

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



Spring Health & Wellness Guide

Page 22



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How to Change
Attitudes Toward
LGBT People

PAGE 18

The State of LGBT
Voters Post
Wisconsin Primary

PAGE 16

Tom Casperson is Our
Creep of the Week

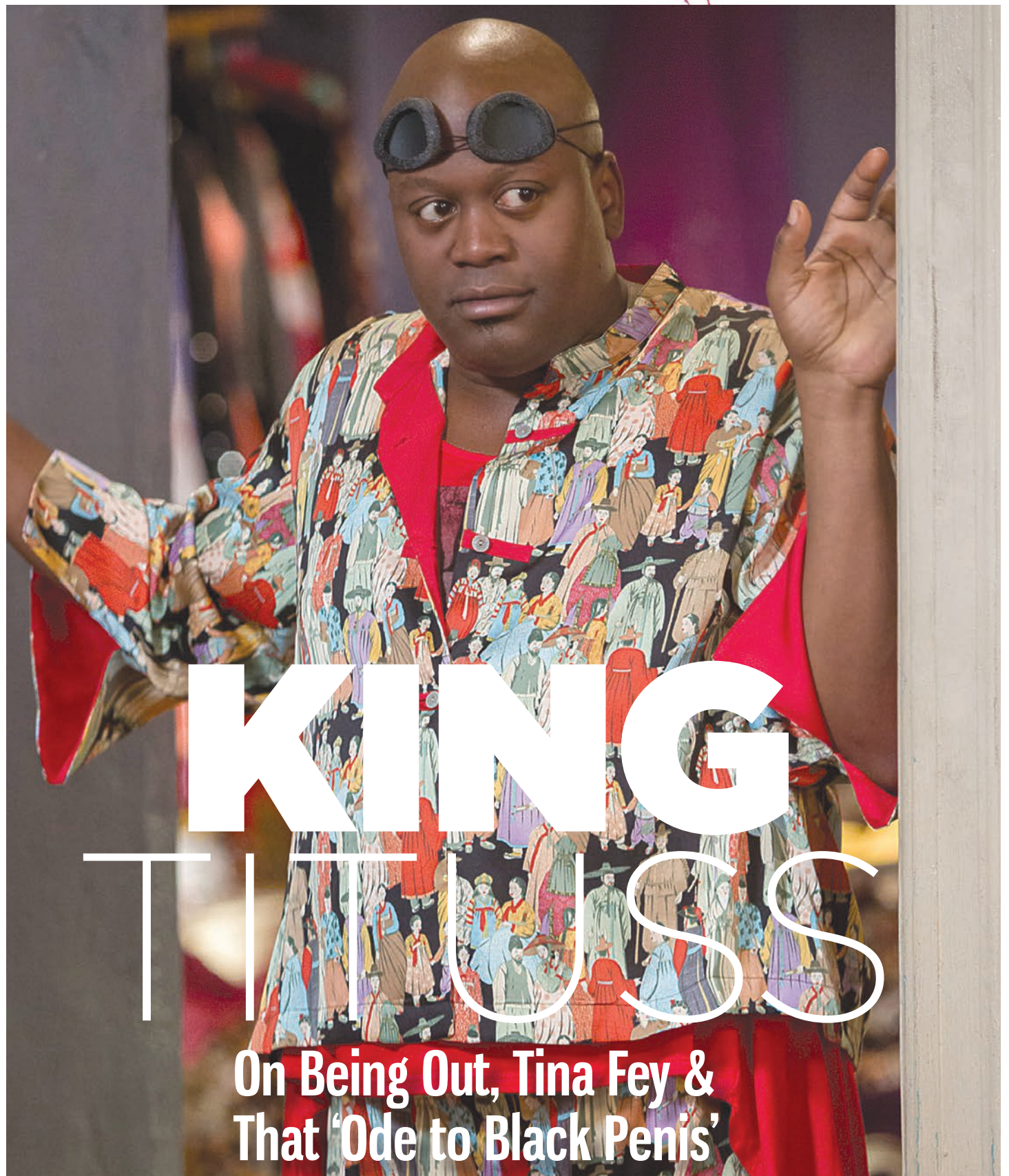
PAGE 15

Our Guide to the
Best LGBT Events

PAGE 34

APRIL 14, 2016

VOL. 2415 | FREE



KING TITUS

On Being Out, Tina Fey &
That 'Ode to Black Penis'



Actual ATRIPLA patients.

ATRIPLA has been chosen by more than 500,000[†] people with HIV and their doctors. In the US, ATRIPLA is the #1 prescribed[§] one-pill, once-daily HIV treatment.

TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR OR VISIT ATRIPLA.COM TO FIND OUT MORE.

What is ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA® (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) is a prescription medication used alone as a complete regimen, or with other anti-HIV-1 medicines, to treat HIV-1 infection in adults and children at least 12 years old who weigh at least 40 kg (88 lbs).

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:

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

TAKING CARE OF

ME

WITH THE STRENGTH OF

WE

For adults with HIV-1,

Undetectable viral load is a goal, and ATRIPLA has the power to help get you there.

In a clinical trial:

- ATRIPLA has been proven to **LOWER VIRAL LOAD** to undetectable* in approximately 8 out of 10 adult patients new to therapy through 48 weeks compared with approximately 7 out of 10 adult patients in the comparator group†
- ATRIPLA has been proven to **LOWER VIRAL LOAD** to undetectable* through 3 years in approximately 7 out of 10 adult patients new to therapy compared with approximately 6 out of 10 adult patients in the comparator group†

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:
Combivir® (lamivudine/zidovudine),
COMPLERA® (emtricitabine/rilpivirine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate),
EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine),
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 equivalized. January 2007–February 2015.

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

ATRIPLA[®]
(efavirenz 600 mg/emtricitabine 200 mg/
tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg) Tablets

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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Patient Information

Rx ONLY

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, Efavir, Efavir-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), Kaletra (lopinavir/ritonavir), or Harvoni (ledipasvir/sofosbuvir); 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 medicines 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?

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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.

Revised: February 2016

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COVER STORY

28 'Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt' Actor Tituss Burgess

NEWS

- 8 Local Briefs
- 10 Michigan lawmaker pushes plan to restrict transgender bathroom use
- 12 Adodi spring retreat brings safe space for black, gay men
- 16 The state of LGBT voters in post-primary Wisconsin
- 18 How to change attitudes toward LGBT people
- 20 ABC anchor addresses Mississippi law

HEALTH GUIDE

- 22 Michigan LGBT community centers offer 2016 smoking cessation programs
- 24 Playing ball in the LGBT league
- 25 LGBT tennis in the Motor City

OPINION

- 14 Parting Glances
- 14 Viewpoint: Fire Rick Snyder
- 15 Creep of the Week: Tom Casperson

LIFE

- 33 Cool Cities: Royal Oak
- 34 Happenings
- 35 Deep Inside Hollywood
- 36 The OutField
- 38 Comic and puzzle

CREEP OF THE WEEK



Michigan State Rep. Tom Casperson

Casperson is one of those people with visions of sexual deviants dancing through their heads. And he thinks Michigan should make it illegal to use a locker or rest room that doesn't match your birth gender.

See page 15

HEALTH & WELLNESS



Community Centers Across State Help Educate on Dangers of Smoking

See page 22

ONLINE RESOURCES



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NEWS



How to Change Attitudes Toward LGBT People

See page 16

PROTEST N.C.



Springfield Says No to N.C.

See page 36

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April 14, 2016 | BTL 7

Dignity Detroit to Celebrate 42 Years

ROYAL OAK – Dignity Detroit, the nonprofit 501(c)(3) serving LGBT Catholics since 1974, celebrates its anniversary this year with a dinner dance under the theme “Companions in Faith.”

The organization is a faith community of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Catholics, their families and friends who unite to celebrate God’s love for all persons. They are a community rich in diversity that worships in an affirming and supportive setting. Dignity Detroit says, “Ours is a ministry that speaks to us by offering an expression of faith and fellowship not experienced in other church situations. In this way, Dignity has helped many who have lost touch with the church to reaffirm and establish a relationship with God. Dignity envisions and works for unity, equality and an end to all forms of hatred.

Most importantly, we are devoted to nurturing faith and love through Christ, the Sacraments and one another.”

The dinner dance will be held Saturday, May 14 at Park Place, 23400 Park St., Dearborn. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. for cocktails. Dinner will follow at 7 p.m. Tickets begin at \$50 and include an open bar, buffet dinner, a short program and dancing; tables of eight can be purchased for \$350. The event will also feature a silent auction.

No tickets will be sold at the door, and the deadline for ticket sales is May 1. Tickets may be purchased before and after the 6 p.m. Sunday mass at Marygrove College’s chapel, or by mail. To receive tickets by mail, send a check for the amount of tickets to be bought and contact information to: Dignity Detroit, P.O. Box 558, Royal Oak, MI 48068-0558.

Affirmations to Host Art Gallery Spotlighting Trans Artists

Affirmations and GNA (the Gender-Identity Network Alliance) will celebrate the work of local trans* and gender non-conforming artists at the gallery opening of “Trans* Visibility.” The opening will feature live performances from local artists which will include spoken word and music, time with the artists, and refreshments. There are 18 trans* and gender non-conforming artists and over 30 pieces in the show.

The gallery will be exhibited in Affirmations’ Pittmann-Puckett Gallery, which hosts the work of LGBTQ+ artists in several shows each year.

The event begins 7 p.m. Thursday, April 14. For more information, contact Kelsey Hug: khug@goaffirmations.org.

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

Trevor Project Trainings Come to Detroit

ANN ARBOR – The American Indian Health and Family Services of Southeastern Michigan will host Trevor Project Trainings April 28 and 29 for LGBTQ individuals and allies interested in learning about crisis intervention and prevention.

The Trevor Project is the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services for LGBTQ young people ages 13-24.

The project will provide the Trevor Lifeguard Workshop at 5 p.m. April 28 for attendees to learn about lifesaving resources for LGBTQ youth, how to find resources near them, and will include an on-site training. Dinner will be provided.

Ally trainings will be hosted the following morning April 29 beginning at 8 a.m. Trainings will help allied adults learn about LGBT and

two-spirit people with an emphasis on youth, the specific risks and challenges they face and how they can become an ally by knowing valuable resources and strategies. Lunch will be provided.

The following program, the Trevor CARE Trainings, will help adults who work with youth learn to connect, accept, respond and empower young people in crisis. The training will discuss LGBTQ-specific risk factors for suicide, explore protective factors that can lower risks and investigate how to help youth get the support they need.



All trainings will be at the American Indian Health and Family Services building at 4880 Lawndale St., Detroit.


To register, contact Karen Marshall at kmarshall@aihfs.org or by phone at 313-846-6030.

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Equality Michigan Hosts White House Summit on LGBT Issues

DEARBORN – Equality Michigan will host a White House Summit on LGBT Issues April 21 at the University of Michigan-Dearborn campus.

This high-profile event, targeted for industry, opinion and community leaders, will discuss LGBT school policies, access to healthcare for trans Michiganders and access to capital for LGBT-owned small businesses.

The LGBT Summit will include a panel of federal administrators from the offices of Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Small Business Administration and the White House Liaison to the LGBT Community with state officials from the State Board of Education and the Michigan Department of Human Services and activists, industry leaders and academics.

The keynote address will be delivered by Catherine Lhamon, the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Civil Rights for the U.S. Department of Education. Lhamon is expected to speak towards the current treatment of LGBT youth in schools and to reiterate the Obama Administration's clear stance on ensuring that LGB and especially trans youth have a right to full access to education without discrimination.

The White House Summit will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will conclude with a reception beginning at 4 p.m. Space is limited to 150 participants. To register for the event, go to <http://bit.ly/238L59M1>. University of Michigan-Dearborn campus is located at 4901 Evergreen Road, Dearborn.

Michigan GOP Elects Rob Steele as New National Committeeman

LANSING (AP) – Michigan Republicans elected a new key party official Saturday during the state's GOP convention, choosing Rob Steele as the next Michigan national committeeman.

"You're here now because you have a passion for something and we need that passion and involvement," Steele told the convention crowd in Lansing. "We have a common enemy. That common enemy is the left wing."

He will succeed Dave Agema, who had refused Republicans' calls for him to resign for derogatory Facebook posts and links to articles about gays, Muslims and African-Americans.

Steele, an Ann Arbor cardiologist, beat financial adviser Mark Gurley for the position. Gurley received high praise from Agema, who lauded him for his conservatism and support of traditional family values.

"Mark will do the right thing," Agema said at the convention. "He has a servant's heart."

