.
 - You have trouble breathing.
 - You have stomach pain with nausea and vomiting.
 - You feel cold, especially in your arms and legs.
 - You feel dizzy or lightheaded.
 - You have a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA have developed serious liver problems called hepatotoxicity**, with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:**
 - Your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice).
 - Your urine turns dark.
 - Your bowel movements (stools) turn light in color.
 - You don't feel like eating food for several days or longer.
 - You feel sick to your stomach (nausea).
 - You have lower stomach area (abdominal) pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking nucleoside analog-containing medicines, like ATRIPLA, for a long time.
- **If you also have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and you stop taking ATRIPLA, you may get a “flare-up” of your hepatitis. A “flare-up” is when the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before.** Patients with HBV who stop taking ATRIPLA need close medical follow-up for several months, including medical exams and blood tests to check for hepatitis that could be getting worse. ATRIPLA is not approved for the treatment of HBV, so you must discuss your HBV therapy with your healthcare provider.

What is ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA contains 3 medicines, SUSTIVA® (efavirenz), EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine) and VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate also called tenofovir DF) combined in one pill. EMTRIVA and VIREAD are HIV-1 (human immunodeficiency virus) nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs) and SUSTIVA is an HIV-1 non-nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI). VIREAD and EMTRIVA are the components of TRUVADA®. ATRIPLA can be used alone as a complete regimen, or in combination with other anti-HIV-1 medicines to treat people with HIV-1 infection. ATRIPLA is for adults and children 12 years of age and older who weigh at least 40 kg (at least 88 lbs). ATRIPLA is not recommended for children younger than 12 years of age. ATRIPLA has not been studied in adults over 65 years of age.

HIV infection destroys CD4+ T cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

ATRIPLA® (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate)

ATRIPLA helps block HIV-1 reverse transcriptase, a viral chemical in your body (enzyme) that is needed for HIV-1 to multiply. ATRIPLA lowers the amount of HIV-1 in the blood (viral load). ATRIPLA may also help to increase the number of T cells (CD4+ cells), allowing your immune system to improve. Lowering the amount of HIV-1 in the blood lowers the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

Does ATRIPLA cure HIV-1 or AIDS?

ATRIPLA does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS and you may continue to experience illnesses associated with HIV-1 infection, including opportunistic infections. You should remain under the care of a doctor when using ATRIPLA.

Who should not take ATRIPLA?

Together with your healthcare provider, you need to decide whether ATRIPLA is right for you.

Do not take ATRIPLA if you are allergic to ATRIPLA or any of its ingredients. The active ingredients of ATRIPLA are efavirenz, emtricitabine, and tenofovir DF. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking ATRIPLA?

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- **Are pregnant or planning to become pregnant** (see “What should I avoid while taking ATRIPLA?”).
- **Are breastfeeding** (see “What should I avoid while taking ATRIPLA?”).
- **Have kidney problems or are undergoing kidney dialysis treatment.**
- **Have bone problems.**
- **Have liver problems, including hepatitis B virus infection.** Your healthcare provider may want to do tests to check your liver while you take ATRIPLA or may switch you to another medicine.
- **Have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol.**
- **Have ever had seizures or are taking medicine for seizures.**

What important information should I know about taking other medicines with ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA may change the effect of other medicines, including the ones for HIV-1, and may cause serious side effects. Your healthcare provider may change your other medicines or change their doses. Other medicines, including herbal products, may affect ATRIPLA. For this reason, **it is very important to let all your healthcare providers and pharmacists know what medications, herbal supplements, or vitamins you are taking.**

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH ATRIPLA

- ATRIPLA also should not be used with Combivir (lamivudine/zidovudine), COMPLERA®, EMTRIVA, Epivir, Epivir-HBV (lamivudine), Epzicom (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine), STRIBILD®, Trizivir (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine/zidovudine), TRUVADA, or VIREAD. ATRIPLA also should not be used with SUSTIVA unless recommended by your healthcare provider.
- Vfend (voriconazole) should not be taken with ATRIPLA since it may lose its effect or may increase the chance of having side effects from ATRIPLA.
- ATRIPLA should not be used with HEPSERA® (adefovir dipivoxil).

It is also important to tell your healthcare provider if you are taking any of the following:

- Fortovase, Invirase (saquinavir), Biaxin (clarithromycin), Noxafil (posaconazole), Sporanox (itraconazole), Victrelis (boceprevir), or Olysio (simeprevir); **these medicines may need to be replaced with another medicine when taken with ATRIPLA.**
- Calcium channel blockers such as Cardizem or Tiazac (diltiazem), Covera HS or Isoptin (verapamil) and others; Crixivan (indinavir), Selzentry (maraviroc); the immunosuppressant medicines cyclosporine (Gengraf, Neoral, Sandimmune, and others), Prograf (tacrolimus), or Rapamune (sirolimus); Methadone; Mycobutin (rifabutin); Rifampin; cholesterol-lowering medicines such as Lipitor (atorvastatin), Pravachol (pravastatin sodium), and Zocor (simvastatin); or the anti-depressant medications bupropion (Wellbutrin, Wellbutrin SR, Wellbutrin XL, and Zyban) or Zoloft (sertraline); **dose changes may be needed when these drugs are taken with ATRIPLA.**
- Videx, Videx EC (didanosine); tenofovir DF (a component of ATRIPLA) may increase the amount of didanosine in your blood, which could result in more side effects. **You may need to be monitored more carefully** if you are taking ATRIPLA and didanosine together. Also, the dose of didanosine may need to be changed.

