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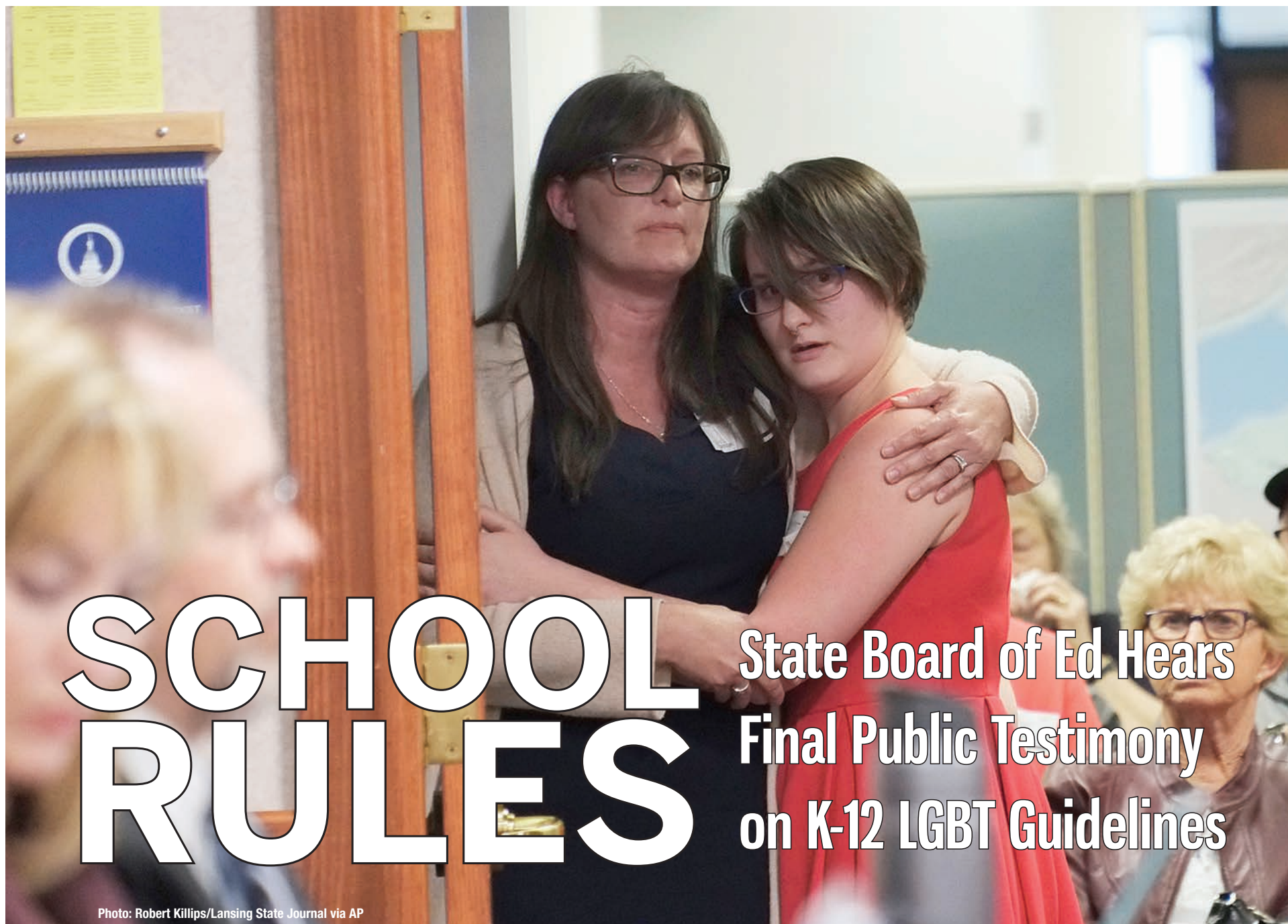


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SCHOOL RULES

State Board of Ed Hears Final Public Testimony on K-12 LGBT Guidelines

Photo: Robert Killips/Lansing State Journal via AP

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WHAT IS GENVOYA®?

GENVOYA is a 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years and older. It can either be used in people who are starting HIV-1 treatment and have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements. These include having an undetectable viral load (less than 50 copies/mL) for 6 months or more on their current HIV-1 treatment. GENVOYA combines 4 medicines into 1 pill taken once a day with food. GENVOYA is a complete HIV-1 treatment and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.

GENVOYA does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS. To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses, you must keep taking GENVOYA. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

GENVOYA may cause serious side effects:

- **Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold (especially in your arms and legs), feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large and fatty. Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turning yellow (jaundice), dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored bowel movements (stools), loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking GENVOYA for a long time. In some cases, lactic acidosis and serious liver problems have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** GENVOYA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV and stop taking GENVOYA, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking GENVOYA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

Who should not take GENVOYA?

Do not take GENVOYA if you take:

- Certain prescription medicines for other conditions.

It is important to ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with GENVOYA. Do not start a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.

- **The herbal supplement** St. John’s wort.
- **Any other medicines to treat HIV-1 infection.**

What are the other possible side effects of GENVOYA?

Serious side effects of GENVOYA may also include:

- **Changes in body fat,** which can happen in people taking HIV-1 medicines.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking GENVOYA.
- **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. If you develop new or worse kidney problems, they may tell you to stop taking GENVOYA.
- **Bone problems,** such as bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

The most common side effect of GENVOYA is nausea. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don’t go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking GENVOYA?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Other medicines may affect how GENVOYA works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Ask your healthcare provider if it is safe to take GENVOYA with all of your other medicines.
- **If you take antacids.** Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take GENVOYA.
- **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if GENVOYA can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking GENVOYA.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

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.

Please see Important Facts about GENVOYA including important warnings on the following page.

Ask your healthcare provider if GENVOYA is right for you, and visit GENVOYA.com to learn more.



GENVOYA does not
cure HIV-1 or AIDS.



SHOW YOUR **POWER**

Take care of what matters most—you. GENVOYA is a **1-pill, once-a-day complete HIV-1 treatment** for people who are either new to treatment or people whose healthcare provider determines they can replace their current HIV-1 medicines with GENVOYA.