State Sen. Patrick Colbeck of Canton and Rep. Gary Glenn of Midland made impassioned calls to elect Steele. Colbeck told hundreds of Republicans at the convention that "he's somebody that I can get behind."

Political consultant and former Michigan Republican Party Chairman Bobby Schostak previously called for Agema to resign.

Other Republicans like former state delegate John Truscott and political strategist Stu Sandler expressed misgivings about Agema earlier this week.

"Dave Agema had a lot of issues," Sandler said. "He wasn't very helpful when it came to getting Republicans elected."

Lawmaker Pushes Plan to Restrict Transgender Bathroom Use

BY MICHAEL GERSTEIN

LANSING (AP) – A roiling political fight that began last month isn't showing signs of abating after GOP state lawmakers discovered draft voluntary guidelines from the State Board of Education that included recommendations on how to address transgender K-12 students who want to use bathrooms and locker rooms that match their gender identity.

Escanaba Republican Sen. Tom Casperson said he's firmly committed to introducing legislation to stop kids sharing bathrooms who are "biologically different." That is despite the political and now potentially economic fallout after North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory signed legislation prohibiting sexual orientation-based anti-discrimination protections. The law also requires transgender people to use the bathroom matching the sex on their birth certificates in government buildings and schools.

Not even the Obama administration's consideration of cutting billions of dollars in federal aid for schools, highways and housing over North Carolina's new gay and transgender law dissuades Casperson. He was appalled when he discovered the proposed State Board of Education guidelines that suggested schools could – if they so choose – allow transgender students to use the bathroom of their choice and refer to students by the pronouns they request.

Casperson said transgender students should be able to use staff facilities or their own bathrooms only with parental

consent, and that they should be barred from using bathrooms that don't match their birth certificate.

"Maybe, there's something there that's just not normal," Casperson said. "And normal's not the right word. Maybe there's something there that's just not right, where we're mixing these kids together."

House Speaker Kevin Cotter and other Republicans in the Legislature also spoke out against the draft and voluntary guidelines last month, when a House committee voted to strip reimbursement funding for the State Board of Education's travel expenses. The State Board is an elected, unpaid body of officials that makes recommendations for the state's K-12 schools and oversees the state department.

"(Parents) have very real concerns about allowing their children to officially change their name or their gender without parental approval," Cotter said in a statement. "The Department ignored those concerns, wrote a policy proposal that specifically cuts parents out of the process and appears uninterested in hearing from them going forward."

An online public comment section for the guidelines shows overwhelmingly negative responses, though there is no way to ensure that only Michigan residents comment. Many seem to

If Republicans push forward with a plan to restrict transgender students from using bathrooms of their choice, it could entail federal civil rights violations, said John Austin, State Board of Education president.

fear the prospect of males using girls' bathrooms. The site shows nearly 7,000 comments so far and lets people post until May 11.

If Republicans push forward with a plan to restrict transgender students from using bathrooms of their choice, it could entail federal civil rights violations, said John Austin, State Board of Education president. Austin said the guidelines were prompted in part to make sure Michigan schools comply with federal civil rights law. Austin said it's also meant to ensure that schools are safe places for all students.

Austin said Casperson's bill would be "damaging for young students" and that it could further ostracize students who are at-risk for suicide, depression and bullying.

"We don't want to be another North Carolina," Austin said.

It was Michigan teacher of the year Rick Joseph's idea to come up with a guideline list for schools determining how to accommodate transgender students.

Joseph, a self-described reformed "homophobe," said his perspective shifted after meeting a gay person years ago. He said he's now committed to making sure students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender have a good learning environment.

"I came to (John Austin) because I felt that if the State Board of Education were able to propose guidelines statewide, it would enable more districts to avail themselves of resources that frankly have existed for 15 years," said Joseph, who teaches fifth and sixth grade at Birmingham Covington School. He calls the need to allow transgender students to express their gender identity and use the bathrooms of their choice a "moral imperative."

"They're not deviants or freaks," Joseph said. "They're just people."

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EMU Equality Research Center Presentation on LGBT Homeless Youth in the South

YPSILANTI—The Eastern Michigan University Equality Knowledge Project, a program of the Equality Research Center, is to host its final presentation of the 2015-2016 scholastic year April 14, discussing the current status on how LGBT homeless youth are surviving in the south.

Throughout the last eight months, six Ph.D. candidates across the country have presented their findings on LGBT studies and research. These studies have included topics ranging from the health related consequences of intimate partner violence within the LGBT community to disgust and the dynamics of LGBT politics.



Andrew Robinson

In the final presentation of the year, Brandon Andrew Robinson, Ph.D. candidate in the Sociology Department at the University of Texas-Austin, will explore the meanings, motivations and consequences that LGBT homeless youth ascribe to their actions and situations through his ethnographic fieldwork and interviews of homeless youth in an Austin and San Antonio youth drop-in center.

By situating LGBTQ homeless youths' voices and lived experiences at the forefront of this project, he uncovers how norms around heterosexuality and gender conformity affect the youths' pathways into and experiences of homelessness. Robinson's exploration will reveal the inner-workings of gender, sexuality, homophobia and transphobia within the changing climate for LGBT civil rights.

Robinson's research interests include sexuality and LGBT studies, race, gender, HIV/AIDS, homelessness and cyberspace. He has been published in the journal of Sexuality Research and Social Policy, Deviant Behavior, Social Theory and Health and Sociology of Race and Ethnicity journal, among others.

Robinson will present his dissertation "OUTcasts: LGBTQ Homeless Youth Surviving in the South" at 5:30 p.m. in room 320 of the Eastern Michigan University Student Center, located at 900 Oakwood St. in Ypsilanti. The event is free and open to the public. To learn more about the speaker, visit his website at <http://brandonandrewrobinson.com>.

Adodi Spring Retreat a 'Safe Space' for Black, Gay Men

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Attendees describe it as something special, almost magical. Adodi is "important because you don't have that many black, gay organizations where you can lose all your inhibitions," said Tony Johnson, president of Adodi Detroit and chair of the sixth annual spring retreat that's scheduled to take place this weekend. "We also have a national retreat each year in July. You go there with all your stress and you come out and you feel relieved. You get to meet new people, share different ideals."

Johnson said the experience is hard to put into words. "There's camaraderie, compassion, warmth," said Johnson. "For me, you get to know somebody different, get to know something about someone a little different, and give and receive information."

Adodi was started in New York in 1986 and born out of the early ravages of the AIDS epidemic. It has since become one of the oldest, most affirming and spiritually uplifting movements of same-gender-loving men of African descent in history, according to their website. The ideals and principles of Adodi provide a code of conduct and a road map toward self-awareness and fraternal relationships based on agape love, mutuality and deep abiding respect.

"Adodi is the only space that in the past 30 years has continuously created warmth, security and safety for those traumatized in our community," said Curtis Lipscomb of LGBT Detroit, who sits on Adodi's national board. "Many people are alone. They are isolated. They are of a certain age. They have severe health issues. And this is the place where those barriers can be addressed. People can be healed. Thoughts and ideas can be exchanged safely. It's a place where people of different faiths can come together and celebrate life. It's a great organization and a great retreat."

The Adodi experience engenders community, self-awareness and empowerment as well as spiritual growth. The bedrock of the brotherhood is a mutual acknowledgement and affirmation of a common yet diasporic African heritage, coupled with an appreciative acceptance of same gender love among men.

"I've been involved with Adodi for 18

The Adodi experience engenders community, self-awareness and empowerment as well as spiritual growth. The bedrock of the brotherhood is a mutual acknowledgement and affirmation of a common yet diasporic African heritage, coupled with an appreciative acceptance of same gender love among men.

years now," said Bryan Glover, who is facilitator for the national board. "What attracted me to Adodi was the possibility of connecting to brothers in a way that was deep and lasting. I had heard of many spaces before I went to Adodi that women I knew had gone to that was affirming for them ... spaces where women bonded and created community and felt like they were affirmed. And I was looking for a space similar to that for black gay men."

Glover said he looks forward to coming to Detroit for the spring retreat. "It's like a family reunion in a sense," he said. "It's a chance to reconnect with brothers that I don't get to see often and share an intimate and personal space and to feel safe, like I could bring all of who I am into the space. When I come to Detroit, I feel that I get a connection to the brothers there that I really enjoy."

Steven Gaskill of Detroit is also on the national board and is likewise looking forward to this weekend's retreat. "There's a lot of celebration of just that we made it to another year," he said. "It's, 'What's up with you,' and catching up. Then we have the nerve to have workshops, special speakers, presentations and things of that nature. So it ends up being a really critical opportunity to take advantage of as we're maturing. Then also it's introducing younger people who can use some positive reinforcement."

This is Johnson's first year chairing the retreat and he said he couldn't do it without his Adodi brothers' support. "People see things in me that I don't see in my own self, which is kind of good," said Johnson.



"Adodi is the only space that in the past 30 years has continuously created warmth, security and safety for those traumatized in our community," said Curtis Lipscomb of LGBT Detroit, who sits on Adodi's national board. BTL file photo: Andrew Potter

"But they're stepping up to help me. If I feel if I'm stumbling, there's always that Adodi brother that is willing to help me and work it out. I find that kind of rare because these days everybody is always about me, me, me."

The Adodi experience is a communion of commonality rather than difference or what the Adodi call the "fierce embrace." This allows the brotherhood to acknowledge yet adeptly transcend ageism, classism and internalized homophobia. Adodi, the plural of Ado, is the Yoruba word that describes a man who "loves" another man. More than just a description of partners in Africa, the Adodi of the tribe are thought to embody both male and female ways of being and were revered as shamans, sages and leaders. In addition to Detroit, Adodi has chapters in Chicago, Philadelphia, New York and Washington.

The Adodi Detroit spring retreat takes place Friday, April 15 – Sunday, April 17. It kicks off with a welcoming celebration Friday night at the Ecumenical Theological Seminary, which is located at 2930 Woodward Ave. Saturday's activities will take place at the Samaritan Center on Detroit's east side and Sunday's portion of the conference takes place at a private residence. The suggested donation for the entire weekend is \$75, though organizers say no one will be turned away. For more information, call Tony Johnson at 313-671-3181.



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Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

From Patient Zero to Patient 'Oh'

Gaetan Dugas. Recognize the name? In case you may have forgotten, Gaetan is better known in AIDS infamy as Patient O.

A pretty, blond Canadian airline steward, he purportedly brought the HIV retrovirus into the United States and – aware or unaware of this vector status – victimized many gay men in the late-1970s.

He reportedly single handedly sparked North America's AIDS epidemic. (To date, 658,507 AIDS-related deaths. And counting.)

The March issue of Science magazine, published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, carries a report that there's no scientific research basis for the Gaetan Dugas accusation that surfaced first in the Randy Shilts 1987 best-selling AIDS account, "And The Band Played On."

Shilts writes, "There's no doubt that Gaetan played a key role in spreading the new virus from one end of the United States to the other." Shilts doesn't actually come out and state unequivocally that Dugas, who died of AIDS-related causes in 1984, introduced the disease to North America, but mass media worldwide turned Gaetan into a vector monster.

The New York Post was among the first major media outlets to sensationalize his role in the emerging AIDS horror story. Its headline proclaimed in bold face caps: "The Man Who Gave Us AIDS." (According to the U.S. National Library of Medicine, the focus may have been abetted as a publisher ploy to sell Shilts' book.)

The ASAS March news story by Boston science reporter John Cohen is captioned: "Infectious Disease: 'Patient Zero' no more. Sleuthing clarifies HIV's history."

Cohen reports, "Last week at the Boston 2016 Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, Michael Worobey, an evolutionary biologist at the University of Arizona, solidly debunked the claim, saying Dugas was far from what epidemiologists refer to as the 'index patient' in the United States.

"Worobey's new work will help put the 'myth of Patient Zero' to rest, says epidemiologist Harold Jaffe of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, who helped unravel the early spread of the disease."

Cohen adds, "The first AIDS cases surfaced in five gay men in Los Angeles, California, and were reported in CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report in June 1981.

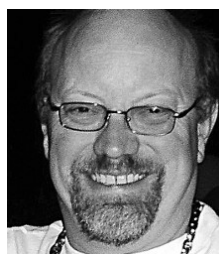
"After HIV was proven to be the culprit in 1984, researchers analyzed stored blood from gay and bisexual men collected in the late 1970s in San Francisco and New York City and found the men already carried antibodies to the virus."

On the family tree of the early U.S. isolates, Dugas's HIV genome fell in about the middle. "There's nothing special about his genome," Worobey said. The Science article concludes, "Although Dugas had been in Haiti – in 1977 – there is no sign that he was either the index patient or key to spreading the virus around the country."