ATRIPLA® (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate)

- Reyataz (atazanavir sulfate), Prezista (darunavir) with Norvir (ritonavir), or Kaletra (lopinavir/ritonavir); these medicines may increase the amount of tenofovir DF (a component of ATRIPLA) in your blood, which could result in more side effects. Reyataz is not recommended with ATRIPLA. **You may need to be monitored more carefully** if you are taking ATRIPLA, Prezista, and Norvir together, or if you are taking ATRIPLA and Kaletra together. The dose of Kaletra should be increased when taken with efavirenz.

- Medicine for seizures [for example, Dilantin (phenytoin), Tegretol (carbamazepine), or phenobarbital]; your healthcare provider may want to switch you to another medicine or check drug levels in your blood from time to time.

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take ATRIPLA. Be sure to tell your healthcare provider about all medicines that you take.

Keep a complete list of all the prescription and nonprescription medicines as well as any herbal remedies that you are taking, how much you take, and how often you take them. Make a new list when medicines or herbal remedies are added or stopped, or if the dose changes. Give copies of this list to all of your healthcare providers and pharmacists **every** time you visit your healthcare provider or fill a prescription. This will give your healthcare provider a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

How should I take ATRIPLA?

- Take the exact amount of ATRIPLA your healthcare provider prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your healthcare provider tells you to stop.
- You should take ATRIPLA on an empty stomach.
- Swallow ATRIPLA with water.
- Taking ATRIPLA at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.
- Do not miss a dose of ATRIPLA. If you forget to take ATRIPLA, take the missed dose right away, unless it is almost time for your next dose. Do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- If you believe you took more than the prescribed amount of ATRIPLA, contact your local poison control center or emergency room right away.
- Tell your healthcare provider if you start any new medicine or change how you take old ones. Your doses may need adjustment.
- When your ATRIPLA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to ATRIPLA and become harder to treat.
- Your healthcare provider may want to do blood tests to check for certain side effects while you take ATRIPLA.

What should I avoid while taking ATRIPLA?

- **Women should not become pregnant while taking ATRIPLA and for 12 weeks after stopping it.** Serious birth defects have been seen in the babies of animals and women treated with efavirenz (a component of ATRIPLA) during pregnancy. It is not known whether efavirenz caused these defects. **Tell your healthcare provider right away if you are pregnant.** Also talk with your healthcare provider if you want to become pregnant.
- Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because ATRIPLA may make these contraceptives ineffective. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control. Efavirenz, a component of ATRIPLA, may remain in your blood for a time after therapy is stopped. Therefore, you should continue to use contraceptive measures for 12 weeks after you stop taking ATRIPLA.
- **Do not breastfeed if you are taking ATRIPLA.** Some of the medicines in ATRIPLA can be passed to your baby in your breast milk. We do not know whether it could harm your baby. Also, mothers with HIV-1 should not breastfeed because HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in the breast milk. Talk with your healthcare provider if you are breastfeeding. You should stop breastfeeding or may need to use a different medicine.
- Taking ATRIPLA with alcohol or other medicines causing similar side effects as ATRIPLA, such as drowsiness, may increase those side effects.
- Do not take any other medicines, including prescription and nonprescription medicines and herbal products, without checking with your healthcare provider.

ATRIPLA® (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate)

- Avoid doing things that can spread HIV-1 to others.
 - **Do not share needles or other injection equipment.**
 - **Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades.**
 - **Do not have any kind of sex without protection.** Always practice safe sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

What are the possible side effects of ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA may cause the following serious side effects:

- **Lactic acidosis** (buildup of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get signs of lactic acidosis.** (See “What is the most important information I should know about ATRIPLA?”)
- **Serious liver problems (hepatotoxicity)**, with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any signs of liver problems. (See “What is the most important information I should know about ATRIPLA?”)
- **“Flare-ups” of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection**, in which the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before, can occur if you have HBV and you stop taking ATRIPLA. Your healthcare provider will monitor your condition for several months after stopping ATRIPLA if you have both HIV-1 and HBV infection and may recommend treatment for your HBV. ATRIPLA is not approved for the treatment of hepatitis B virus infection. If you have advanced liver disease and stop treatment with ATRIPLA, the “flare-up” of hepatitis B may cause your liver function to decline.
- **Serious psychiatric problems.** A small number of patients may experience severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior while taking ATRIPLA. Some patients have thoughts of suicide and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems may occur more often in patients who have had mental illness. Contact your healthcare provider right away if you think you are having these psychiatric symptoms, so your healthcare provider can decide if you should continue to take ATRIPLA.
- **Kidney problems** (including decline or failure of kidney function). If you have had kidney problems in the past or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should do regular blood tests to check your kidneys. Symptoms that may be related to kidney problems include a high volume of urine, thirst, muscle pain, and muscle weakness.
- **Other serious liver problems.** Some patients have experienced serious liver problems including liver failure resulting in transplantation or death. Most of these serious side effects occurred in patients with a chronic liver disease such as hepatitis infection, but there have also been a few reports in patients without any existing liver disease.
- **Changes in bone mineral density (thinning bones).** Laboratory tests show changes in the bones of patients treated with tenofovir DF, a component of ATRIPLA. Some HIV patients treated with tenofovir DF developed thinning of the bones (osteopenia) which could lead to fractures. If you have had bone problems in the past, your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bone mineral density or may prescribe medicines to help your bone mineral density. Additionally, bone pain and softening of the bone (which may contribute to fractures) may occur as a consequence of kidney problems.