Genvoya 
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200mg/tenofovir alafenamide 10mg tablets

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(jen-VOY-uh)

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT GENVOYA

Genvoia® may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis)**, which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: feeling very weak or tired, unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold (especially in your arms and legs), feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Severe liver problems**, which in some cases can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice), dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored bowel movements (stools), loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach pain.
- **Worsening of Hepatitis B (HBV) infection**. GENVOYA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking GENVOYA. Do not stop taking GENVOYA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking GENVOYA for a long time.

ABOUT GENVOYA

- GENVOYA is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years of age and older who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. GENVOYA can also be used to replace current HIV-1 medicines for some people who have an undetectable viral load (less than 50 copies/mL of virus in their blood), and have been on the same HIV-1 medicines for at least 6 months and have never failed HIV-1 treatment, and whose healthcare provider determines that they meet certain other requirements.
- **GENVOYA does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS**. Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.

Do NOT take GENVOYA if you:

- Take a medicine that contains: alfuzosin (Uroxatral®), carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Epitol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®, Tegretol-XR®, Teril®), cisapride (Propulsid®, Propulsid Quicksolv®), dihydroergotamine (D.H.E. 45®, Migranal®), ergotamine (Cafergot®, Migergot®, Ergostat®, Medihaler Ergotamine®, Wigraine®, Wigrettes®), lovastatin (Advicor®, Altoprev®, Mevacor®), methylergonovine (Ergotrate®, Methergine®), midazolam (when taken by mouth), phenobarbital (Luminal®), phenytoin (Dilantin®, Phenytek®), pimozone (Orap®), rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, Rimactane®), sildenafil when used for lung problems (Revatio®), simvastatin (Simcor®, Vytorin®, Zocor®), or triazolam (Halcion®).
- Take the herbal supplement St. John’s wort.
- Take any other HIV-1 medicines at the same time.

IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about GENVOYA and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF GENVOYA

GENVOYA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the “Most Important Information About GENVOYA” section.
- Changes in body fat.
- Changes in your immune system.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Bone problems.

The most common side effect of GENVOYA is nausea.

These are not all the possible side effects of GENVOYA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking GENVOYA.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with GENVOYA.

BEFORE TAKING GENVOYA

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Have any other medical condition.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with GENVOYA.

HOW TO TAKE GENVOYA

- GENVOYA is a complete one pill, once a day HIV-1 medicine.
- Take GENVOYA with food.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about GENVOYA. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- Go to GENVOYA.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit GENVOYA.com for program information.



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Kate Fessler from Canton is comforted by her mother Kathryn Bondy Fessler after she spoke at the State Board of Education public comment session on the Board's guidelines in Lansing, May 10. The meeting was part of a public comment period. The guidelines include suggestions that teachers refer to transgender students by preferred pronouns and allow them to use a bathroom corresponding to their gender identity. Robert Killips/Lansing State Journal via AP

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Congressman Steve King, R-Iowa, speaks out against President Obama's directive that public schools must let transgender students use the restroom that corresponds to their gender identity.

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FILM



'Letter to Anita'

LGBT Activist Ronni Sanlo Talks Documentary, Estrangement From Kids and Her Pivotal Work at the University of Michigan

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ONLINE CALENDAR

Go Girl Saugatuck!



Go Girl Saugatuck! has been rebranded with a new name by producer Mimi Gonzalez and it's loaded with many more events. Everything from dancing to comedy to music to partying will be happening at the Dunes Resort June 3-5.

Visit Pridesource .com

IN FOCUS



Michigan's Jody Valley pens a sequel

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NEWS



Sharing Rutgers commencement with President Obama

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PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP

20222 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone 734.293.7200

PUBLISHERS

Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

MEMBER OF

Michigan Press Association
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Q Syndicate



EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief

Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 12
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

Entertainment Editor

Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200 x 24
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

Assistant Editor

Shelby Clark Petkus, shelby@pridesource.com

Calendar Editor

Shelby Clark Petkus, shelby@pridesource.com

Staff Writers

AJ Trager, ajtrager@pridesource.com

CREATIVE

Webmaster & MIS Director

Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

Contributing Writers

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

Cartoonists

Paul Berg, Dave Brousseau

Contributing Photographers

Andrew Potter
Alexander Godin

ADVERTISING & SALES

Director of Sales

Jan Stevenson, 734.293.7200 x 22
jan@pridesource.com

Sales Representatives

Ann Cox, 734.293.7200 x 13
anncox@pridesource.com

Donelle Kremke, 734.293.7200 x 16
donelle@pridesource.com

National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

ONLINE AT

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Letter to Anita

*How yesterday's discrimination shaped today's
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**Thursday,
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Michigan Theater**

George Bedard and the Kingpins perform at 6:30 p.m.
Film starts at 7 p.m.

*Remarks by
Dr. Ronni Sanlo and Jim Toy*

Letter to Anita documents the effects of Anita Bryant's 1970s anti-gay campaign on the life of former U-M Spectrum Center Director, Ronni Sanlo. This riveting film explores a painful time in history and its ongoing impact on many older adults today. It is a story of one woman's strong voice and capacity to forgive.

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NEWS

SAGE of Metro Detroit Honored at Area Agency on Aging 1-B Annual Community Meeting

SOUTHFIELD – SAGE of Metro Detroit was presented with The Volunteer/Community Leadership Award by the Area Agency on Aging 1-B (AAA 1-B) at its Annual Community Meeting being held at Lyon Oaks Golf & Banquet Center in Wixom on Friday, May 13. The Area Agency on Aging 1-B is a nonprofit agency responsible for services to more than 640,000 persons aged 60 and older residing in Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair and Washtenaw counties. Through the provision of home care and community-based services, older adults and persons with disabilities are given options that can help maintain their health and independence in their homes and communities.

SAGE of Metro Detroit, which grew out of the LGBT Older Coalition, is being credited with support of key initiatives and resources for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) older adults. Their efforts have helped build awareness and promote change so that LGBT senior adults may live and age with dignity and authenticity.

“SAGE has helped communicate and educate on important issues about the LGBT community in an effort to help foster greater awareness and understanding,” said AAA 1-B CEO Tina Abbate Marzolf.