Worobey clarifies how the Zero in Patient Zero happened. "When CDC researchers were piecing together how the first AIDS cases were linked to each other, they originally referred to Dugas not by the number '0' but by the letter 'O' because he was from 'outside' California. Later, for reasons that remain murky, Dugas morphed into Patient Zero."

The ASAS Science article concludes – perhaps just a tad flippantly – "So, rather than Dugas sparking the U.S. epidemic, his case, historically speaking, really is just an "oh." (Oh, my.)

Charles@pridesource.com



BY KEITH ORR

Viewpoint Fire Rick Snyder

The petitions are out on the streets. We have a chance to fire our governor. A 2012 Michigan law regulating recall petitions created more layers of language approval and tougher deadlines for collecting signatures. There is only 60 days to get about 790,000 signatures. That's a lot of signatures in a short amount of time. This law was passed by a Republican Legislature and signed into law by none other than Gov. Rick Snyder.

An effort of that size will take a lot of money... or a very large number of dedicated volunteers. The recall effort has very little money, so they are relying on a large volunteer effort. The petition language references the Flint water crisis, and the governor's culpability through the emergency manager.

Here's the kicker. The recall effort required very specific reasons for the recall. However, you can support it for whatever reason is important to you. Knowingly poisoning people is a good enough reason to recall someone. But there are plenty of other excellent reasons.

Snyder ran as moderate Republican, interested only in putting Michigan back to work. He promised to stay out of the culture wars. It didn't take long to realize that he was going to be a happy warrior in those culture wars. He has attacked women, workers, unions and people of color. His right-to-work legislation is in lockstep with

the agenda of the Koch brothers, mirroring efforts in other states. His emergency manager law goes a step further. With that law Snyder actually subverts the democratic process upon which our nation is built. The sweeping powers of emergency laws speak more of fascism than "putting Michigan back to work."

No community has felt the sword of the culture wars more than the LGBTQ community. If you are a member or an ally of that community, you have many reasons to sign that recall petition:

- Prior to the winning of marriage equality, Snyder stripped domestic partner benefits from all public entities, including schools and universities. Way back during those dark ages, domestic partner benefits were one of the few protections LGBTQ partners had achieved. His actions played to the radical religious right. Not only did the action weaken our protections, they weakened the state of Michigan. Universities had a harder time recruiting talent, public schools had a harder time holding onto great teachers, and private businesses had a harder time recruiting talent in the wake of policies anathema to their values.

- The Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act still does not include sexual orientation or gender identity. If there is one single thing Michigan could do in the culture wars which would actually help put Michigan back to work, it would be action on Elliott-Larsen. During the last attempt to amend it, the business community rallied to

See Viewpoint: Fire Rick Snyder, next page

Ask Lambda Legal – Day of Silence 2016

BY CHRISTOPHER CLARK

I'm a queer/LGBTQ student, and I've been out at school for a little while. My school's Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) wants to participate in GLSEN's upcoming National Day of Silence and we've been looking forward to having a lot of people join us. Most of the teachers and students are encouraging, but we've run into some issues when we try to advertise and participate in the Day of Silence. What can we do?

First, we congratulate you on being out at school – it is brave to be so honest with everyone and we are happy to hear that your friends and teachers have been supportive! The Day of Silence is a meaningful protest that has raised awareness of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) issues in schools by focusing on anti-LGBTQ bullying and harassment. During this year's Day of Silence – on April 15 – students across the country will take a vow of silence during the school day. The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) provides materials to students who wish participate in the Day of Silence, as well as materials for schools that want to support participating students.

Lambda Legal's Help Desk receives many calls and emails from students each year leading up to the Day of Silence. Many of the students who contact us want to know more about their right to participate in the Day of Silence, and others have been told by their school that they cannot. Lambda Legal has advocated in numerous schools around the

nation to help students exercise their right to participate in the silent protest. In most of these cases, school officials responded to our advocacy by allowing the students to participate in the day of action.

The bottom line is that every student has the right to participate in the Day of Silence.

This powerful expression of strength and solidarity gives students like you the opportunity to shine a light on the continued anti-LGBTQ bullying and harassment that takes place in schools. This discriminatory treatment comes at the hands of other students, administrators and even legislators. Given the current climate generated by anti-trans laws like North Carolina's HB2, it is imperative that young people have the support of their classmates and people outside of their schools. This is where Lambda Legal comes in.

As GLSEN's legal partner for the National Day of Silence, we advocate every year on behalf of students whose attempts to participate in the Day of Silence are being thwarted by hostile administrators. We are proud of this work and we will continue to stand behind LGBTQ students in their efforts to speak out against bullying.

If you have any questions, if feel you have been discriminated against because of your sexual orientation, or if school administrators are interfering with your ability to participate in GLSEN's Day of Silence, please contact Lambda Legal's Help Desk at 1-866-542-8336, or see <http://lambdalegal.org/help>.

Christopher Clark is the Lambda Legal LGBTQ Youth & Schools Program Strategist.

► Viewpoint: Fire Snyder

Continued from p. 14

the cause, saying they needed this amendment in order to be able to recruit the best talent to Michigan. The proposed amendment was first stripped of gender identity, and ultimately not acted on at all.

- The single most public piece of LGBT activism of the last several years was the DeBoer v. Snyder suit. This was the case which ultimately went to the Supreme Court and won marriage equality for citizens of Michigan and the entire United States. While Snyder was fighting this case, families and children suffered. In fact, between the children of Flint, the war on public schools, and the fight against marriage equality, the common theme is a war on children.

- My own small piece of history was as one of the plaintiffs in Caspar v. Snyder, the case to force the state of Michigan to recognize the March 22, 2014 marriages which were made possible by the 24 hour window opened by the initial ruling in DeBoer v. Snyder. Another case of unnecessary litigation made necessary by Rick Snyder.

Note that there is a common name in both of the last two court cases: Snyder. As the defendant, he did not have to fight marriage equality. He chose to do so as part of the culture wars he fights so enthusiastically. Like so many of his actions, he deflects personal responsibility. Yet it doesn't get more personal than having your name attached to a suit. In the process he wasted millions of public dollars and caused pain and suffering for many in our community.

The last serious gubernatorial recall movement was during the administration of John Engler. While I will never be counted as a fan of the policies and politics of Engler, I could not jump into that fight with any enthusiasm. It seemed wrong to recall someone for doing exactly what they said they were going to do during the election process. Snyder's campaign was built on a lie from day one. He must be made to pay for his actions.

Pick your reason for signing the petition. Any one of them is fine by me, as long as we get to 790,000 signatures. Petitions are being circulated throughout the state.

In Ann Arbor, you can sign at Common Language Bookstore, 317 Braun Court.

Creep of the Week

Tom Casperson

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Recently a friend of a friend posted an Advocate article to Facebook about a woman being kicked out of the women's restroom at Fishbone's restaurant in Detroit because she looked like a man. She wasn't a man. She was a cisgender woman with short hair who apparently liked comfy clothes. And so a security guard allegedly assaulted her, throwing her out onto the street.



Casperson

The person who posted it made a comment somewhere along the lines of, "Is anyone surprised to see this happening now?" She was referring to the rabid anti-trans climate nationwide spurred on by the so-called bathroom bills that are seeking to keep trans men and women out of public restrooms. These bills stoke the fears of people who don't understand what transgender means and/or think it's some kind of perverted sin against God.

Following the link to the article, I noticed it was from June 2015 and felt compelled to point out the date. I thought it important that this event occurred nearly a year ago, when anti-trans bathroom policing wasn't quite at the hysterical point it is today. The incident at Fishbone's is, I pointed out, a harbinger of what's to come.

Because an anti-LGBTQ law like the ones passed in states like North Carolina and Mississippi could be coming to Michigan.

Being debated right now in Michigan is a draft by the State Board of Education of guidance for creating "Safe and Supportive Learning Environments for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) Students."

My first thought when I heard about this: it's about time.

Unfortunately, the first thought a lot of other people had was of boys putting on dresses so they could use the girls' locker room to look at titties. This is not only ridiculous, but it's insulting to the trans or gender fluid students who face the possibility of harassment and even violence every time they have to pee or change for gym.

State Sen. Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba, is one of those people with visions of sexual deviants dancing through their heads. And he thinks Michigan should make it illegal to use a locker or rest room that doesn't match your birth gender. Which is totally stupid.

According to the Detroit Free Press, "Casperson said transgender students should be able to use staff facilities or their own bathrooms only with parental consent, and that they should be barred from using bathrooms that don't match their birth certificate."

Casperson is one of those people with visions of sexual deviants dancing through their heads. And he thinks Michigan should make it illegal to use a locker or rest room that doesn't match your birth gender.

Making trans students use staff restrooms (or even a bathroom of their very own!) might seem like no biggie. But the key here is "only with parental consent." For some trans students, school is their safe space. Some aren't out to their parents or have parents who don't accept their identity. All that aside, however, it is blatantly discriminatory to make trans students use segregated restrooms.

Casperson was pretty clear about what he thinks of trans students. "Maybe, there's something there that's just not normal," he told the Free Press. "And normal's not the right word. Maybe there's something there that's just not right, where we're mixing these kids together."

I'd be very curious to know who Casperson thinks "these kids" are and if he's ever met and spoken with a trans student. Then again, it's hard to imagine that Casperson would be interested in such an audience considering he has already dismissed them as people.

State Board of Education President John Austin told the Free Press that the "guidelines were prompted in part to make sure Michigan schools comply with federal civil rights law." In other words, these guidelines didn't just come out of nowhere, demanded by a cabal of powerful trans plants (see what I did there?) on the board. States who pass discriminatory laws face the possibility of billions of dollars in federal funding being cut. Because federal civil rights law is not messing around.

Casperson doesn't care. Better to address the false problem of trans predators in toilet stalls than the very real problems of trans students' high rates of being bullied and of depression and suicide. Casperson would likely argue that they brought it on themselves by choosing not to be "normal."

The State of LGBT Voters After the Wisconsin Primary

BY LISA KEEN

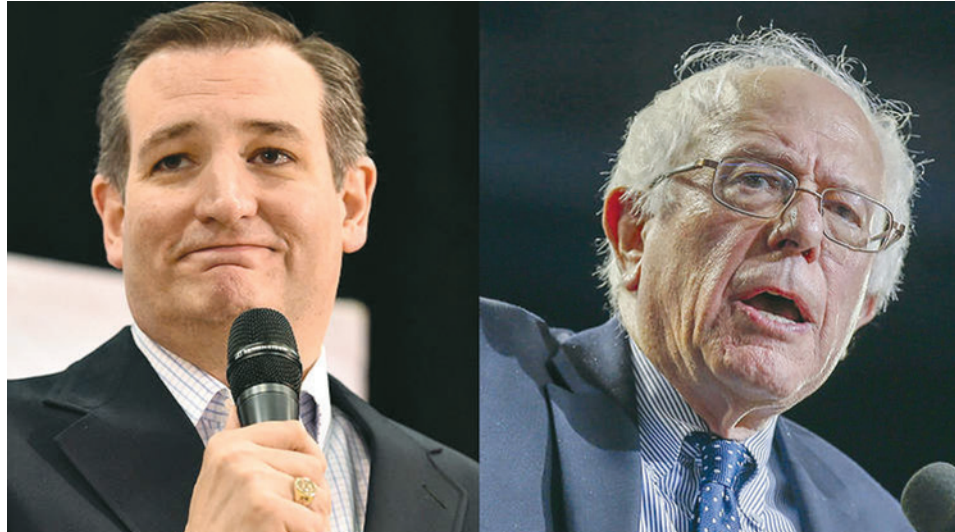
Last Tuesday's hotly contested Wisconsin primary produced some unusual political background noise for both Democrats and Republicans. U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders was compared to a Wisconsin statewide candidate who has said the feminist movement was full of "man-hating lesbians." An informal Twitter survey by Log Cabin Republicans found a majority of respondents saying "Never Trump." And a Politico report said the Republican Party is now expecting a big struggle at the convention over marriage for same-sex couples.

Sanders won the Democratic primary in the Badger State Tuesday. He took 57 percent of the Democratic vote, compared to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's 43 percent. At the end of the day, the delegate count for the nomination still heavily favors Clinton. She has 73 percent of the 2,383 delegates she needs to become the party's presidential nominee; Sanders has 44 percent. Sanders' campaign made an outreach to the LGBT community in Wisconsin. It handed out flyers outside an anniversary event of the Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce. Fair Wisconsin PAC, the state's largest LGBT political organization, endorsed Clinton. So did Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wisc., the first openly gay U.S. senator, who also published an opinion piece in the Milwaukee Journal encouraging others to support Clinton.