Common side effects:

Patients may have dizziness, headache, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with ATRIPLA. These side effects may be reduced if you take ATRIPLA at bedtime on an empty stomach. They also tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these common side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have serious psychiatric problems, such as severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Tell your healthcare provider right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. It is possible that these symptoms may be more severe if ATRIPLA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs.

If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.

Rash may be common. Rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your healthcare provider right away. **Rash may be a serious problem in some children.** Tell your child's healthcare provider right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking ATRIPLA.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, gas, and diarrhea.

ATRIPLA® (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate)

Other possible side effects with ATRIPLA:

- Changes in body fat. Changes in body fat develop in some patients taking anti HIV-1 medicine. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), in the breasts, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these fat changes are not known.
- Skin discoloration (small spots or freckles) may also happen with ATRIPLA.
- In some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS), signs and symptoms of inflammation from previous infections may occur soon after anti-HIV treatment is started. It is believed that these symptoms are due to an improvement in the body's immune response, enabling the body to fight infections that may have been present with no obvious symptoms. If you notice any symptoms of infection, please inform your doctor immediately.
- Additional side effects are inflammation of the pancreas, allergic reaction (including swelling of the face, lips, tongue, or throat), shortness of breath, pain, stomach pain, weakness and indigestion.

Tell your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you notice any side effects while taking ATRIPLA.

Contact your healthcare provider before stopping ATRIPLA because of side effects or for any other reason.

This is not a complete list of side effects possible with ATRIPLA. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a more complete list of side effects of ATRIPLA and all the medicines you will take.

How do I store ATRIPLA?

- **Keep ATRIPLA and all other medicines out of reach of children.**
- Store ATRIPLA at room temperature 77°F (25°C).
- Keep ATRIPLA in its original container and keep the container tightly closed.
- Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. If you throw any medicine away make sure that children will not find them.

General information about ATRIPLA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use ATRIPLA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give ATRIPLA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

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

Do not use ATRIPLA if the seal over bottle opening is broken or missing.

What are the ingredients of ATRIPLA?

Active Ingredients: efavirenz, emtricitabine, and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate

Inactive Ingredients: croscarmellose sodium, hydroxypropyl cellulose, microcrystalline cellulose magnesium stearate, sodium lauryl sulfate. The film coating contains black iron oxide, polyethylene glycol, polyvinyl alcohol, red iron oxide, talc, and titanium dioxide.

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Positive Thoughts



BY ORIOL R. GUTIERREZ, JR.

Young at Heart: Why We Need to Raise HIV/AIDS Awareness Among Young People

I was 22 years old when I was diagnosed with HIV in 1992. I have now been living with the virus longer than I did without it. I'm grateful for being alive and healthy, but I can't say that I'm happy to have HIV. I want to believe that I'll live long enough to see a cure for HIV, but in the meantime I live with it because I have no other choice.

After testing HIV positive, I was convinced that I wouldn't even see my 30th birthday. As a young person, I thought that I was being denied something most of us growing up take for granted – dying old. My fear of dying young only grew worse in 1994 when my ex-boyfriend, the person who I believe gave me HIV, died. He was 30.

In 1996, effective HIV treatment finally became a reality. As more and more people began taking the new medications and living as a result, my fear slowly turned into hope. I had lived those first few years after testing HIV positive as if I wasn't going to have a future. It actually took me a long while to get used to the idea again of growing old.

Much has changed in the HIV epidemic since the dark early days. Treatments have improved. Despite getting diagnosed with HIV today, you can expect to live a virtually normal life span as long as you adhere to effective treatment. The research is advancing for a cure and a vaccine. New HIV cases are increasingly being prevented.

All that said, there remains much that isn't better. Stigma and discrimination related to HIV are stubbornly resistant to change. Access to care and treatment remain out of reach for too many people living with the virus. Although HIV rates have declined, there are still up to 50,000 new cases each year – and that has been true for many years.

Unfortunately, one of the most disheartening truths about HIV is related to young people. Current estimates are that one in four new HIV cases in the United States occur among people between ages 13 and 24 – and that 60

Unfortunately, one of the most disheartening truths about HIV is related to young people. Current estimates are that one in four new HIV cases in the United States occur among people between ages 13 and 24 – and that 60 percent of these young people living with the virus don't know they have it.

percent of these young people living with the virus don't know they have it. That is just unacceptable.

To sound the alarm about HIV among young people, National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NYHAAD) was created in 2013. Commemorated each year on April 10, NYHAAD seeks to educate the public about the impact of HIV/AIDS on young people. The day also highlights the contributions of young people in the fight against the virus.