In addition to this award, two community leaders and four other service organizations were recognized for their outstanding efforts.

“The responsibility of ensuring the continued support and well-being of area seniors and adults with disabilities takes many individuals and groups,” said Marzolf. “It’s important that we recognize their

contributions.”

The other honorees include:

Floreine Mentel

Sandra K. Reminga Lifetime Achievement Award

Floreine Mentel, longtime AAA 1-B Board/Advisory Council Member, will be recognized for her support of key initiatives that benefit older adults in southeast Michigan.

Kari Sederburg

Public Service Leadership Award

Kari Sederburg will be acknowledged for her commitment to the enhancement of the lives of older adults, adults with disabilities and family caregivers as senior program officer at the Michigan Health Endowment Fund. She was the former executive director of Michigan Aging & Adult Services Agency.

The Chaldean American Ladies of Charity
Service Provider Leadership Award

The Chaldean American Ladies of Charity are being recognized for helping to enhance the quality of life of older adult immigrants, reducing social isolation and supporting local programs.

Critical Signal Technology

Innovations Leadership Award

Critical Signal Technology will receive this award for their support of SameAddress, a social enterprise program of the AAA 1-B.

Macomb Community Action and Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw

Blue Ribbon Outcomes Award

These two organizations will receive recognition for greatly improving the quality of life of older adults, while also making good use of the investment of public funds.

Bangladesh Police Arrest Suspect in Killing of Gay Activist

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) – Police in Bangladesh said Sunday that they have arrested a suspected Muslim militant for his alleged involvement in the killing last month of a gay rights activist and his friend in the capital.

Police identified the suspect as Shariful Islam Shihab, a former member of the banned Islamic group Harkatul Jihad. They said he joined another militant group, Ansarullah Bangla Team, in mid-2015.

Shihab, 37, was arrested in the southwestern district of Kushtia, Munirul Islam, head of a newly formed police counterterrorism unit, told a news conference. He did not give any further details.

There have been a series of recent attacks targeting atheists, moderates and foreigners in Bangladesh. Only one of 15 such killings has been prosecuted since 2013.

Islam said that Shihab allegedly killed Xulhaz Mannan, who worked for the U.S. Agency for International Development,

because he was a gay rights activist and promoted the gay community’s cause through a magazine as an editor.

He said Shihab told police during questioning that he took part in stabbing to death Mannan and his friend as ordered by his group’s high command. There was no independent confirmation of the police officer’s claim.

Police earlier said they identified at least five people who took part in the killings on April 25 from video footage collected from buildings near the crime scene in Dhaka’s Kalabagan area.

“We are checking the footage to determine whether Shihab is visible there,” Islam said.

The Bangladeshi branch of al-Qaida had claimed responsibility for the April 25 killing of Mannan and his friend, Tanay Majumder. Mannan was also a cousin of former Foreign Minister Dipu Moni of the governing Awami League party.

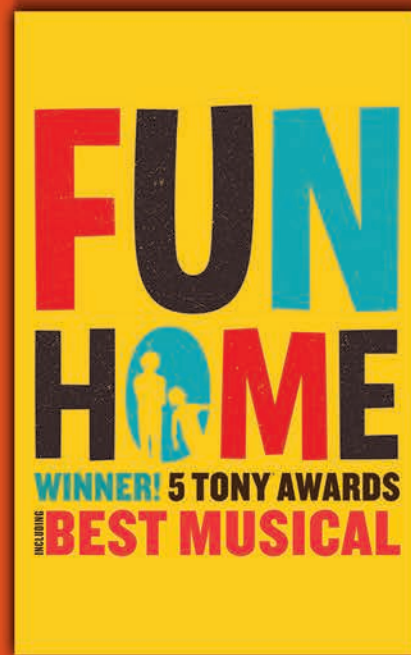
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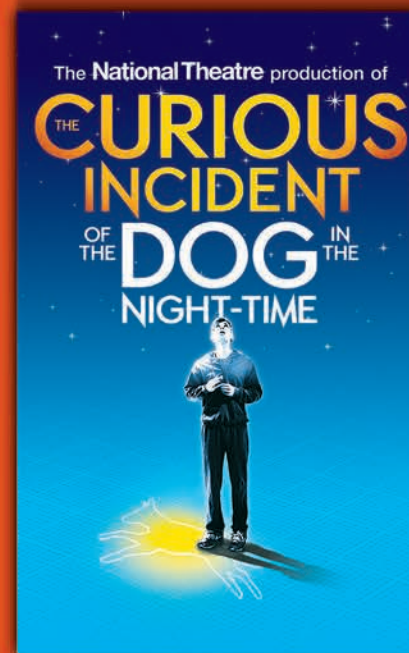
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State Board of Ed Hears Final Public Testimony on K-12 LGBT Guidelines

The State Board of Education board room is filled to capacity and spills into a waiting area as members hear comments about the Board's guidelines, in Lansing, May 10. The meeting is part of a public comment period. The guidelines include suggestions that teachers refer to transgender students by preferred pronouns and allow them to use a bathroom corresponding to their gender identity. Robert Killips/Lansing State Journal via AP.

BY AJ TRAGER

LANSING – In a historic week that included federal leadership on trans inclusion in schools, the State Board of Education held its final public meeting May 10 on the State Board of Education Draft Statement and Guidance on Safe and Supportive Learning Environments for LGBT students in the Michigan K-12 public school system.

For nearly seven hours, the board heard public testimony from 120 people who expressed their concerns both for and against the set of proposed guidelines for Michigan schools. The meeting was so widely attended that many individuals had to wait downstairs until the upper level was cleared from speakers.

The proposed set of voluntary guidelines, introduced as a draft document March 11, urges schools to enact LGBT-inclusive policies and practices such as supporting the creation of a student-led Gay-Straight Alliance club, furthering the development of policies aimed to protect LGBT students from harassment, providing professional development training for staff on how to address LGBT issues and allowing trans and gender non-conforming students to use the bathroom of their choice.