But U.S. Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Wisc., withheld his endorsement and finally announced March 31 that he would not endorse either of the "two great alternatives."

"There's really good things about both candidates," Pocan told Wisconsin Public Radio. "I love the aspirational tone and the vision that I think you're seeing out of Sen. Sanders' campaign, and I absolutely admire and am unbelievably impressed with the qualifications and the resume of Secretary Clinton." Except for conservative bisexual U.S. Rep. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., Pocan is the only openly LGBT member of Congress to not endorse Clinton.

Fair Wisconsin PAC Board Chair Nancy Nusbaum released a statement March 30 announcing her group's endorsement. She called Clinton a "champion for LGBT equality on both the domestic and international stage." "We are confident that she is the best candidate to continue and expand on the legacy of the Obama Administration as the most pro-fairness in history," said the statement. The endorsements of Baldwin and Fair Wisconsin PAC continue a trend, thus far, in endorsements by the LGBT community: Almost all are for Clinton. They include the



Ted Cruz and Bernie Sanders were winners of Wisconsin primary April 5.

Human Rights Campaign, the Congressional Equality PAC and LPAC, as well as most well-known LGBT leaders. And in early February, a marketing survey of 563 LGBT voters nationwide found that 48 percent would vote for Clinton, 41 percent for Sanders, 2 percent for Trump, and 1 percent each for Kasich and Rubio. Four percent were undecided.

The Democratic primary Tuesday became entangled in a prominent statewide race for a seat on the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Both Sanders and Clinton spoke out against incumbent candidate Rebecca Bradley after it was revealed that Bradley had written pieces for her college newspaper calling LGBT people and people with HIV "queers" and "degenerates" and calling homosexuality an "abnormal sexual preference." In a 1992 essay, she gleefully predicted the "demise" of the feminist movement, saying it was "largely composed of angry, militant, man-hating lesbians." Bradley, a recent appointee of Gov. Scott Walker to the bench, apologized for the essays she wrote as a student 25 years ago at Marquette University. She said she is now "embarrassed at the content and tone of what I wrote those many years ago." During a campaign speech Saturday in Milwaukee, Clinton said, "There is no place on any Supreme Court or any court in this country, no place at all for Rebecca Bradley's decades-long track record of dangerous rhetoric against women, survivors of sexual assault and the LGBT community." At a rally in Madison Sunday, Sanders said he thought a large turnout at the primary would help defeat Bradley and elect her challenger JoAnne Kloppenburg.

In an odd twist, a decades-old comment from Sanders was compared to a decades-old statement from Bradley. A former Republican state official, defending Bradley on Wisconsin

Public Radio, claimed that "Bernie Sanders said something very similar when he was in college." The official, Bill McCoshen, noted that Sanders, like Bradley, suggested women are partly responsible for date rape. PolitiFact, a column that scrutinizes the truthfulness of political claims, examined McCoshen's statement and called it "Half True." It noted that, in the 1992 essay, Bradley wrote that lesbian academic Camille Paglia "legitimately suggested that women play a role in date rape." In 1972, 31-year-old Sanders examined the changing roles of men and women and suggested women fantasize about being raped. PolitiFact concluded, "both Sanders and Bradley wrote about rape in ways that were offensive to some women." The fact that a Republican official in Wisconsin was able to call up the obscure Sanders quote for use in defending a Republican candidate suggests the Republican Party is as prepared to attack Sanders as a presidential nominee as it is Clinton. And the degree to which the GOP is in disarray over who will be its nominee lends a sense of urgency to its need for political ammunition.

The GOP Splintering

U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz won Tuesday's Republican primary in Wisconsin and, along with it, nearly all the state's 42 delegates. That puts him up to 514 delegates, or 42 percent of the 1,237 needed to win the GOP nomination. But while Cruz did some impressive catching up this week, real estate mogul Donald Trump still has 60 percent of the delegates he needs to become the Republican nominee. Ohio Gov. John Kasich has 12 percent.

The big news for the GOP this past week were the self-inflicted political wounds Trump suffered during the run-up to the Wisconsin

contest. He stumbled badly, miscalculating how voters would respond to his off-the-cuff pronouncements on abortion (women should be punished), his campaign manager being booked for assaulting a female reporter (it was the woman's fault), and allowing South Korea and Japan to have nuclear weapon capability (so the U.S. doesn't have to defend them). A Gallup Poll released April 1 showed 70 percent of women and 58 percent of men had an unfavorable opinion of Trump. But 48 percent of voters have an unfavorable view of Cruz, too.

At a CNN Town Hall meeting in Milwaukee March 29, an audience member asked Cruz "how and why does your religion play a part in your political decision-making? Don't you think it should be more of a moral belief and not something that can interfere with your decision-making when you're making decisions for all religions in the United States?" Cruz said his faith "is an integral part" of who he is but that he thinks "those in politics have an obligation not to wear their faith on their sleeve."

But just five days earlier, Cruz's "religious liberty" advisory council recommended that, as president, he implement a number of actions that would amount to wearing his faith on his office. In releasing their recommendations, Cruz said, "As president, I have pledged on my first day in office to rescind every single one of President Obama's unconstitutional executive actions, and to direct every federal agency to respect and protect the religious liberty of every American."

Politico.com reported Monday that some of the Republican Party's biggest donors are funding an effort to lobby Republican Party platform committee members to soften the language against marriage for same-sex couples. The article suggested it will be a "divisive battle" at what many expect will already be a very contentious convention over the party's nominee.

Log Cabin Republicans national president Gregory Angelo said Log Cabin has "worked closely" with those donors to lobby for a "more inclusive" platform. Log Cabin Republicans conducted an informal Twitter poll last month and found 62 percent of respondents saying "Never Trump." Only 17 percent said "Only Trump" and 21 percent said "Maybe Trump." The survey received replies from 166 people. Log Cabin's Angelo said his sense, in talking with Log Cabin members around the country, is that they "are essentially in parallel to the greater Republican electorate." "Every Republican organization in the country," said Angelo, "is having the same kind of soul-searching exercise Log Cabin is."

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Dems Put LGBT Leader in Legislature After Transgender Law

BY EMERY P. DALESIO

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) – Democrats in North Carolina's third-largest county on Saturday voted to send a leading gay-rights advocate to the state Legislature for its annual session beginning later this month.

Members of the Guilford County Democratic Party executive committee picked Equality North Carolina Executive Director Chris Sgro over another candidate, party Chairwoman Myra Slone said. Sgro was elected by about 40 Democratic activists who live in the 58th District of the state House of Representatives, she said. He will complete the term ending this year of Rep. Ralph Johnson, who died last month.

Sgro said his top priority for the General Assembly session starting April 25 will be repealing a new state law that limits anti-discrimination protections for lesbian, gay and transgender people.

"I am going to be focused on being an advocate for the LGBT community," said Sgro, who will be the only openly gay member of the General Assembly once he's sworn in. He was an aide to former U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan.

Sgro has been a leader in the opposition to the state law, which also requires transgender people to use public bathrooms conforming with their sex at birth. His organization and the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina sued in federal court to overturn the law, claiming it attempts to legalize discrimination.

Johnson died the night of last month's primary elections, which he lost to Guilford County school board member Amos Quick. Without a Republican general election opponent, Quick will begin his own two-year term in January.

The law was introduced, adopted and took effect on March 23. Supporters since then have held a series of prayer vigils, including one Saturday in Jacksonville attended by about 150 people and 10 opponents, WCTI reported.

But the law's opponents have been loud and extensive. States and major cities have banned public employees from optional travel to North Carolina, PayPal reversed plans to open a 400-employee operation center in Charlotte, and more than 130 corporate CEOs signed a letter urging the law's repeal. Bruce Springsteen canceled a show scheduled for Sunday in Greensboro, saying in a statement on his website that "some things are more important than a rock show and this fight against prejudice and bigotry – which is happening as I write – is one of them."

The head of North Carolina's flagship public university said the law is threatening the flow of private-sector money from donors and businesses to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"There are implications to us, ranging from conferences that will no longer send delegates to North Carolina and our campus," Chancellor Carol Folt wrote in a statement to students and faculty Friday. "Current and prospective donors who are signaling a reconsideration of their gifts, grants and relationships with businesses that are now in jeopardy."

A Charlotte tourism official said at least four groups already have canceled events in the city because of the law. Charlotte could lose dozens of events that would represent millions of dollars in visitor spending, Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority spokeswoman Laura White told The Charlotte Observer.



How to Change Attitudes Toward LGBT People

BY BOB ROEHR

A directed conversation as short as 10 minutes can change attitudes about transgender people and increase support for nondiscrimination legislation, according to a new study prominently published April 7 in the influential journal *Science*. The techniques likely are also applicable to addressing homophobia.

The approach is called "deep canvassing" and involves going door-to-door talking with voters about discrimination. Rather than talk at a voter, the focus is on engaging the voter to talk about their personal experience with discrimination, and then see how it relates to discrimination against others.

"The single most powerful thing we do is when we get the voter to remember and then speak aloud their real life experience that is relevant to the issue we are talking about," says Dave Fleischer. He played a leading role in developing the approach as director of the Los Angeles LGBT Center Leadership LAB.

"Part of the value is that the voter sees for themselves a connection between whatever experience they have had

with people judging them, or being prejudiced against them or a loved one, and the kind of judgment, unkindness and prejudice that transgender people face."

The effort began in the wake of the heart-breaking passage of California Prop 8, which banned same-sex marriage in that state. The loss was particularly shocking because polls had shown the pro-gay side ahead. Fleischer says that after the results came in, "We knew we didn't understand well enough what was on the minds of these voters."

An initial evaluation of the approach to address homophobia, by UCLA graduate student Michael LaCour and Columbia University political science professor Donald Green, made a big splash when it was published in *Science* in December 2014.

The LA Center subsequently engaged then University of California Berkeley graduate students David Brockman and Joshua Kalla to evaluate applying the approach to issues of transgender discrimination, in South Florida. While preparing for that study it became clear to the researchers that LaCour had completely fabricated much if not all of the data he used. Green was appalled and

promptly withdrew the paper.

The Miami study used an online survey to create broad baseline profiles of voters willing to participate in that activity for small compensation such as a gift card. It chose a cross section of voters in conservative neighborhoods that earlier had voted against gay rights legislation. Then volunteer canvassers were sent to knock on doors and talk with specific people, not informing them of how they were selected. Attitudes were reevaluated through online surveys at several points after the face-to-face discussion.

"The canvasser does very little talking, just like a therapist, only with a voter," says Brockman, now an assistant professor of political economy at Stanford University. He calls the interaction "a kind of theoretical cousin to cognitive behavioral therapy" in psychology.

While individual voter's views changed in various degrees and directions, overall the simple 10 to 15-minute conversation had a significant effect on total voter attitudes towards transgender people and their willingness to support nondiscrimination legislation. Brockman says it is similar to the extent

While individual voter's views changed in various degrees and directions, overall the simple 10 to 15-minute conversation had a significant effect on total voter attitudes towards transgender people and their willingness to support nondiscrimination legislation. Brockman says it is similar to the extent that America's views of gays changed between 1998 and 2012.

that America's views of gays changed between 1998 and 2012.

As part of a follow up online survey some weeks later, the voters were shown a transphobic video used by opponents in a Houston campaign. It had some effect on people who did not have a face-to-face conversation with a canvasser but barely dented attitudes of those who had that conversation.

Ironically, the very public transition of Bruce to Caitlyn Jenner played out in the media a month before the canvassing began, but Brockman says it appears to have had little effect. "Anecdotally, I don't think that one person in our study mentioned her in their comments and very, very rarely was it ever brought up. Most Americans do not have a media diet that gays and lesbians do."

Why It Works

Kenneth Sherrill, the guru of gay political science and emeritus professor at Hunter College in New York, was impressed by the methodology used in the study and particularly by the durability of the change in attitudes. It suggests to him, "If you talk to people face-to-face in their home, you change their opinion more than you do in other ways."

The LGBT community has long been told of the importance of coming out and telling their stories. When people hear and understand the discrimination they will empathize and their attitudes will change.