The organizer of NYHAAD is Advocates for Youth, a nonprofit that educates young people about reproductive and sexual health. Events will be held nationwide with support materials from the advocacy group. Local groups and individuals will host events at such places as high schools, colleges, churches and community centers.

Awareness day organizers this year are promoting the idea of a NYHAAD Bill of Rights, which asserts that young people should have certain rights and protections related to HIV/AIDS. The declaration has five articles, which are listed below.

Article 1: The right to live free from oppression. Poverty, racism, homophobia and other forms of oppression all contribute to HIV risk and to quality of treatment and care.

Article 2: The right to education. Young people have a right to the education and skills they need to protect themselves from HIV.

Article 3: The right to prevention. Young people have the right to condoms, HIV testing and medication needed to help prevent HIV, and have the right to

confidential, affordable and accessible services.

Article 4: The right to treatment and care. Young people are at risk of not receiving medication regularly enough to have their viral load suppressed. We must ensure that all youth have access to accessible and affordable HIV treatment.

Article 5: The right to live without criminalization, discrimination and stigma. Young people living with HIV have the right to freedom and dignity. Laws that criminalize HIV are founded in ignorance and serve only to divert attention and resources from real strategies to end the epidemic.

Approximately 1,000 young people in the United States become HIV positive each month. Undoubtedly, many of these young people living with HIV are LGBT. As such, they need and deserve help from the LGBT community.

To find out how you can help, please go to YouthAIDSDay.org for more information. You can also get the latest NYHAAD updates by searching "National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day" on Facebook or following @YouthAIDSDay on Twitter.

Oriol R. Gutierrez Jr. is the editor-in-chief of POZ magazine. Find him on Twitter @oriolgutierrez. This column is a project of Plus, Positively Aware, POZ, The Body and Q Syndicate, the LGBT wire service. Visit their websites – <http://hivplusmag.com>, <http://positivelyaware.com>, <http://poz.com> and <http://thebody.com> – for the latest updates on HIV/AIDS.



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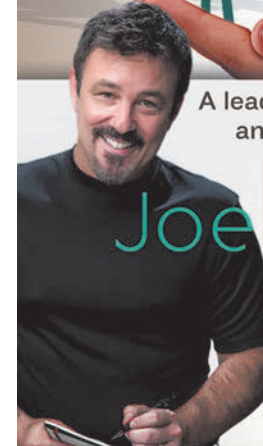
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GWEN STEFANI SPEAKS HER 'TRUTH' *Gay*

Pop Star on the Gays Who 'Made Me Feel Pretty When I Didn't Feel Pretty,' New Album & Having an LGBT Son

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Don't speak? Gwen Stefani can't help it as she opens up about her latest release – the “record that saved my life.”

Featuring a multitude of diary-like outpourings related to Gavin Rossdale, whom the No Doubt frontwoman divorced in 2015 after 13 years of marriage, “This Is What the Truth Feels Like” is Stefani’s third solo album

and first since 2006’s “The Sweet Escape.”

“It’s so therapeutic to talk about it,” she says the day before the album’s release. “And I hope it saves some other lives. I really, really truly do hope that. That’s the message I wanna

give.”

During our candid tell-all, Stefani also talked about her gay besties who “made me look pretty when I didn’t feel pretty,” being a (mostly) respected woman in a man’s world

and how she and boyfriend Blake Shelton hang with the same “big posse” of gays.

In the last year, when the going got tough, which gay friends of yours could you count on to have the wine cupboard fully stocked?

Most of my gay friends are talented, close people who work with me: my hairdresser, my makeup artist. Those are probably my two closest gay friends, and what I love about them is how unique they are and how spirited they are and how talented they are. I think “passionate” would be a really good way to describe them. They’re not representing all gay men, but they represent the ones in my life who’ve had a huge impact on me. I turned to them this whole time period, during my whole tragedy, and they have been really, really super supportive and loyal and made me look pretty when I didn’t feel pretty.

How did collaborating with Justin Tranter of Semi-Precious Weapons, who’s gay, affect your recording sessions for “This Is What the Truth Feels Like”?

I didn’t know who he was or anything, but the thing that was so great about working with Justin was that he had followed my career for the longest time. He knew everything about every song I’d ever done, whatever I’d worn, every piece of jewelry. It was like, whoa. And he’d wanted to work with me for a long time and I didn’t know that, but it was like God put us in the same room at the perfect time because I needed his understanding and compassion. He was so supportive of me and so confident in me, and I had lost a lot of my confidence, so he really brought that out of me. I felt so comfortable around him from the moment that I met him. So, he was a huge support in making this record and a good friend – an instant friend, weirdly, because I didn’t know him at all. But now I feel like he’s one of my closest friends.

I don’t think it’s too far of a stretch to say that any gay man would instantly connect with you.

Awww! That makes me happy.

Did Blake have to get your gay friends’ approval?

Well, I mean, Blake’s definitely like – how would I describe it? All the same people all the time are always in the room together and we do everything together, so it’s like we’re all a big posse. It’s funny, too, because Blake’s mom was a hairdresser growing up, so he was definitely introduced to that world a looong time ago.