Tensions surrounding the guidelines have been escalating since they were released in early March. State lawmakers have introduced legislation urging the Department of Education to reject the proposed draft guidelines, and state Sen. Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba, announced his intention to author legislation that would ban trans youth from using the bathroom and locker room in accordance with their gender; however, no such bill has yet to be introduced.

PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) groups across the state have voiced their support of the guidelines as have 150 Michigan Faith Leaders for Equality, the Association for Children's Mental Health, Michigan Disability Rights Coalition, UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond, HIV/AIDS Alliance of Michigan, CARES, and the Lansing Area AIDS Network.

The May 10 meeting was the second

hearing by the State Board of Education regarding the proposed guidelines.

All Those In Favor

Mary Beno, a health consultant in Washtenaw and Livingston counties, opened up public comment on the proposed set of optional guidelines following an unrelated presentation by the Michigan Education Corps. Every year Beno helps to provide local districts with professional development training to create and sustain safe and supportive schools. She believes that professional learning plays a critical role in helping teachers understand how a safe environment positively impacts student learning.

"It is important that there are resources and supports for faculty and their districts as they face these increasingly frequent

situations. It takes a lot of time to learn whether a specific situation meets Title IX criteria or not. A small amount of guidance goes a long way to preventing expensive and unnecessary litigation and more importantly preventing undue stress on our young people. We believe we need to provide a safe and inclusive learning environment for all youth and appreciate any support you can provide," she said.

The guidelines would help Michigan schools become compliant with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which states, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

Teresa Severy, a counselor from DeWitt Public Schools, spoke on behalf of the Michigan School Counselor Association, the Michigan Association of School Psychologists and the Michigan Association of School Social Workers. DeWitt and her colleagues work directly with Michigan youth and see how inclusive practices and policies benefit the experience of not just LGBT youth but all youth in the public school system.

The guidelines would help Michigan schools become compliant with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which states, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

See State Board, page 10



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Angela V. Viviano, MSN, FNP

Right:
Hina Javaid, MD
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► Education Hearings

Continued from p. 8

“MASP, MSCA and MASSW as participants in the Michigan School Mental Health Coalition speak as one voice in support of the Michigan State Board of Education draft guidance document. School psychologists, school counselors and school social workers have an ethical obligation to advocate for and affirm LGBTQ students. We have resources and effective strategies to minimize the negative statistics associated with LGBTQ students,” Severy said.

Severy and Beno were two of the 49 individuals that came forward to speak in favor of the LGBT guidelines. Among the many health care professionals and state educators that stood up to speak included LGBT activists such as Jayne Locke; Zoe Russick-Steinfeld; Tim Larrabee, associate professor at Oakland University and SOGI Initiative director; Anita Calcagno, member of Lansing PFLAG; members of Riot Youth, a program of Ann Arbor’s Neutral Zone; Lance Hicks; and others.

Many voices from the dissenting opinion disagree with Section Three, Page Four that states “trans and gender non-conforming students may choose when, with whom, and to what extent to share private information,” and state that this allows for youth to keep secrets from their parents and takes away from the “parental right” to know what is going on with their children.

Michelle Fox-Phillips, representing the Gender Identity Network Alliance, spoke about the transgender experience and why students would want to withhold information from their parents.

“Kids do this out of fear of being kicked out,” she said. “And there are a huge number of LGBT homeless youth here in Michigan because they were kicked out because they are gay or transgender.”

Fox-Phillips said it’s important to allow trans students to use names which they identify with as well as bathrooms that they would feel most comfortable in.

“I’ve facilitated adult and youth groups in the trans population and a lot of people and youth have told me, very simply, that they hold it because they’re singled out and have to use a specific bathroom.”

Many of Michigan’s own youth came out and spoke in favor of the LGBT guidelines. In an impassioned comment that was cut short, Isabelle Fessler, 13, said she had been bullied relentlessly in her own public school. Fessler is not a member of the LGBT community but is a strong ally. She attends a public school in Canton.

“I am bullied every day and shoved up against the lockers for wearing a rainbow button on my backpack,” she told the board,

working through tears. “I can’t imagine what it’s like for the open LGBTQ youth in my school.”

Jay Maddock, executive director of the Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, works directly with LGBT youth. Again and again he hears them say that they don’t see themselves becoming successful adults because they hear what adults are saying about them. So do their peers. And every bit of intolerance affects their school environment. At the request of the institutions, Maddock helps train schools in Kalamazoo County on LGBT cultural competency and best practices.

“When a group of students are experiencing disparities in their access to quality education, it is our responsibility to respond. When students and teachers receive state sanctioned guidelines that offer protections for LGBT students in public schools, the learning environment for LGBT students will be greatly improved. Because students cannot learn if they aren’t in school and if they aren’t in a safe environment that protects LGBT students from harassment,” Maddock said.

Many statistics were shared from both sides, some with contradicting findings. Some of the reoccurring stats show LGBT students are two times more likely to skip school than their heterosexual peers; that 33 percent of LGBT students were physically harassed in just the past year because of their sexual orientation or gender identity; and that 56 percent of LGBT students reported personally experiencing LGBT related discriminatory policies or practices at school.

All Those Opposed

More than half of the attendees at the May 10 meeting spoke against the proposed set of voluntary guidelines. Mothers, fathers, grandparents and some K-12 professionals raised their concerns that the guidelines allowed for the violation of parental rights, grant predators the right to invade bathrooms of the opposite gender on a whim, and that Michigan youth do not have enough life experience to be able to advocate for their own needs based on their authentic identity.

Dozens of people spoke to the “bathroom predator” myth that a trans man or woman is going to physically or sexually assault someone in the bathroom. Some individuals did make sure to mention that it’s not the trans person they fear but the heterosexual pedophile that would “pretend to be a girl” to gain access into the women’s restroom.

One father even said that just because the guidelines are optional doesn’t mean they aren’t coercive.

Many said that they are tolerant of the LGBT community and that they have compassion towards their experiences, but the state board guidelines are LGBT propaganda meant

to bully the Christian population.

“When the school board comes up with a policy that would in essence proselytize for the LGBT community, you don’t speak for us. When you show a lack of tolerance for parents with legitimate concerns of the safety of their children, you don’t speak for us. When you practice critical theory questioning societal norms, you don’t speak for us,” Tim Schmig, executive director of the Michigan Association of Christian Schools, said.