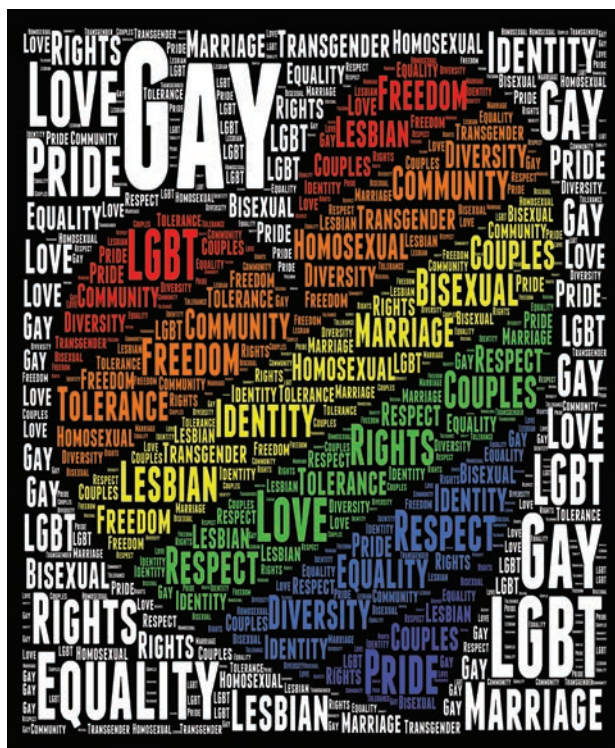
Fleischer believes this type of playing the victim card "is not enough, and it may not even be meaningful. I think what happens when we tell our stories, especially about something with emotional significance for us, coming out, our experiencing prejudice, we make ourselves vulnerable. What that communicates to the voter really powerfully is, whatever story they are going to tell us, we are not going to judge them."

That vulnerability and openness, combined with listening, makes a real conversation possible. He says, "That is why so many

of the voters remember and share with us these emotional, powerful stories of their own experience. It is reflecting back on that voters realize that they would prefer to judge less and be judged less, and to support more." And it helps to explain why the change in attitude lasts.

Fleischer acknowledges that deep canvassing is a slow process to implement, not like a last minute television ad blitz. He believes it is something the LGBT community should be doing on a regular basis, much like exercise in one's everyday life, to incrementally change the social and political environment.

The end goal should not be simply a piece of legislation or ballot measure that extends



or withdraws certain legal protections; it should be a change in attitude that makes such protections superfluous or unnecessary.

"Our real goal should be to reduce the prejudice against us, so as we go about living our lives, it's not a big deal if we are in a restaurant and hold the hand of our partner. And when somebody presumes we are gay, that doesn't mean that they might treat us less well," says Fleischer. "If that is the goal, then this (approach) is extraordinarily valuable."



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ABC Anchor on Mississippi Law: Equal Treatment for Everyone

BY JEFF AMY

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) – Robin Roberts said Friday that “it hurts my soul” that someone might not be welcome in Mississippi because of a law saying religious groups and some private businesses can cite moral beliefs to deny services to lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender people.

The tourism industry in a place that calls itself the “Hospitality State” has been getting slammed with criticism after Republican Gov. Phil Bryant signed the law Tuesday, saying he wanted to protect freedom of conscience for religious people.

Some opponents to the law have pointed out the incongruity that the co-anchor of ABC’s “Good Morning America,” with roots in the Gulf Coast town of Pass Christian, is on the cover of this year’s guide published by the private Mississippi Tourism Association. Roberts hasn’t been shy about her love for Amber Laign since announcing on the last day of 2013 that she’s lesbian.

“My longtime partner, Amber, and I have always felt welcomed in my home state, and it hurts my soul to think of anyone not feeling welcome,” Roberts said in the statement. “It’s

always been a deeply held belief of mine that everyone, everywhere should be treated equally. I’m proud that my beloved mother and father taught me as a child growing up in Mississippi to focus on the many things we all have in common, not our few differences. And what we all deserve to have in common is the right to be treated equally.”

Roberts said she agreed to be on the cover “last year well before recent events.” She’s much beloved on the Gulf Coast for her advocacy of the region after the devastation of 2005’s Hurricane Katrina. The 55-year-old moved to Mississippi in 1969 when her father was assigned to Biloxi’s Keesler Air Force Base.

Unlike some, Roberts didn’t call for tourists to boycott Mississippi. It’s unclear whether she’s contacted state government to express her displeasure or asked the association to remove her from the guide. A spokeswoman for ABC declined further comment.

Mississippi’s law, effective July 1, would allow a church group to decline services including housing or adoption to gay couples. Private businesses could refuse marriage-related services such as room rentals, cakes, photography or flowers. Any employer or

school could refuse to allow a transgender person to use the bathroom of their choice. Among government employees, clerks could refuse to issue marriage licenses and judges could refuse to marry gay couples. In both cases, governments are supposed to ensure licenses and marriages are “not impeded or delayed.”

No state or local laws to compel services to gay people had been passed in Mississippi. The measure prohibits local communities from passing their own ordinances.

Rochelle Hicks, executive director of the Mississippi Tourism Association, said earlier Friday that some individual tourists have been calling member hotels and casinos to cancel visits. She couldn’t be reached later after Roberts released her statement.

“We hope they will recognize the law doesn’t represent the views of all in our state,” Hicks said.

Some supporters have pushed back against criticism. The Tupelo-based American Family Association on Friday said opposition had been spearheaded by “gay activists and state business organizations who are hostile to Christianity.”

“By voting ‘yes’ to the ‘Protecting Freedom



Robin Roberts and girlfriend, Amber Laign, attend Wimbledon in 2013. The two have been dating for eleven years. Photo courtesy of ABC news.

of Conscience from Government Discrimination Act,’ our governor and lawmakers heard the voices of their constituents and cast their vote for our residents’ freedom of religious conscience rather than for vocal and wealthy gay activists,” association President Tim Wildmon said in a statement.

Online: House Bill 1523: <http://bit.ly/1qo4guX>

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While 21 percent of Michigan residents continue to engage in tobacco consumption, nearly 30 percent of LGBT individuals in the state consume tobacco, making tobacco use a leading cause of excess, preventable mortality among LGBT people.

Michigan LGBT Community Centers Offer 2016 Smoking Cessation Programs

BY AJ TRAGER

In an effort to end nicotine and tobacco addiction for LGBT Michigan residents, LGBT community centers across the state have teamed up to provide a multitude of programs and cessation techniques to help smokers quit.

Tobacco consumption is responsible for nearly 480,000 deaths annually in the United States, nearly 10 percent of which are due to secondhand smoke, according to the Center for Disease Control. While overall rates of consumption have been slowly reduced over time, rates in certain target groups, such as the LGBT community, remain higher than average.

While 21 percent of Michigan residents continue to engage in tobacco consumption, nearly 30 percent of LGBT individuals in the state consume tobacco, making tobacco use a leading cause of excess, preventable mortality among LGBT people.

LGBT community centers across the state are currently engaging with their constituents to educate them about these tobacco cessation initiatives. With support and coordination from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), the centers have collected wellness data from over 1,400 LGBT individuals. The program provided specialized training to both state of Michigan staff and professionals at the state-sponsored Quitline, an evidence-based support tool to assist people in smoking cessation. The training seeks to ensure LGBT cultural competency and a positive quitting experience for LGBT people who seek help via the QuitLine or other state

resources.

But what else are they doing?

LGBT Detroit and HIV/AIDS Affected Communities

“Breaking the Cycle is a campaign that I’m very proud of and highlights three areas of our work: ending HIV/AIDS, seeking and providing mental health counseling and ending tobacco use,” said Curtis Lipscomb, Executive Director of LGBT Detroit. “Weekly and daily messages are sent out via social media to reach people where they are – on their devices.”

Through data based research, LGBT Detroit’s program, Breaking The Cycle, addresses issues of substance abuse and recovery in the LGBT community. In partnership with the Michigan Department of Community Health Tobacco Section, LGBT Detroit disseminates information about tobacco usage in the LGBT/HIV community, how to quit, stay healthy and seek HIV/AIDS testing sites and care providers. Breaking The Cycle is a state of Michigan licensed program for substance abuse with bi-monthly tobacco use and prevention meetings.

LGBT Detroit has now been accredited by the University of Massachusetts Medical School Center for Tobacco Treatment and Research Training and has been licensed by the state of Michigan Substance Abuse Department to be an authority on the conversation surrounding tobacco cessation, specifically in HIV/AIDS affected communities. As an LGBT organization rooted in HIV education and prevention, Lipscomb says the challenge is to systematically work against smoking as

it impacts everyone, specifically HIV/AIDS affected communities.

Tobacco users are at a heightened risk of developing lung cancer and other cancers, heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma and other diseases and early death. The CDC reports that smoking causes nearly one out of every five deaths in the U.S. each year. For these reasons, smoking is a significant health issue for all individuals, but it is even more of a concern for people living with HIV, who tend to smoke more than the general population. According to the CDC, approximately 19 percent of adults in the U.S. are smokers. However, the smoking rate is two to three times higher among adults who are HIV-positive.

“In Detroit, with marijuana, you see these institutions that encourage smoking – it’s people inhaling smoke, and people believing that hookah usage is safer,” Lipscomb said. “There’s a lack of education on that and there’s very little education on the effects of smoking. People know it causes cancer. But there’s no advertising for quitting or respiratory damage. For those of us that are working in organizations that are targeting LGBT people, it’s hard to engage with this public habit. It’s a legal substance that people can buy at a convenience store and use publicly.”

LGBT Detroit has launched its first survey addressing smoking rates of LGBT Detroiters affected by HIV/AIDS. With support from the Michigan Department of Community Health, LGBT Detroit will gather data to create messaging for furthering tobacco prevention in these populations.

Perceptions and Targeting Multiple Communities

Perceptions, the LGBT community center serving the Great Lakes Bay Region, has partnered with MDHHS on the HIV/TOBACCO Program. The program is designed to provide awareness and education for the general public and the AIDS Service Organizations (ASOs) not only in the Great Lakes Bay Region, but reaching the northern communities of Traverse City and Marquette.

Perceptions is creating focus groups for LGBT members thinking about or trying to quit smoking. The organization has offered cessation-focused presentations in the past and is looking to develop a more strategic approach with the programming.

In the meantime, Perceptions is partnering with DOW Chemical and their health services arm to develop some educational materials that will be used within the company itself as well as the surrounding community.

“There are a number of people that want to quit. That’s the messaging we’re receiving,” said Perceptions Board Chair Chris Lauckner. “Between the work of Perceptions and the work with partners including the ASOs, the Central Michigan District Health Dept. and Sacred Heart in Saginaw, I would say that we are in the midst of gathering that data at this point.”

The organization covers an extremely diverse and wide number of communities including the Great Lakes Bay Region of Midland, Saginaw, Bay City and Isabella; the

See Quit Smoking, page 26



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HEALTH & WELLNESS

'Playing Ball' in the LGBT League

BY AJ TRAGER

ROCHESTER HILLS – Fifteen years ago when Robert Hellar joined the Metro Detroit Softball League (MDSL), the 10-team league was largely a group for men – gay men to be precise – to get together and play ball. After expanding the group to include more than 500 members in 2015, Hellar expects this year to be one of the most active the organization has seen to date.

“When I first joined it was mostly male populated. Now it’s a nice mixture of men and women. The league has grown,” said Hellar, who serves as commissioner for MDSL. “For over 30 years we have made ourselves known in the LGBT community as the softball league but have grown in the larger tri-county area to be established as the LGBT softball league. We’ve opened up the eyes of the community as a whole to an LGBT league.”

MDSL consists of 28 teams each sporting roughly 20 players. Each team is assigned a team manager who is responsible for determining how often practices are held, picking out which type of jersey the team will wear and picking a mascot based off of the style and personality of the sponsor of the team.

Each team is assigned a different sponsor. This year, Hellar’s team is sponsored by O’Hara’s Irish Pub. Whereas years in the past he has been able to easily choose a mascot that corresponds with the sponsor, he’s having some trouble this year figuring out which image would be best to represent O’Haras. However, he has chosen green, white and black as the team colors.

The league begins their season the first Sunday in May and will run virtually every weekend until just before labor day. The teams break for national holidays such as Memorial Day and are off for two weeks around the Fourth of July but continue to play on Mother’s and Father’s Day.

This year’s kick off party will be hosted April 29 at Pronto beginning at 6 p.m. A special wrist band will be handed out to MDSL guests which will provide them with drink specials, a chance to meet MDSL team members and sponsors, and a chance to hang out and support one another.

“I love the sport in general. I grew up playing sports. Since I’m in my 40s now, I know it’s a sport I know I

can play. I know I can play it without getting injured. I like that there are three divisions. If I get older and feel like I’m not as strong, I can bump down. I like the camaraderie that you get with people – the bonds and relationships that you make – it’s an overall fun sport. Some of these people eat, live and drink softball and that’s how it is,” Hellar said

Members are split into three skill levels ranging from novice to advanced. This year Between The Lines is an advanced level, or competitive team sponsor for a

bar of the week,” where the chosen bar will offer cheap drink specials equipped with hat and karaoke contests as well as 50/50 raffles.