As the frontwoman of No Doubt, there have been many times you’ve been the only female rocker on a festival bill. For you, what’s that experience been like? Did the boys take you seriously from the beginning?

No, it’s crazy. I’ve been so unbelievably blessed. I grew up in a man’s world and it really doesn’t make any sense either. In the past, as a girl – a baby girl – I was a girly girl and I wasn’t guyish at all, but when I did

discover music, I really got into this niche music, which was ska. I really related to it. All of the people who were my mentors as far as music, they were all guys, and to be in a band with my brother (Eric Stefani) and then my boyfriend (Tony Kanal), I was in this little family and very protected. I always felt like my opinion was counted, and not even counted but even counted with double stars. My creativity was respected.

There was a moment back in the day when I was doing festivals and we were just getting known and I do remember being disrespected here and there – they’d want me to take my top off or whatever – but it really didn’t take long for me to be able to prove that I wasn’t gonna stand for that. I don’t know where the confidence came from, but I would get up there and I just knew I was gonna win them over and do whatever it took to win them over. I was not gonna leave the stage until I had a pit going. That’s it. No question. It was a fire that was inside of me. I wasn’t rebellious; I had this really normal, easy, beautiful, loving family. But I feel like I’ve always been respected and never had to really worry about, “Oh, I don’t get respect because I’m a woman.” And that’s a really good thing, because that means if I can have that, other women and other people can have that and we are making some progress.

You’re known for your sonic soul-barings, but lately, you also seem especially candid in interviews. Why did you decide to be so open about your life in the last year?

Because I’m the kind of girl that’s just not good with secrets. I tell everybody everything. If ate too many Oreos, I’mma tell you about it! I grew up Catholic, so I just need to confess everything.

I feel like I’ve always been really open, but there was a point in my marriage and in my relationship (with Gavin Rossdale) – because maybe we born out of the ’90s – it felt cooler and more protected to not talk about the relationship, or it felt awkward because maybe we were both doing the same thing and I didn’t wanna say something and he’d be like, “Why’d you say that?!” There were probably some limits during that relationship. And then with my children, obviously I can’t talk about them because they’re gonna be 15 and like, “Mom, why did you say that? You’re embarrassing me!” I have to think a little bit about that now. But I just think... I don’t know how else to be. Everybody knows what happened to me. I got a divorce. It’s the worst thing that can happen to me besides death.

My whole life all I wanted to do was be a mother and a wife, and I had the dream of having this family because that’s what I had. I have parents who’ve been married since high school, who are in love, and they’re still in love and having their big wedding anniversary. I had a perfect example, so

Continued on page 26

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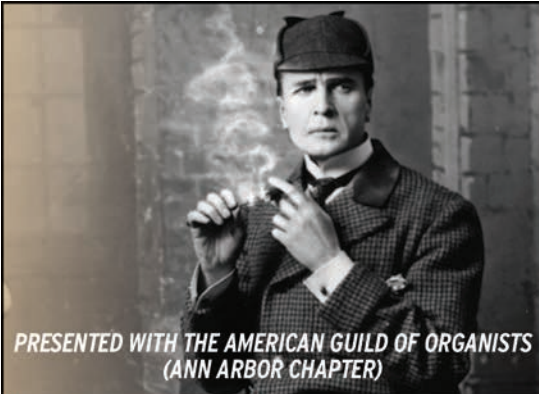
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LGBTQ Culture in the Ann Arbor Area

Ann Arbor and its surrounding areas are known as inclusive and celebratory when it comes to the LGBTQ community. With a long and storied history in regards to LGBTQ issues, the Ann Arbor area is full of great things to do for a day trip, weekend getaway or week-long vacation. Visit Ann Arbor compiled a summary of just a few of these events and attractions that may be of interest to LGBTQ travelers and others.

Events geared toward the LGBTQ community are plentiful in the Ann Arbor area. Love film? The Ann Arbor Film Festival features Out Night, with LGBTQ short films featuring documentary, experimental and narrative works. This annual program within the Film Festival is geared toward the exploration of LGBTQ issues and interests. OUTFest, held at hotspot Braun Court, is a weekend festival in the Kerrytown District of Ann Arbor to celebrate community, allyship and pride.

Presented by the Jim Toy Community Center, this is a fun-filled Tree Town weekend of food, entertainment, vendors and historically beautiful weather. In conjunction with OUTFest, a Pride Picnic is held at a local park, with family-friendly food, games and music. Also, the artistic, bohemian community of Ypsilanti, just outside Ann Arbor, hosts Ypsi Pride, a celebration of LGBTQ culture.

Whenever you visit Ann Arbor, you'll want to spend some time in the beautiful Braun Court area. Home to \aut\ BAR (known for its incredible brunch), Braun Court is a beloved area of Ann Arbor for the LGBTQ community. The Bar at 327 Braun Court is a neighborhood bar specializing in fabulous cocktails such as the Absinthe Frappe; Common Language Bookstore has served the LGBTQ community for over two decades; and the Jim Toy Community Center is a prominent resource for the LGBTQ community in Washtenaw County. Other notable hotspots include Arbor Brewing Company (the first microbrewery in Ann Arbor), Zingerman's Deli (for renowned sandwiches) and Tio's (a great Mexican eatery). In Ypsilanti, you'll find delicious internationally-inspired cuisine at Bona



Sera (they also host many special events of interest to the LGBTQ community), and tasty breakfasts and coffee at Beezy's. Also in Ypsilanti, Drag Queen Bingo is a regular event at the Tap Room, a neighborhood bar with fantastic drink specials.