According to their website, MACS is a voluntary association that ensures its students all experience spiritual and physical “Christian growth” through scholastic and extracurricular programming. Fifty-eight private schools in the state belong to the Association of Christian Schools International, serving 8,832 students.

Douglas Levesque, founder and president of Bible Nation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing and diffusing knowledge about the Bible and promoting its positive effects upon society, spoke up on behalf of all the Christians that have felt discriminated against throughout this discussion.

“Eighty-five percent of Michiganders identify with traditional Christian and biblical culture, and I’m here to advocate for that,” he said. “And so, what you call LGBTQ, we call immoral. The Bible calls it sodomy. If that’s bullying, then all of a sudden all Christians are alienated and you now are kind of picking on us.”

All comments submitted both at the public hearings and online will be reviewed and the public should expect a decision by the state board in August.

“We will be very public and very clear if any action is coming and when it will be presented for action,” State Superintendent Brian Whiston said.



Jay Maddock, executive director of the Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, works directly with LGBT youth. Again and again he hears them say that they don’t see themselves becoming successful adults because they hear what adults are saying about them. So do their peers. And every bit of intolerance affects their school environment. At the request of the institutions, Maddock helps train schools in Kalamazoo County on LGBT cultural competency and best practices. BTL photos: AJ Trager



Tim Larrabee, associate professor at Oakland University and SOGI Initiative director, speaks in support of LGBT students across the state. In his remarks he acknowledged that the guidelines do not satisfy all Michigan residents and their concerns. He spoke to the process of training Michigan’s next teachers and how many of them do not get LGBT cultural competency training.

LEARN MORE

Public comment on the proposed set of guidelines closed at the end of the day May 11. The state board is expected to weed through roughly 15,000 comments and report back in August. To read a comment, visit www.everyvoicecounts.org.

» The guidelines can be found at <http://gaybe.am/evc>.

Dow Chemical, Other Companies Oppose Bathroom Legislation

MIDLAND – As a response to much talked about legislation by state Sen. Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba, that would require Michigan students to use bathrooms and locker rooms that match their assigned gender at birth, Dow Chemical Co. and other Michigan-based companies have come out in strong support of trans youth.

While the legislation has yet to be introduced, Casperson did author a letter on his website discussing the State Board of Education's proposed set of voluntary guidelines that recommends inclusive policies in K-12 schools for LGBT students, specifically trans students.

Casperson's legislation has caught the attention of large Michigan companies such as the Bernstein Law Firm, Kellogg Co., Michigan Competitive Workforce Coalition and Dow Chemical.

"In the pursuit of social justice, this so-called draft guidance document creates numerous problems, from the elimination of parental authority and notification to threatening student safety and beyond. My bill would stop this policy dead in its tracks," Casperson wrote.

Casperson's legislation has caught the attention of large Michigan companies such as the Bernstein Law Firm, Kellogg Co., Michigan Competitive Workforce Coalition and Dow Chemical.

"At Dow and on behalf of our 25,000 employees across the nation, we support full inclusion of our LGBT colleagues, friends, neighbors and family members," Andrew Liveris, Dow's chairman and CEO, said in an emailed statement to OurMidland.com. "That's why we are calling on lawmakers to not only oppose any legislation that would permit discrimination, but to focus on policies that ensure fairness and opportunity for everyone."

The final hearing for the "State Board of Education Statement and Guidance on Safe and Supportive Learning Environments for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) Students" was held May 10 and the comment period has ended. The State Board of Education is expected to make a decision to approve or reject the guidelines sometime in August.

Federal Government Releases Guidance to Help Schools Ensure Rights for Trans Students

BY BTL STAFF

WASHINGTON D.C. – The U.S. Departments of Justice and Education released joint guidance May 13 to help provide educators the information they need to ensure that all students, including transgender students, can attend school in an environment free from discrimination based on sex.

"Today's action will also have a significant impact on the anti-trans bathroom inspection bill that has been proposed here in Michigan by State Sen. Tom Casperson. Today's federal guidance underscores what Equality Michigan has been saying from day one: Casperson's proposal violates Title IX and would endanger transgender students across Michigan," White said.

Recently, here in Michigan and across the country, schools have asked questions about transgender students and how to best ensure these students, and cisgender students, can all enjoy a safe and discrimination-free environment.

Under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, schools receiving federal money may not discriminate based on a student's sex, including a student's transgender status. The guidance makes clear that both federal agencies treat a student's gender identity as the student's sex for purposes of enforcing Title IX.

"These federal guidelines will provide school districts across the country with sorely needed and frequently requested guidance about how they can ensure that transgender students have access to the safe learning environments and the equal educational opportunities they are entitled to under Title IX. The Obama administration should be commended for taking bold and decisive action to protect transgender students across the country from harassment and discrimination at school," said Equality Michigan Executive Director Stephanie White.

The guidance explains that when students or their parents, as appropriate, notify a school that a student is transgender, the school must treat the student consistent with the student's gender identity. A school may not require transgender students to have a medical diagnosis, undergo any medical treatment, or produce a birth certificate or other identification document before treating them consistent with their gender identity.

The guidance also explains schools' obligations to:

"Today's action will also have a significant impact on the anti-trans bathroom inspection bill that has been proposed here in Michigan by State Sen. Tom Casperson. Today's federal guidance underscores what Equality Michigan has been saying from day one: Casperson's proposal violates Title IX and would endanger transgender students across Michigan."

– Equality Michigan Executive Director Stephanie White

- Respond promptly and effectively to sex-based harassment of all students, including harassment based on a student's actual or perceived gender identity, transgender status or gender transition.

- Treat students consistent with their gender identity even if their school records or identification documents indicate a different sex.

- Allow students to participate in sex-segregated activities and access sex-segregated facilities consistent with their gender identity.

- Protect students' privacy related to their transgender status under Title IX and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

At the same time, the guidance makes clear that schools can provide additional privacy options to any student for any reason. The guidance does not require any student to use shared bathrooms or changing spaces, when, for example, there are other appropriate options available; and schools can also take steps to increase privacy within shared facilities.