Hellar says that there are other LGBT softball leagues on the west side of the state, based out of Grand Rapids, but the MDSL far outshines the west Michigan group from sheer member numbers alone.

“We’re one of the largest leagues in the country,” Hellar said. “Detroit is a baseball city. People get hooked into the



team whose sponsor discontinued their financial support of the league. Hellar told BTL that their team is rip, roaring and ready to go for the 2016 season.

Of the 500 members, Hellar says that 85 percent of the league is LGBT. He knows every single one of them, even the members who consider themselves “retired” from the game, and even met his partner at an MDSL kick-off party six years ago.

“A lot of people have found friends and partners through softball – it happens,” he said. This year Hellar and his partner will play on the same team.

Knowing that it’s hard to get all 500 MDSL members together, the league holds events, games and fundraisers all year round including a holiday party in December, drag shows and “Sunday

game. I’m amazed some of my players are in two or three different leagues. I’m down to two leagues.”

Every three years Detroit is home to the Midwest Invitational Softball Tournament which travels between Cincinnati, Cleveland and Detroit. Detroit will host the 2017 MIST.

There is still time to sign up and be a part of the MDSL tournaments. MDSL does not follow “men’s rules” and does host co-ed softball teams. Those interested need only be 18 years of age or older and be willing to pay the \$40 annual membership fee and cover team jersey costs.

There is still time to sign up and be a part of the MDSL 2016 experience. To learn more about MDSL, or to sign up and play, visit their website at <http://mdsl.org>.



From 'Love' to Love: LGBT Tennis in the Motor City

BY AJ TRAGER

LIVONIA – Tim Ross loves tennis. He started playing the sport when he was in fifth grade and has continued to follow his passion for the sport, not only in his routine tennis matches, but also in team management.

He has been playing with the Motor City Tennis Alliance (MCTA) since the 1990s when the organization was less active and had significantly less than the 50-70 members it has maintained in recent years. Today, Ross serves as the vice president of the organization and plays an integral role in organizing the 12th Motor City Tennis Classic, an annual tennis tournament held at the Franklin Athletic Club in Southfield.

“I love being involved with MCTL. I feel like I’m not only giving back to tennis but also to the LGBT community. I feel like I’m a part of it. I like donating my time to a worthy cause,” Ross said.

The MCTA was established in 1991 for LGBT tennis players to come together and enjoy the competitiveness and joy of the sport without being harassed or discriminated against. The group is as inclusive as one can get, accepting members of all sexualities and gender identities so long as the interested party is over the age of 18.

Players of any skill level can join the MCTA, which offers games of varying levels of intensity ranging from beginners matches to pro or club level tennis bouts. They cater to everyone, including mixed doubles with co-ed teams.

Unlike professional tennis, MCTA hosts opportunities for players to face off year around. During the summer MCTA hosts singles and doubles leagues which play in Ferndale or Livonia, and in the winter members can sign up for doubles games on Sundays at the Franklin Athletic Club. For \$20

players can enjoy two hours of tennis, food, fun and prizes at the Saturday Night Doubles Mixers held every other Saturday at Franklin Athletic Club.

“I love the sport. It’s great fitness. Tennis helps you develop hand-eye coordination; it’s aerobic and can be team oriented. Not only does it really help ground your life and fulfill you, but it helps your spirit. Getting on the court and playing develops camaraderie,” Ross said.

Even though Ross is engaged with other tennis teams in the area, the MCTA holds a special place in his heart as one of the first community spaces where he felt comfortable coming out of the closet back in the ‘90s.

“The Motor City Tennis Alliance saved my life,” Ross admitted. “I was in the closet – I wasn’t openly gay. Getting out and playing on the court and meeting other gay people playing on the court really gave me a sense of community and a stronger sense of self. I’m not afraid of being who I am or doing what I do.”


For just \$25 a year, MCTA members enjoy the benefits of an intricate social atmosphere while participating in outdoor games and building community relationships. Along with the singles and doubles tournaments, MCTA hosts annual fundraisers and banquets that gather monetary contributions that are then donated to nonprofit organizations in the area such as Affirmations and Gilda’s Club.

This year’s spring and summer season will begin on May 14 and will carry through to just before Labor Day when MCTA plays its last game of the season at Stevenson High School in Livonia on Aug. 27. MCTA is always looking for new members to join. Interested parties can contact Ross at 248-224-3076.

To learn more about the MCTL, visit their website at www.motorcitytennis.com.



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► Quit Smoking

Continued from p. 22

northern tier counties of the state including Clare and Gladwin and even reaches out to folks in the Tuscola and Huron counties.

“The dispersion of the community in the area is so wide. It’s very different when you live in the southern part of the state where the population is so centralized. The LGBT community is much more isolated because of the dispersion,” Lauckner said.

Grand Rapids Pride Center, Tobacco Marketing and Youth Tobacco Use

In conjunction with MDHHS, ASOs and other LGBT community centers throughout the state, the Grand Rapids Pride Center, formally known as The Network, has launched Proud to Quit in an effort to reduce the loss

of LGBT lives to tobacco use. The initiative releases information, spurs conversation and connects LGBT people with smoking cessation resources.

The center became involved in the initiative two years ago when Michigan LGBT community centers gathered data on the wellness experiences of LGBT folks. The Proud to Quit campaign was designed with the understanding that not everybody is ready to quit, so it focuses instead on making information and tools available to LGBT people and emphasizing that LGBT lives matter.

“When we started digging in, we had a good look at the data, about how many LGBT lives are lost to smoking, and about how smoking was actually the greatest preventable killer of our community, ahead of things like hate crimes. We also came to understand that, while most of America is just learning to embrace openly LGBT people living in our communities, tobacco marketing had extremely sophisticated hooks into our community and had them for many years already,” Pride Center member Mira Krishnan, Ph.D., told BTL.

On top of its education initiatives, raising tobacco education and awareness in the LGBT community via social media and its website, the GRPC has also offered the first round of tobacco cessation classes at the center. The first round included four weeks of cessation programming with a special presentation by a cessation expert.

The next step for GRPC will be to follow up the launch with additional cessation programming designed by the state to be a non-confrontational way to engage people in tobacco cessation.

“We know that the LGBT community has young smokers. Particularly we have at risk young adults and the trans population which tends to be younger as well. We also have a lot of smokers that match the demographic that the state has been seeing, which is people 40-45 years old who have been smoking for 20 years, Krishnan pointed out. “We’re trying to learn how to engage professionally and engage with people who might not be ready to quit but are ready to hear that we care about their health and that caring about their own health is about being a proud, out, LGBT person.”

Smoking becomes a part of someone’s lifestyle and begins to affect every part of the day between driving in the car and hanging out with friends to managing stress relief. Krishnan notes that it’s not uncommon for her to see a group of smokers outside before and after the trans support groups she attends at the center. While smoking can play a role in navigating quick and easy conversations with new people, Krishnan believes it’s time to redefine the LGBT lifestyle.

“One of the things we have to think about is to prove to our community that we belong,” she said. “We have to take better care of ourselves and create affirming spaces for those struggling with tobacco and alcohol to help them stay sober and off tobacco.”

The Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center

“The Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center has been very excited about the growing momentum behind LGBT tobacco cessation in Michigan!” the KGLRC Director of Community Engagement, Meg Bauer, said. “We’ve incorporated tobacco-use realities into all of our inclusivity trainings and have been eager to deliver cessation messages and resources to all of our partners. From therapists and medical providers to homeless shelters and ASOs, the pro-equality and anti-tobacco messages are becoming indivisible.”

The KGLRC actively participates in an anti-tobacco social media campaign which urges positivity and strength in making quit attempts.



Thanks in larger part to the organization’s Facebook posts, a donor recently decided to quit once and for all and was able to do so. Last Baur heard, the donor was 45 days tobacco free.

In order for the LGBT community to thrive, it has to first survive. With tobacco use for parts of the LGBT community being over three times as high as the state average, the KGLRC says it has an obligation to prioritize tobacco use reduction among the LGBT and HIV communities. The organization will host four contemplation/pre-contemplation classes for current tobacco users in June and July and encourages anyone in the area who is interested to contact Bauer at Meg@kgllrc.org.

Affirmations, Ferndale

Affirmations works to address the high rates of tobacco use within LGBTQ communities by promoting the Michigan Tobacco Quitline, by conducting focus groups, and by creating social media campaigns about effective ways to quit for LGBT people.

The Affirmations What’s Your Why? campaign was launched in the fall and attempts to switch the typical anti-tobacco messaging from fear-based tactics to a focus on the positive reasons people decide to quit. The campaign is designed by LGBT people for LGBT people and features local community

members both in the making of the materials and in the posters themselves.

“We intently used a very positive approach to it, so it’s a pro-health message and not a shaming ‘Why don’t you just quit?’ message,” Affirmations Director of Programs, Lydia Ahlum Hanson said. “A lot of our current cessation work is building on that.”

In addition to the social media campaign, Affirmations also hosts a monthly Healthy Living Series that explores a variety of health-based activities to offer community members an opportunity to identify new habits and healthy living alternatives to tobacco use. The April meeting will focus exclusively on tobacco cessation.

“There’s definitely a lot of resistance within the LGBT community to really talk about our significantly higher use of tobacco than

the general population. We don’t want to be doing that in the shaming way that would increase stigma, but instead to offer support and acknowledge how incredibly hard it is to quit,” Hanson said.

Affirmations regularly meets with local and state policymakers to discuss current tobacco policy. Current conversations include increasing the age one can purchase tobacco, getting e-cigarettes to be classified as a tobacco product and increasing taxes on tobacco products so that cigarettes and mini cigars are taxed the same.

Affirmations has two contracts with the State of Michigan. One they’ve had for several years that funded the What’s Your Why? campaign and a second contract dedicated to working on tobacco cessation in HIV affected communities.

“In many ways Affirmations was the only LGBT group at the table (when discussing tobacco cessation and HIV/AIDS affected populations with the State of Michigan). If the State really wanted to make change in these communities, we figured they had to give grants to other organizations not just Affirmations and widen that reach. And the State then found other money and now LGBT Detroit, the KGLRC, Perceptions and the Grand Rapids Pride Center are all on board. It’s a really great model for Michigan to have taken,” Hanson said.

Webinar: Healthcare Stigma Facing Transgender Individuals

From Access to Policy and Care to Treatment

Hosted by the National Coalition for LGBT Health, an April 20 webinar will discuss the numerous stigmas impacting the delivery of healthcare for transgender individuals.

Presenters for the hour long webinar beginning at 2 p.m. EST will include: Alison Gill, senior partner at The Parallax Group, who will discuss LGBTQ cultural competency requirements for providers; Anand Kalra, health program manager at the Transgender Law Center, will discuss insurance practices that impact access to care for trans people; Danielle Castro, project director for Center of Excellence for Transgender Health, will discuss data collection, access to care and treatment of trans individuals; and Omar Gonzalez-Pagan, staff attorney for Lambda Legal, will discuss legal protections and Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act.

LGBT health professionals, clinical providers, behavioral health providers, service providers, health policymakers and consumers of healthcare are encouraged to attend.

To sign up for the webinar, contact Ryan Meyer at ryan@healthlgbt.org or by phone at 202-507-4735.



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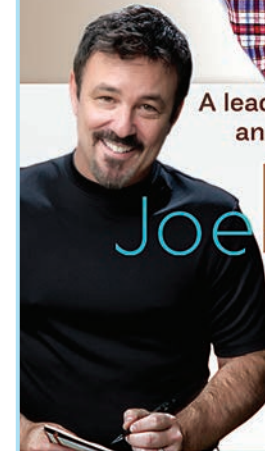
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KING TITUSS

'Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt' Actor on Season 2 & His Viral Sensation 'Peeno Noir'

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

The Internet loves a good penis pun. One of 2015's biggest breakout stars, Tituss Burgess, discovered this fact last year, when the "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt" actor's already-escalating showbiz profile reached new heights thanks to a song he sang called "Peeno Noir: An Ode to Black Penis."

So Burgess can retire now, right?

"Oh no, I'm just getting started," says Burgess, who originated "Sebastian the Crab" in the musical version of "The Little Mermaid." "There are so many races to love on!"

Not to mention, there's also the second – and hopefully third, fourth and eighth – season of Netflix's "Unbreakable." The 37-year-old plays Titus (a variation on his real name, with just one "s"), an aspiring and very gay Broadway performer who lives with an unworldly doomsday-cult survivor named Kimmy (Ellie Kemper).