Ann Arbor is home to TAG Approved hotels (as well as many other lovely hotels and bed & breakfasts), LGBTQ nights on Thursdays at LIVE Nightclub and Fridays at Necto Nightclub, and a thriving LGBTQ local community. Sports fans are sure to enjoy U-M athletics (Go Blue!), and thespians will find plenty of professional and amateur theatrical productions year-round. For more information, visit www.visitannarbor.org

and click on "LGBTQ."

Upcoming events of particular interest to the LGBTQ community include:

- "SPIN" at Theatre Nova: A fast-paced and funny play marrying spoken-word poetry and romantic hip-hop, set in a homeless shelter for LGBTQ teens. June 17-July 10
- Ypsi Pride: June 18, 2016 (Location TBD)
- Day of Decision Celebration at Braun Court: June 26, 2016
- Equality on Tap at Bill's Beer Garden: June 2016 (Date TBD)
- OUTFest at Braun Court: Aug. 5-7
- Pride Picnic: Aug. 7 (Location TBD)

Originally published at www.visitannarbor.org.

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Editor's Pick

The creators of "Welcome to Night Vale," one of the world's most downloaded podcasts, will bring their acclaimed live show to 18 U.S. cities beginning April 2. Like the podcast, the stage version of "Night Vale" tells stories from the strange desert town of Night Vale, delivering rich, nuanced drama in the form of a community radio show hosted by Cecil Palmer (played by Cecil Baldwin).

With guest stars and live musical score by Disparation, and featured musical guests Danny Schmidt and Carrie Elkin, the "Welcome to Night Vale" live show appeals to uninitiated audiences as well as to dedicated fans of the podcast, who hang on Cecil's every word. The brand new touring script — their fifth since "Welcome to Night Vale" first hit the road in 2013 — works equally well as a standalone show and as a complement to the constantly evolving narrative of the podcast.

The tour will stop at The Fillmore in Detroit 8 p.m., April 8. Tickets are \$27.50. Find out more at www.ticketmaster.com.

Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, March 31

Town Hall with Pastor Frank Turner 6 p.m. Affirmations Faith Alliance, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.Goaffirmations.org

Faith & LGBTQ Townhall 6:30 p.m. Pastor Frank Turner, from the Believers Congregation in Novi, will be the Keynote and Moderator for the event. Refreshments will be served. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.Goaffirmations.org/programs-services/community-events-activities

Friday, April 1

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

Transgender Michigan Meet and Greet Transgender Michigan, 200 S. Washington Square, **Lansing**.

Saturday, April 2

From Heart to Hand 7 a.m. Join Step On Bus Tours as we travel to the Flint Institute of Arts to see the exhibition From Heart to Hand African American Quilts from the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts. See history sewn before your eyes as you marvel at the amazing patterns and learn the stories of each quilt. The tour includes admission to the Flint Institute of Art, a docent lead tour of the display and a filling lunch nearby the exhibit. Don't forget shopping with a great discount at a wonderful sewing and quilt store. This is a must do for any quilt lovers. \$58/person Step On Bus Tours, 215 W. Troy St. Ste2046, **Ferndale**. 248-619-6692. steponbustours@gmail.com <http://www.steponbustours.com/trips.html>

Sunday, April 3

Hunkapella 7 p.m. Tickets: \$38-48. Olympia Entertainment, 2301

Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 313-471-6611. www.Olympiaentertainment.com

Wednesday, April 6

Relationship Skills Class This 7-session series is for LGBTQ people and their friends & loved ones. Topics include: exploring relationship values, healthy conflict resolution, establishing boundaries, accountability and building community connections. This series is open to everyone, regardless of relationship status or relationship history. The cost of the series is \$35 per person. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.Goaffirmations.org

Saturday, April 9

Transgender Day of Visibility Art Show Pittmann-Puckett Gallery, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.Goaffirmations.org

Monday, April 11

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

MUSIC & MORE

Classical

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Beethoven's Pastoral". Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 8 p.m. April 2. 313-576-5111. www.Dso.org

Concerts

Michigan Theater "Ani DiFranco" Tickets: \$30-55. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. April 2. 734-668-8397. www.Michtheater.org

The Fillmore Detroit "Welcome to Night Vale" Tickets: \$27.50. The Fillmore Detroit, **Detroit**. 8 p.m. April 8. www.Ticketmaster.com

Dance

UMS "American Ballet Theatre: The Sleeping Beauty" Tickets: \$29-109. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., **Detroit**. March 31 - April 3. 734-764-2538. www.Ums.org/multiperformance/american-ballet-theatre-the-sleeping-beauty/

Film & Video

Detroit Free Press "Third Annual Freep Film Festival" Featuring "Accidental Activists," "From This Day Forward" and "Treasure.". Multiple, **Detroit**. March 31 - April 3. www.Freepfilmfestival.com

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

THEATER

If/Then A new musical. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., **Detroit**. March 29 - April 10. 313-872-1000. www.Ticketmaster.com