"There is no room in our schools for discrimination of any kind, including discrimination against transgender students on the basis of their sex," said Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch. "This guidance gives administrators, teachers and parents the tools they need to protect transgender students from peer harassment and to identify and address unjust school policies. I look forward to continuing our work with the Department of Education – and with schools across the country – to create classroom environments that are safe, nurturing and inclusive for all of our young people."

In addition to the departments' joint Title IX guidance, the Department of Education's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education also released Examples of Policies and Emerging Practices for Supporting Transgender Students, a 20-page compilation

of policies and practices that schools across the country are already using to support transgender students. The document shares some common questions on topics such as school records, privacy and terminology and then explains how some state and school district policies have answered these questions, which may be useful for other states and school districts that are considering these issues. The Department of Education does not endorse any particular policy but offers examples from actual policies to help educators develop policies and practices for their own schools.

Many parents, schools and districts in Michigan have raised questions about this area of civil rights law. The Michigan State Board of Education is currently considering a set of proposed guidelines for LGBT students that is similar to that which the DOJ and ED authored. The State Board of Education held its final hearing on the guidelines May 10 and is expected to make a decision to either adopt or dismiss the proposed voluntary guidelines sometime in August.

Some legislators in the state are unhappy with the State Board of Education guidelines and have threatened legislation similar to the bathroom policy passed by North Carolina in late March. State Sen. Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba, announced his plans to introduce an anti-trans bathroom inspection bill in late March following the introduction of the state Board of Education LGBT K-12 guidelines.

The guidelines include many helpful policies and suggestions for K-12 schools and would make schools receiving federal funding become compliant to Title IX policy restrictions.

To read the full federal guidance visit <http://gaybe.am/dct>

'Letter to Anita': LGBT Activist Ronni Sanlo Talks Documentary, Estrangement From Kids and Her Pivotal Work at the University of Michigan

BY AJ TRAGER

ANN ARBOR – LGBT rights activist Ronni Sanlo, Ed.D., will return to Ann Arbor May 26 for a screening of "Letter to Anita," a memoir of Sanlo's life featuring Hollywood star Meredith Baxter.

In the mid-90s Sanlo came to work for the University of Michigan Spectrum Center, but her activism started more than a decade earlier. Sanlo married in 1971, despite knowing her sexual orientation at the age of 11, because, according to her website, she didn't want her family to think she was different from them.

In 1977, two years before Sanlo came out as a lesbian, celebrity singer Anita Bryant led the Save Our Children campaign, the first organized opposition to the gay rights movement. The Save Our Children campaign ultimately led to the repeal of a Miami ordinance that banned discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, employment and public accommodation.

Following the repeal of the Miami Gay Rights ordinance, the Florida Legislature created an anti-gay parenting law in honor of Bryant, which caused Sanlo to lose custody of her young children, then ages 5 and 7. At the time of the decision, she had limited visitation and eventually had none. Her son and daughter were told that they would contract AIDS from their mother and became too frightened and refused visitation.

"I had this intense sense that there was nothing more that anybody could do to hurt me. That the worst thing that could've happened happened," Sanlo told BTL.

Sanlo was hired by the Florida Health Department as an HIV epidemiologist which allowed her to obtain a masters and a doctoral degree in education from the University of North Florida. She moved to Ypsilanti directly following her graduation and was hired as the first director of the Spectrum Center, then known as the Lesbian and Gay Male Programs Office.



University of Michigan Spectrum Center

The University of Michigan LGBT office operated with coordinators, or "Human Sexuality Advocates," for 23 years prior to Sanlo's entrance. Jim Toy, the first openly gay man in Michigan and founder of the center, and Cindy Gair worked for the center beginning in the early '70s. Through their leadership, the office developed speakers' bureau "raps" in classes and with residence hall personnel; increased outreach and services to bisexual people and people of color; set up a system of peer advisors to speak with the counseling office and aided in training them about how to best counsel lesbian and gay individuals; and created a framework of justice that sought to add community concerns to the center's curriculum. In 1994 the U of M administration reduced the two positions to one position. Toy stepped down and Sanlo was hired.

"I was the first person around the country to have the title of director (of an academic LGBT office). I think there were only four other university programs, and the people that ran those programs were called coordinators. Michigan took the leap and really upped the ante on the position – which I thought was brilliant," Sanlo explained.

Over the course of the next 3.5 years Sanlo added bisexual and transgender to the organization's

name. Sanlo explained that when she took the position, she didn't understand what bisexuality really was and "had the same ridiculous idea that everyone else had" about bisexuality. A bisexual staff member at the center spent time educating Sanlo on bisexuality and what it meant to be bisexual. Once the B was added into LGB, more students started coming to the center who identified as bisexual.

"With transgender, I never even thought about the idea. Not once in my entire life did I think about it until I got a letter from a student in January of 1996. I thought he was this adorable gay man. He was studying abroad the second semester," Sanlo said. The student explained in the letter that she felt welcomed into the center's space as a gay male but never heard the word trans.

"I felt so horrible that she, as a trans person, felt she couldn't come to me. I didn't give any indication of acceptance. I did everything I could to help her come back to school the way she is," Sanlo explained. "It wasn't enough to say trans people were welcome. I had to do a lot of work to find out what kind of services my shop could provide for trans students, faculty and staff."

When Sanlo left the University of Michigan in 1997 the organization was known as the Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Affairs.

During her tenure at U of M, Sanlo also created Lavender Graduation,

an annual campus ceremony to honor and acknowledge the achievements of LGBT and ally students.

"I did that because students kept saying they can't wait to get out of school. I felt badly that they felt that the institution didn't care about them, so I wanted that final taste of their experience to be positive. And that they and the scholarship mattered," she said.

Through the advocacy of Toy and a study committee on the status of lesbians and gay men published in the 1991 Lavender Report, the U of M Board of Regents added sexual orientation into the university bylaws in 1993. As a result, the LGBT office conducted many trainings for university faculty and staff on HIV/AIDS and LGBT cultural competency and education. Much was changing at the university at the time with the integration of same-sex spousal rights and domestic partner benefits.