But back to that penis song...

What was it like seeing "Peeno Noir" take off the way it did?

I don't know that I gave it as much thought or attention as attention was paid to it, and that'd be the honest truth. I mean, obviously I paid attention because I launched my own line of Pinot Noir (called "Pinot by Tituss"), but it was lovely to know that people thought it was funny and had taken ownership of it, but it's become something other than what it initially was. People recite those words and tell me that their office breaks out into it just as release – no one's thinking about what it actually meant – so it's taken on a life of its own separate from the show. But it's awesome and I love it, and I hope they find something as equally exciting and satisfying about this season as they did last season.

We get to learn more about Titus's "straight life" this season. Who were you during your straight life?

Gay! (Laughs) Honestly, I had a formal conversation with my mom when I was 19, but I don't know that I was ever in the closet, if I'm being perfectly honest. I never had the "I have to tell the world" mindset.

How much of the character is you?

I'm gonna be honest with you: very little. We share a similar wicked sense of humor and we both, of course, love musical theater and Diana Ross, but my energy lives a lot lower to the ground than his does and I don't yearn for the spotlight the way he does. The fact is, I really, really enjoy my alone time, so I don't crave that the way my character does. In fact, by the time we're done filming the season, I'm quite exhausted. He requires such a high level of vibration, and so by the time it's done, I'm happy to hang him up for a few months.

Titus's breakthrough moment this season involves him in geisha garb. I'm just waiting to hear what the critics have to say about that.

Oooh lord. When I read that script I thought, "Jesus. Last year it was the wolf (Jacqueline, who is "American Indian," unleashed a primal howl during the finale); this year it's gonna be the geisha."

How prepared are you for any backlash?

Oh, I'm prepared. I've had six months to prep for the harsh criticism. The thing about (creators) Tina (Fey) and Robert (Carlock) is, they don't shy away from the current climate of the

country, and while on a surface level it might seem like they're giving these silly stereotypes a platform, I think it's just sort of exacerbating what we have become so sensitive to. But if it's a headline, my friend, it is fair game.

Tina and Robert are two of the most informed people I've ever met, and sometimes we get scripts and I think, "Surely this has not happened somewhere," or, "Surely this is something that they've made up." So I'll get on the Internet and there it is. The transracial storyline – people feeling as though as they remember past lives – when I read these headlines, it's funny because it's so unbelievable. So yeah, it's a fine line, but they treat it with great sensitivity and great class – and it is, after all, a comedy.

Are there ever times where you're like, "Tina, no, no – too far."

Yeah – the geisha episode! I didn't wanna do it.

What were you hesitant about?

I'm in white face, man! I didn't want anyone to think I was disrespecting a culture. But what we did was make certain that, while it's funny, he's extremely sincere about what has happened to him. He's for real, and as long as he's for real in his interpretation and his acknowledgement of his past lives then it's not offensive. There's something oddly touching about the end of that episode, and I think it also serves a greater storyline, which is, Titus has finally taken the initiative to take control of his career. No one else is giving him a job, so he wrote one for himself, so that is what's smart about it.

What do you think when people call Titus a stereotype?

I think they didn't see the same show that I filmed. Titus is more everyman than Jacqueline, Kimmy or Lillian. He's broke, he can't afford to pay his rent, he's chasing this career that has not materialized, he has trouble in relationships, at least last season, and he is not a size 32 in the waist. He gets rejected when he attempts to do something good with his life, even if it's one of his bizarre "this is gonna make me famous" excursions. Most Americans are living lives unfulfilled. Most Americans don't have the money that Jacqueline has. Most Americans, especially black people, don't get away with committing murder like Lillian did. So they're not paying attention, that's what I think.

Your performance of Diana Ross's "Believe in Yourself" while accepting the Human Rights Campaign's Visibility Award late last year was so moving. Why is being out and visible important to you?

Honey, how much time do you have? (Laughs) I know what dark places feel like and I know what the absence of love and community feels like, and if I had a me when I was growing up to see, I would have perhaps been familiar to you guys a lot sooner than two years ago. For that reason, I don't want any young person or any old person to not acknowledge who they came into the world being through all of their past lives. This current one that you're experiencing is one that should be fully realized – otherwise you are the walking dead and what is the point?



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The Naked Magicians to Enchant Royal Oak

BY BTL STAFF

Following sold out shows and rave reviews in Australia, New Zealand, Asia and the U.S., the world's boldest and cheekiest magic show, "The Naked Magic Show," is coming to Royal Oak.

What AussieTheatre.com.au calls, "The most entertaining show of the year" and Australian Arts Review calls "the hottest ticket in town," the show features magic, mirth and more than a touch of mayhem as the two hot and hilarious magicians say abracadabra and take magic to a whole new level. Left without sleeves or pockets, their saucy magic is baffling and entertaining, bringing a new meaning to "now you see it."

Christopher Wayne and Mike Tyler are the two nude illusionists. Wayne, as co-creator and co-star, has a wit quicker than Kim Kardashian's first marriage and is often confused as a Macklemore look-a-like. He is the proud owner of a freakingly long tongue and an entertainment resume as impressive as his broad climbable shoulders.

Originally known as the "clothed" magician on Channel 10's long-running kids TV program, Christopher then became the first Australian magician in TV history to have his own TV series, "More Than Magic," which aired in Australia, New Zealand, England and the U.S. Wayne also spent four years as the head comedy writer for Queensland's favorite breakfast radio show "B105" and continues regular guest spots on several radio stations in Australia.

He is a passionate and outspoken advocate for LGBT rights, and is an ambassador for the Royal Children's Hospital Foundation in his home city of Brisbane, Australia. He is

happiest on stage in front of thousands of fans with his sleeves up and pants down

Tyler, also co-creator and co-star, bills himself as "the complete package of funny, athletic, sexy and good with his hands." Getting his gear off has always come naturally to Tyler who was a competitive swimmer competing at the National Championships and Pan Pacific Games – his website profile suggests keeping an eye out for his incredible physique and sporty tan lines on stage as proof. After attending school through a scholarship, he completed a university degree but soon realized his dream of becoming an entertainer with a quick wit, modest ego and incredible sleight-of-hand skill.

At the age of 31, Mike is in a full-time relationship with his career, adventure and travel. He is considered one of Australia's favorite and most successful entertainers performing over 250 "clothed" shows for the biggest companies and sporting teams in the country. He has performed countless times to millions of people on TV in Australia, New Zealand and the U.S., while performing magic in 10 countries around the world.

This boisterous R-rated magic show strips away the top hats and capes, promising full frontal illusions. Good magicians don't need sleeves and great magicians don't need pants. This show proves just that.

"The Naked Magicians" will be at the Royal Oak Music Theatre on Saturday, April 30; doors are at 7 p.m. Tickets for the show are \$35-45 with reserved seating, and the show is for those 18 and older. Royal Oak Music Theatre is located at 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. Visit www.axs.com for more information.



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Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, April 14

OUTcasts: LGBTQ Homless Youth Surviving in the South 5:30 p.m. Equality Research Center, 329 King Hall, **Ypsilanti**. nrchar8@emich.edu www.Facebook.com/events/258681631132777/

The Last Bookstore Standing 5:30 p.m. A Reception and Silent Auction Benefiting Common Language Bookstore. Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction. Proceeds from the event will allow them to upgrade hardware, software and the online store. Tickets: \$35. Common Language Bookstore, **Ann Arbor**. Glibtbooks.com

Panel Discussion on Medical and Mental Health of Trans/Gender Non-conforming youth 7 p.m. Free and open to the public. Temple Israel, 5725 Walnut Lake Road, **West Bloomfield**. lkoziol@temple-israel.org

Friday, April 15

Annual Jim Toy Birthday Bash Suggested Donation: \$10. Jim Toy Community Center, 720 Norris St., **Ypsilanti**. 734-995-9867. www.Jimtoycenter.org

Saturday, April 16

Never Forget - Family Members of Victims and Victims Too One Mile Walk 12 p.m. Spotting the nation's response to victims of crime; honoring the victims and their families. Part of National Crime Victims' Right Week. Detroit Police Department, 12800 Kelly Road, **Detroit**. 313-596-1023.

Deuxieme Vie Productions An evening of fashion, music, dancing and unexpected surprises. Tickets: \$25-55. Deuxieme Vie Productions, 2900 E. Grand Blvd, **Detroit**. deuxiemevieproductions.com

Sunday, April 17

100 Years at Cass and Forest Historic bus and bicycle tour tracing

Unitarian and Universalist roots from the 1830s when free thinkers first began to dream of a liberal religious denomination in Detroit. **TICKET PRICES:** \$10-20. First Unitarian-Universalist Church, 4605 Cass, **Detroit**. 313-833-9107. uudetroitcentennial@gmail.com www.eventbrite.com/first-unitarian-universalist-church-of-detroit-3290690712

Monday, April 18

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

Tuesday, April 19

Lisa Brown - Oakland County Services 10:30 a.m. Lisa Brown, Oakland County, 4200 Telegraph Road, **Bloomfield Township**. www.Oakgov.com/clerkrod

Wednesday, April 20

MacBeth - Access.Opera 7:30 p.m. Inviting young professionals ages 18-40 to watch. Tickets starting at \$25. Michigan Opera Theatre, 1526 Broadway St., **Detroit**. 313-237-SING. www.Michiganopera.org/access

Thursday, April 21

The White House LGBT Summit 8:30 a.m. Featuring Catherine Lhamon, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education. The White House and Equality Michigan, 4901 Evergreen Road, **Dearborn**. http://bit.ly/238L59M

MUSIC & MORE

St. Paul United Church of Christ "Spring Rummage Sale" Also soup and bake sale. Admission: \$0-2. St. Paul United Church of Christ, 31654 Mound Road, Warren. 8 a.m. April 23. 586-264-4777.

UMS "Bavarian Radio Orchestra" Ticket Prices: \$12-65. Hill Auditorium, 825 North University Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 16. 734-764-2538. ums.org/performance/bavarian-radio-orchestra/

UMS "Bavarian Radio Orchestra" Tickets: \$12-65. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m.



Editor's Pick

The reopened robert kidd gallery of Birmingham is hosting its spring exhibit, "Laurie Tennent, Botanicals: Intimate Portraits." The captivating botanical imagery of Laurie Tennent pushes the boundaries between photography and painting, revealing in striking detail the architecture of plant life. With an eye for dashing line and rich visual texture, Tennent masterfully exposes the innate beauty and delicate sensuality of her subjects.

"Botanicals: Intimate Portraits" is the first in a series of major exhibitions of the artist's dramatic large-scale photographs on aluminum in 2016. Tennent, who has exhibited nationally and internationally, received her B.F.A in Photography from the College for Creative Studies and is president of the Birmingham Bloomfield Cultural Council, as well as the recipient of the 2013 Cultural Arts Award for her philanthropic work.

The exhibition runs through May 6. robert kidd gallery is located at 107 Townsend St., Birmingham. For more information, call 248-642-3909 or visit www.robertkiddgallery.com.

April 16. 734-764-2538. www.Ums.org/performance/bavarian-radio-orchestra/

UMS "Zafir: Musical Winds From North Africa to Andaluca" Ticket Prices: \$20-40. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 15. 734-764-2538. http://ums.org/performance/zafir-simon-shaheen/

Film & Video

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

UMS "The Bad Plus Joshua Redman" Tickets: \$18-48. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 23. 734-764-2538. http://ums.org/performance/the-bad-plus-joshua-redman/

THEATER

Collage '16 Tickets: \$8-12. Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley, Detroit. Through April 17. 313-967-0999. www.Matrixtheatre.org

Barefoot in the Park Ann Arbor Civic Theatre presents Neil Simon's comedy. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. April 21 - April 24. 734-971-2228.

www.a2ct.org/shows/barefoot-in-the-park

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

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

Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike PG-13. Tickets: \$20-22. Stagecrafters, Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. Through April 24. 248-541-6430. www.Stagecrafters.org

ART 'N' AROUND

Detroit's Pioneer Building "PIONEERS" Curated by Peter Gahan, this varied exhibition features painting, photography, mixed media, glass work, encaustic, drawing and fiber. Cass Cafe, 4620 Cass Ave., Detroit. April 16 - June 25. 313-831-1400. www.Casscafe.com

DIA "Dance! American Art 1830-1960" Presents more than 90 paintings, sculptures, photographs and costumes brought 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

Lawrence Street Gallery "Exposures: Photography '16" Lawrence Street Gallery presents its annual juried show. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. April 3 - April 30. 248-544-0394. www.Lawrencestreetgallery.com

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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

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A wide range of services will be available from 10:30 a.m. to noon at Bloomfield Township Hall, 4200 Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Township. Visit www.oakgov.com/clerkrod for additional dates and updated information. Details are also available online for identification requirements and copy fees, which are the same as those in the main office.