The Hung Man Tickets: \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. April 1 - April 25. 248-545-5545. www.TheRingwald.com

Thoroughly Modern Millie Tickets: \$6-20. Western Michigan University, University Theatre, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., **Kalamazoo**. April 8 - April 17. 269-387-7222. www.Wmu.edu

ART 'N' AROUND

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

Mid-Michigan Antiquarian Book Dealers Association "63rd Annual Michigan Antiquarian Book and Paper Show" \$5 admission; children 13 and under free Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., **Lansing**. 9:30 a.m. April 3. 517-332-0112. www.curiousbooks.com

robert kidd gallery "Laurie Tennent" Botanicals: Intimate portraits robert kidd gallery, 107 Townsend St., **Birmingham**. April 9 - May 6. 248-642-3909. www.Robertkiddgallery.com

Editor's Pick



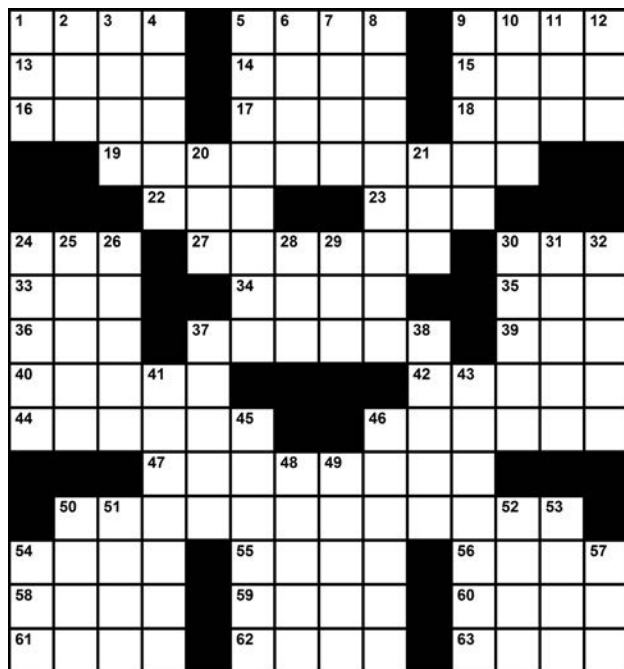
As part of this year's Classical Series, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and PVS Chemicmicals, Inc. present Beethoven's "Pastoral." The special one night show features Michelle Merrill as conductor and Kevin Brown on double bass.

The main piece of the night is none other than Beethoven's "Symphony No. 6, 'Pastoral.'" The pieces preceding this work are: Piston's "Ballet Suite from 'The Incredible Flutist'"; Dvorak's "Carnival Overture"; and Vanhal's "Double Bass Concerto."

Beethoven's "Pastoral" begins at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 2. The Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center

is located at 3711 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. Classical tickets start at \$15. For more information, call 313-576-5111 or visit www.dso.org.

Q Puzzle



- 34 More of the answer
 35 Sex attachment
 36 E. Wolfson or R. Cohn
 37 Came together
 39 P-town's Crowne Pointe, e.g.
 40 "May the ___ be with you"
 42 More of the answer
 44 Like a muscle Mary pumping iron
 46 "At Swim, Two Boys" writer Jamie
 47 Like some exotic fruit
 50 End of the answer
 54 He cruised for forty days straight
 55 "Ed Wood" role
 56 Blast furnace fuel
 58 Stud fee?
 59 Richard of "A Summer Place"
 60 One of the Brewer models
 61 Jethrene Bodine portrayer Max
 62 Bianchi and Hulce
 63 Material for Sylvia Beach?
- 10 Button's place
 11 "We ___ Family"
 12 Work under Edith Head, perhaps
 20 "___-hoo! Fellas!"
 21 Nurses stick these in
 24 Sits on one's bottom
 25 Coming up behind
 26 Cathedral word in gay Paree
 28 California has a big one
 29 Heart test
 30 One of the Mario Brothers
 31 Record in a queer archive
 32 Record material
 37 Part of MGM
 38 Shore of Palm Springs
 41 Position near Dave Pallone
 43 Goes for
 45 "Dang straight!"
 46 Indian et al.
 48 Rag' alternative
 49 Religion of Allah
 50 Sometime Capote associate Chaplin
 51 It has a fickle finger
 52 "The Music Man" setting
 53 It comes after fore
 54 Snatch
 57 Split one in the locker room

Mark My Words

Across

- 1 Barely beats
 5 Stat for Richard Simmons
 9 They're tops on the beach
 13 It can bear fruit
 14 Morales of "La Bamba"
 15 Wilde country
 16 "Cabaret" mister
 17 Mild oath

- 18 Once more
 19 Start of Mark Hamill's answer about Skywalker's orientation
 22 Coin of Foucault
 23 Boob tubes
 24 Memorial designer Maya ___
 27 Go gaga over Lady Gaga, e.g.
 30 Restroom, for short
 33 "Double Fantasy" artist

Down

- 1 Ordinal for John Nash
 2 Hot temper
 3 "Frasier" actress Gilpin
 4 Workers at the bottom
 5 Bridge call
 6 Twin to Jacob
 7 Dogs do it when they're hot
 8 Visit Judy Garland's birthplace, e.g.
 9 Billy and family