Sanlo published her first book, "Working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender College Students: A Handbook for Faculty and Administrators," in 1998 following her experiences working at U of M.

'Letter To Anita'

"Letter to Anita" was created out of Sanlo's memoir, "Purple Golf Cart: The Misadventures of a Lesbian Grandma." The work includes a collection of essays about different parts of her life experience including a letter to Anita Bryant which she wrote many years after the 1977 Save Our Children Campaign that greatly impacted her life.

"I wrote the letter much later. I harbored so much anger. I needed to have a way to touch the anger and work on it and writing it was a way to do that," Sanlo explained.

A good friend and filmmaker read "Purple Golf Cart" and was so moved from the letter to Anita Bryant that she determined Sanlo's story was going to be her next film project.

"Getting in front of the camera was hard enough, but the entire

filming process was difficult. It was the first time I remembered thinking about all this stuff. It wasn't scripted – that was a challenge," she said.

Filming took a year and a half as Sanlo and director Andrea Meyerson traveled across the country to interview people from Sanlo's past.

Sanlo reunited with her two children when they both turned 22, more than 15 years after she last saw them. She connected with her daughter, who at the time was living in Ohio, when she worked in Ann Arbor; she reconnected with her son a few years later after moving to California to work for UCLA. Her son was disowned by his father after coming out as gay and subsequently lived with her for a year in Los Angeles.

Today she maintains a relationship with her children and is a supportive grandma to multiple grandchildren. She continues to do work on college campuses, presents keynote addresses at Lavender Graduations, helps compile dissertations, sits on dissertation committees and has started to work on a screenplay. Sanlo currently lives in Washington state with her partner, Kelly Watson.

Event Information

The award-winning documentary "Letter to Anita" will be presented May 26 at the Michigan Theater. A special VIP reception at 5:30 p.m. includes refreshments and a meet-and-greet with Sanlo, Toy and Honorary Event Chair Ingrid Sheldon, former mayor of Ann Arbor. Ryan Cowmeadow from the Area Agency on Aging 1-B will emcee. "Letter to Anita" will begin at 7 p.m.

"'Letter to Anita' will inspire people of all gender identities and sexual orientations to seek to remedy injustice and discrimination by every possible means of education and advocacy for universal human and civil rights," says Toy. "As an aging gay man, I become more and more conscious of the interconnections among the individual threads of my 'identity tapestry.'" The screening is organized as a fundraiser by Big Hearts for Seniors, a group that promotes awareness and raises funds for five nonprofit, community-supported programs of the University of Michigan Health System serving older adults throughout Washtenaw County.

General admission is \$15 and can be purchased at the door or online at www.med.umich.edu/geriatrics/BHS. VIP tickets cost \$50 and must be purchased online before the day of the showing.



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Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Queer Today, Gone Tomorrow

Not too long ago while browsing a cluttered, non-LGBT Ann Arbor bookstore, I spent \$20 for a used paperback: #3 of Richard Lamparski's 11 volume series "Whatever became of...?" Now collector items.

My purchase originally going for \$1.25 is dated 1970. It contains 200 then-and-now, B&W photographs of 100 "big names." Many of whose celeb photos are not very flattering for starstruck LGBT reminiscing.

My back cover asks, "Where Are They Now?" and adds somewhat snidely, "A few have recently made smashing comebacks into the glittering spotlight they knew so well; others have faded into limbo by choice or circumstance..."

"Many warm themselves in the winter of their lives by the dying glow of their old press notices; others have made new and gratifying careers out of latent resources." (Indeed! As Detroit's beloved showbiz diva Lady "T" Tempest use to say of those late-blooming, gratifying career choices, "Better latent than never, Mary!")

I googled Lamparski but found nothing about whatever happened to him. From Wikipedia I learn he has lived in California since 2010, born in 1932, making him a few limbo years older than me. (In case there are any PG readers who are into gerontophilia. His or mine.)

Lamparski had been a PR guy for Paramount Television, CBS Radio, the Ice Capades, which, one supposes, affords him proper credentials for gossip mongering, and occasionally skating on thin showbiz ice with fanfare. Others' ice. His fanfare. Sonja Henie, anyone?

Of the 100 listed in Volume 3, I remember some (if you're under 50, skip the next few paragraphs): Tokyo Rose (then exiled in Chicago), Peter Townsend (Queen Elizabeth's sister's star-crossed beau), Andrew Sisters (Patty, Maxene, and LaVerne), Arthur Murray (his studio employed many gay fox trotters), Christine Keeler (Big time madam to British MPs).

These I haven't a clue about: Tony Zale (middleweight boxing champ), Anna Q. Nilsson, Ray Dooley, Jack Sharkey (heavyweight champ), John F. Kieran, Cliff Edwards, Hal Le Roy, Arthur Hughes ("Just Plain Bill"), and Bert "the Mad Russian" Gordon. (Putin, take note.)

There are cautious rainbow entries for us. (All photos exceptionally flattering, as might be expected of what the venerable Lady T calls "good gay genes set.") Spring Byington, Alexandra Tolstoy, Robert Taylor, Charles "Buddy" Rogers, Sterling Holloway, smoldering Elizabeth Scott.