Oakland County Clerk/Register of Deeds Lisa Brown will bring the services of her office to Bloomfield Township residents on Tuesday, April 19, through the popular Local Office Visit program. "Our goal is to make it easier and more convenient to do business with Oakland County, which is why we bring our services to local residents," Brown said. "People are busy in their everyday lives, and they don't always have time to stop into our main office in Pontiac to get the documents or records they need. Bringing our office directly to Oakland County residents in their home towns makes it easier for everyone."

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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Cara Delevingne's visit to a thousand planets

Cara Delevingne doesn't have a lot of free time these days. Still very busy as a model for all sorts of luxury brands, the bisexual star is booking acting roles more and more. Seen in last year's teen drama "Paper Towns," she's recently signed on to co-star in the new Luc Besson vehicle, "Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets." The science-fiction film is based on



Jazz Jennings. Photo: KathClick

"Straight Outta Compton" was sure to spawn more hip-hop biopics. And why not? Now, when is a Wu Tang movie going to drop?

'I Am Jazz' sweetens up TLC for another season

It's a nice time to be Jazz Jennings. The charming 15-year-old trans student, activist and reality TV star just saw her show, "I Am Jazz," win a GLAAD award, tying with "I Am Cait" for Best Reality Series.

Pierre Christin and Jean-Claude Mezieres' comic book of the same name, to be adapted and directed by Besson. The story is set in the 28th century and involves two "spatio-temporal" agents who explore the galaxy, rescue humans in distress, negotiate with aliens and generally act as ambassadors. But as time travelers they must abide by one rule: never change the course of events. So we're guessing this is what happens, but really, who knows? The film will also star Dane DeHaan, John Goodman, Ethan Hawke, Clive Owen, Rutger Hauer and Rihanna, probably wearing something really amazing and space-princessy from her own closet. Look for "Valerian" to laserblast in from another universe in 2017.

When speaking to the press, Jennings said, "All people deserve to have a family like my family." Based on what we saw in the show's first season, she couldn't be more right. And because TLC knows an adorable thing when they've got one, "Jazz" will be coming back for a second round. Just like in season one, she'll be surrounded by her fiercely protective parents and older siblings, as well as her doting grandparents, while she navigates the rough waters of high school life. If the rude noise of most reality TV turns you off, the gentle, loving quality of "I Am Jazz" is the answer to your prayers. Air dates still to be announced.

'Prison Break': Going back in

Fox's cult-action series "Prison Break" may have ended, but in TV that doesn't necessarily mean it's over: just ask the "Gilmore Girls." So it's time for the cast to go back to jail (collecting well over \$200, thanks to the Screen Actors Guild) and set up shop all over again. Wentworth Miller – recently in the news for clapping back against fat-shaming tabloids, and good for him for doing so – will return, as will regulars Rockmund Dunbar, Robert Knepper and Amaury Nolasco. The series will air as a 10-episode limited run, but who knows if that will be the end-end or just the end for now. And of course there are no plot details yet; that's what watching the actual show is for. Fox has set this up for 2017, so begin scratching marks on your cell wall until the day arrives.

Romeo San Vicente knows how to whittle a knife out of a toothbrush but doesn't really have a good reason to do so. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

Queen Latifah, Queen of 'South'

When Queen Latifah won her recent GLAAD Award for her performance in the HBO movie "Bessie," she thanked her lesbian aunt. And that was the end of Queen Latifah's discussion of queer people for one evening. But that's fine. We all know the lady likes her privacy, so we allow her to have it, even if we wish she'd open up just a *little* bit more, even in that roundabout Jodie Foster way. And until then we have her acting, which we adore. Currently warming up theater screens as the kind-hearted waitress in "Miracles From Heaven," Latifah is about to get down to business in "King of The South." A biopic about the life of rapper/hip-hop mogul Master P, possibly to be directed by Tyler Perry (in talks, we hear), Latifah will play P's mother. The man himself – real name: Percy Miller – is also set to star, as is his son Romeo Miller. No other information yet on this one, and it's unclear as to who exactly has been clamoring for a Master P movie, when his profile isn't exactly red hot these days. But the success of

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FRI. APRIL 29 - SAT. MAY 28, 2016

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The OutField Sports Leaders Stand Up to Mississippi

BY DAN WOOG

It was the conservative right's political version of a buzzer-beater. While real issues swirled around North Carolina – economic, educational, environmental – the state's General Assembly held a hurried special session to discuss ... bathrooms.

Well, they did not actually discuss them. In just a couple of hours – and with virtually no public input – the legislators passed House Bill 2. It repealed an ordinance passed the previous month in Charlotte, which provided “public accommodation” protection to LGBT people (including allowing transgender folks to use the bathrooms of the gender with which they identify).

A few days later, Mississippi legislators enacted a law that would allow individuals, religious organizations and certain businesses with “sincerely held religious beliefs or moral convictions” that marriage should be between one man and one woman to discriminate against LGBT people.

Reaction was swift. Major corporations – including Charlotte-based Bank of America – blasted the North Carolina legislation and threatened action. Bruce Springsteen canceled a concert in the state. Charles Barkley told the NBA to move the 2017 All-Star game away from Charlotte.

Barkley's stand is instructive. As important as business and entertainment are, sometimes the sports world can have the greatest impact in areas that – at first – may not seem to have anything to do with LGBT issues.

Pat Griffin is a founding leader of the LGBT Sports Foundation. As the two states weathered a storm of national criticism – and stuck to their anti-gay guns – she circulated a letter among her group's members.

The letter was addressed to the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Griffin wanted to make sure that one of the most powerful organizations in the U.S. sports world understood the impact the two states' laws would have on colleges in general, and student-athletes and coaches in particular.

Griffin cited hypothetical examples. Suppose a college sports team travels to a state with such legislation, and an athlete or staff member used what the law considers to be the “wrong” public bathroom or locker room. Suppose

an athlete or coach is refused service in a restaurant or hotel, based on the manager's perception that that person is LGBT. Suppose someone is denied medical care, based on the healthcare provider's religious belief. Each of those situations could arise, based on North Carolina and Mississippi's bills.



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Griffin also wondered about the implications if a governor or university president refused to provide funds for travel to states with discriminatory laws. She also asked what would happen if an individual student-athlete, coach or staff member refused to travel to such a state.

And, she noted, the NCAA itself has scheduled conventions, professional meetings and competitive events in states that single out LGBT people for discriminatory treatment. She said the NCAA put them at risk of discrimination – or of losing their jobs.

Griffin noted that the federal legislation known as Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation. Those prohibitions directly contradict state laws

targeting LGBT people.

She – and the letter's many signees – urged the NCAA to make a strong public statement condemning legislation that permits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; back up that statement with consequences (for example, not allowing them to host NCAA-sponsored events); provide guidelines to schools on how to protect student-athletes and staff while competing in states with discriminatory laws; amend NCAA bylaws to permit individuals and entire athletic departments to refuse to travel and compete against universities and states that discriminate, and redouble the organization's commitment to diversity and inclusion programs and resources.

Griffin wrote her letter a few days after the most dramatic NCAA men's college basketball championship game ever. Villanova won on a dramatic buzzer-beater against the University of North Carolina. Between that school and Duke, the state has been home to nine national champs in the last 25 years.

That led LGBT sports activist Cyd Zeigler to write on his Outsports website: “As reaction to the North Carolina law came pouring across social media, I found myself again shaking my head at the sports world's utter failure to definitely address LGBT issues, get ahead of these kinds of discriminatory developments, and lead our society on LGBT equality.”

Zeigler faulted the NCAA for not putting more pressure on the state of North Carolina. (Or Texas. The Final Four was held in Houston, a city that voted last year to legalize LGBT discrimination.)

“It's impossible to believe the NCAA would stand by if an institution banned black students,” Zeigler wrote. He urged the NCAA to immediately withdraw 2017 and '18 men's basketball tournament games from North Carolina – and other championship events. “No more talking,” he said. “No more meetings.”

Bruce Springsteen canceled a concert with two days' notice. The NCAA has a year to act.

The ball is in their court.

Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach and gay activist. His latest book is “We Kick Balls: True Stories from the Youth Soccer Wars.” He can be reached care of this publication or at OutField@qsyndicate.com.

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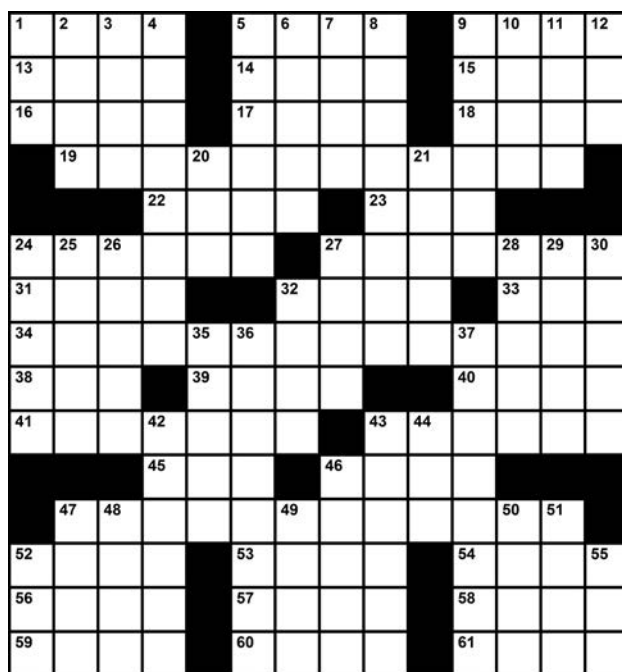
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Q Puzzle



- 33 Noted Warhol subject
34 Gay character on "The Simpsons" who has a crush on his boss
38 U-turn from SSW
39 Kind of plastic
40 "___ Rhythm"
41 Bewitched actor Dick
43 Olympic awards for Louganis
45 "We ___ the Champions"
46 Lucci in "All My Children"
47 34-Across had a dream about his boss jumping naked out of this
52 Cheryl of "Charlie's Angels"
53 "For here ___ go?"
54 Fairy tale huffer
56 Foundation for Humanity name
57 Bear's den
58 "Mamma Mia!" band
59 Talk with one's hands
60 Some of Mary's lambs
61 Wine list info
- 12 Fruit sugar ending
20 On the other hand
21 Insertion indicator
24 Football foursome
25 Trump of old
26 Put one on top of the other
27 One of the Three Bears
28 Last letter from Socrates
29 Movie based on "The Price of Salt"
30 Ellen DeGeneres and others
32 Oral attention getter
35 In-your-face
36 Like a short round for Sheehan
37 Hernando's place in "The Pajama Game"
42 Good and evil place in a Kevin Spacey movie
43 George Moscone, and others
44 SASE, e.g.
46 Holmes of "Wonder Boys"
47 First word of a "South Pacific" song
48 "Understood" to Ginsberg
49 Pull out your shooter
50 Port on Osaka Bay
51 Isle in Brando's "Desiree"
52 "___ Miserables"
55 Way out

A Crush on the Boss

Across

- 1 Mary had a little one
5 Deep throat clearer
9 Intro, at Gay.com
13 Where to find Moby Dick
14 Sitarist Shankar
15 Bear locales
16 Single drag queen?
17 Bauxite and borax

- 18 Type of New York Liberty defense
19 Episode of "The Simpsons" named for a boss
22 Like a phone in use
23 Galley slave's tool
24 Pupils watching porn may do this
27 "The Unicorn" author Iris
31 Track shape
32 Strip a fruit

Down

- 1 Beat it
2 Words before were
3 Sexy clothing material
4 Billy Bean's sport
5 Turn on
6 Boy wizard Potter
7 Straight
8 Cam's home state on "Modern Family"
9 Cross-dressing comedian Eddie
10 Music synthesizer
11 Gym bunnies do it to their pecs

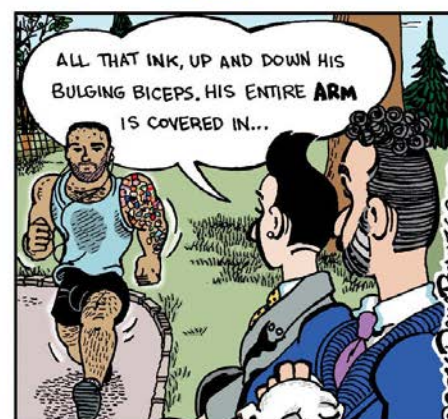
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