Find solution to this puzzle at www.pridesource.com

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► Gwen

Continued from p. 21

it's super tragic for me. My dreams are shattered and I feel so embarrassed about what happened. I don't feel embarrassed to talk about it though, with respect to my kids. I just think what happened was: In February (2015), my family fell apart. It was devastating. I didn't know what to do. It was a real big secret, but as I just explained, I'm not good with that. I tried everything to fix it. By June (2015), I went into the studio and started writing. I was praying. I had already started on a spiritual journey when I got pregnant with Apollo (in 2013) that was sort of like, "Wow, really? I'm gonna be blessed with a baby... now?" That was a miracle. It just started me on this spiritual journey and thank God it started then because I was prepared when I had the tragedy. I had that nest of spirituality in me.

They say everything happens for a reason.

And you kind of can't see it until you go through it and look back at it and see all the signs. I had the baby. Then I got "The Voice," which was so needed. I needed to do something like that. I needed to play that role, and I also got in the room with Pharrell again who's been like a guardian angel to me.

You mentioned Apollo, and you also have two other sons: Kingston and Zuma. There are people who don't appreciate the fact that you allow them to explore their feminine sides by painting their nails. How would you respond to those critics?

Obviously I've lived my life with criticism for a very long time and my personality is, I live in truth and reality, and if somebody says something about me and I don't know them and they're not my friend or part of my life, it really doesn't affect me. Of course everyone's gonna have their perspective and their opinion, and I know what's real and what's honest and true, and that's really all that matters to me and all that's important. So, it doesn't really bother me. As long as my boys are protected and happy and I'm spending quality time with them, whether it's doing sports or doing nails, it really doesn't matter.

What would you say to one of your boys if they came out to you one day?

I would be blessed with a gay son. You know that I would feel blessed about that. I just want my boys to be happy and healthy, and I just ask God to guide me every day to be a good mother because it is not an easy job.

I've been lucky enough to have such a blessed life. I've been able to travel the world and meet so many different kinds of people. And it doesn't really matter if you're gay,

straight, whatever. There are good and bad people, and I would be happy. I just want my kids to be happy, and whatever journey God gives them is their journey. I just need to be there to be the most supportive mom that I can be and that's what I'm gonna be. I always ask my gay friends, "OK, so what was it like when you were a little boy?" Because I do know that it's gotta be difficult to be the alternative, to not be the mainstream, or to be different, if you want to call it that. I feel like it's less and less (like that) these days, and it's hard for me to understand because it doesn't seem different or weird or anything anymore because it just seems so normal to me. I just saw that movie... what was it... "The Dutch Girl"?

"The Danish Girl"...?

Yeah, "The Danish Girl." I think what was so incredible about that movie was just - that was so long ago. I mean, can you imagine back then? Whoa. Now it feels like nothing anymore.

As a pop star over 40, what's it like navigating the pop world with so much pressure on youth, age and beauty?

There was a moment right before I did "The Voice," in between (2012's No Doubt release) "Push and Shove" and "The Voice," where I was concerned about it and desperate to have new music and it took a little earthquake to be like, "OK, let's get some perspective here. You've already had the longest career. You're so blessed to have any of this and any of this that happens after this is literally icing on the cake."

I'm not delusional about where I'm at in my career. I know that this opportunity to have new music is magical, and there's not one second that I don't appreciate it and I think it is what it is. I feel proud of the career that I've had and I feel so grateful for it and I mean, we all have to go through life. This is life. Life is... "born to blossom and bloom to perish." That's it. That is what it is. And the way to do it is to be grateful and to be spiritual and try to do the best you can every single day - to be in the moment.

I'm not thinking about the future. I'm really trying to focus on right now, today. I wanna be in the moment right now because it's so much better if you're not thinking about the past or the future.

Gwen, you have such a healthy perspective on life.

Oh, I have to work on it! I work on it every single day. Some days I'm a mental case.

Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service. He once made Jane Fonda cry. Reach him via his website at www.chris-azzopardi.com and on Twitter (@chrisazzopardi).

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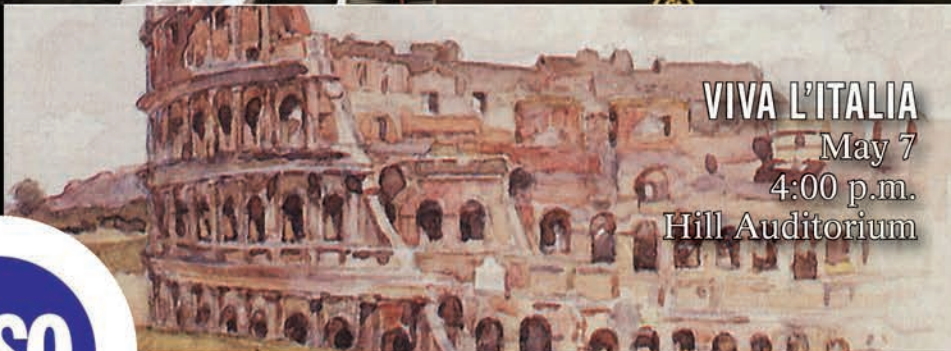
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