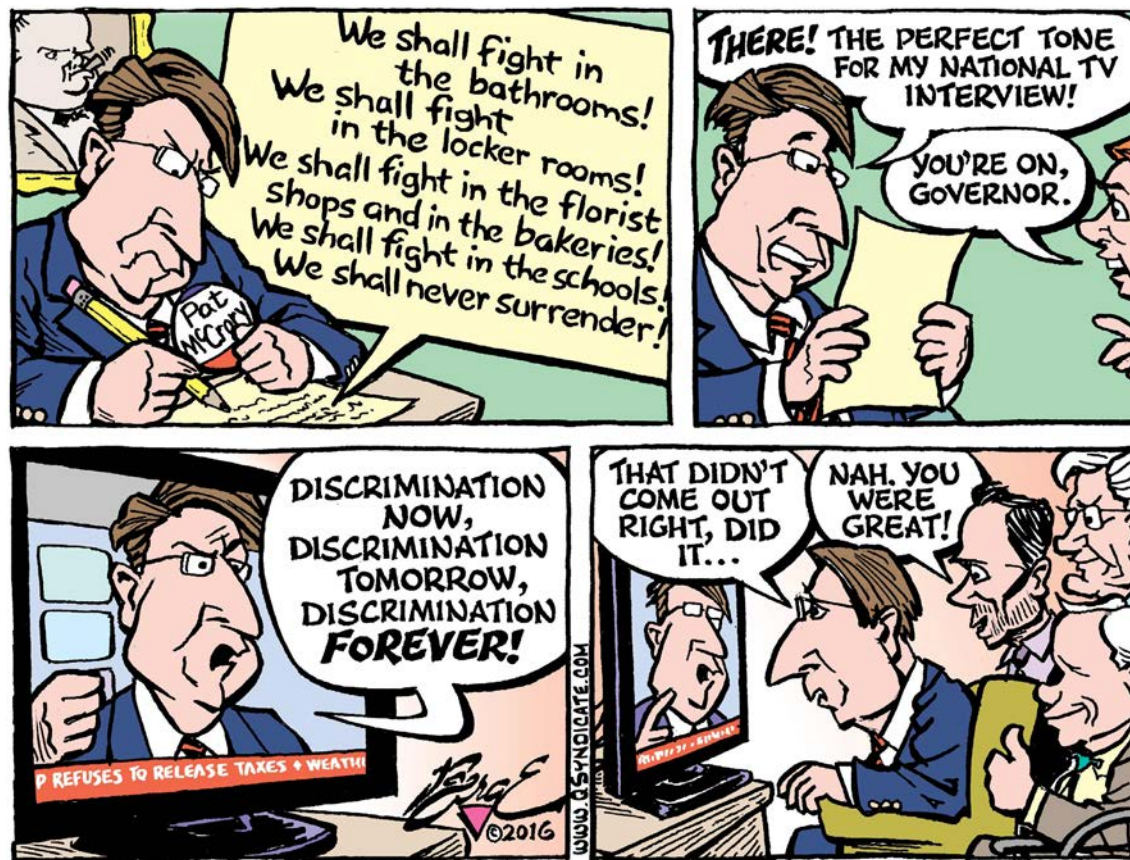
Liz Scott, a shoulder-length blond bombshell, popular in five movies during the late-1940s, mid-50s, '60s. She was born in 1922. In 1953, she was emphatically outed by Confidential magazine. Gossips Lamparski, "The tell-all-the-dirt publication had carried an article suggesting Liz had known three call girls intimately.

"The story also repeats that Liz always wore men's cologne and pajamas. Hated frilly clothes. The fact that Miss Scott had spent time in the company of Paris' famous lesbian night club owner and entertainer, Frede, and had been drinking heavily did not weigh in her favor."

To say the least. Old Spice, anyone? Liz died last year. 94! Who knew? Did you? (Just asking.)

By the way. Whatever happened to The Diplomat's Fat Jack? Female impersonator Rae Bourbon (who died in prison)? First openly gay football jock David Kopay? Porn-pole Jeff Stryker (now in his mid-50s) DAG/LC? ASP? Motor City Business Forum? The Cash, er, the Gas Station? Haven't a clue? It beez that way sometimes.

Charles@pridesource.com



Viewpoint

Diversity, Even in Opinion, is Good

Coming Together Despite Different Viewpoints Makes Us Stronger



BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

Spoiler Alert! If you are reading this, you are in the Op-Ed section. If you visit the Online Etymology Dictionary, you will read that this section of a "newspaper opposite the editorial page is usually devoted to personal opinion columns (aka viewpoints)."

One of the things I remember the most about Jimmy and Grace Boggs was how they encouraged dialogue, spirited discourse and even arguments as part of the struggle in our becoming more human. It made for lively meetings, but even from our disagreements came progress.

They were both very strong leaders, but they were open to new ideas and different approaches. Sometimes these new ideas and different approaches fell by the

wayside, but sometimes they became part of an inclusive approach to building a movement that goes on even though they have both passed on.

New ideas and different approaches can be challenging, risky and even scary, but without them we can become stagnant – even doomed – and make the same mistakes again and again. I have been a Hillary Clinton supporter from day one. She spoke to me, my concerns, but I knew we needed to have a dialogue of some sort during this campaign.

I welcomed Bernie Sanders' entry into the campaign. His campaign has raised much needed questions. It's been contentious, even divisive, but when all is said and done, I believe both the Democratic Party and the electorate will be better for

this discourse.

Bernie wants a revolution, as do many Americans, but now is not the time for that revolution. The stakes are too high; the prospects of a Trump presidency are plain and simply too dangerous. However, we can't throw the questions/concerns raised by the Sanders campaign out with the proverbial bath water. These voices, although dissonant and divisive, must be heard, digested, evaluated and part of an inclusive political process moving forward.

In 2015, the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision guaranteed the fundamental right for same-sex couples to marry. Before the ink had dried on the decision, the flood gates were open unleashing a deluge of anti-LGBTQ acts/legislation

See Brown, next page

reminding us that we had a long way to go for full equality.

Since the Obergefell decision, LGBTQ organizations have been fighting battles on several fronts including a growing number of religious freedom restoration acts (RFRA). Although their mission is clear (to protect, defend and advance LGBTQ rights), some members of the community have differing ideas on how to achieve these rights.

I get it – those who are doing the work, with insight to polling, strategies and statistics, have evaluated the situation and developed a comprehensive path to do what they're committed to do (i.e. to protect, defend and advance LGBTQ rights). They are the professionals. One of the anomalies of this presidential election is the rejection of what is seen as the career politicians. Many voters say they have fallen out of love with the "professionals."

This is especially true in the Clinton/Sanders competition where despite her experience and qualifications, Clinton is seen as the professional/career politician while Sanders is seen as the outsider with new ideas. Voters are tired of the status quo. They want new ideas. They are impatient. It's a wave sweeping across the country, capturing all Americans in its wake. In this climate, in our country and community, there are differing voices. I listen to/read the comments of Sanders and Clinton and wonder how we can ever come together.

The same is true when I listen to some of the debate within our LGBTQ community. For LGBTQ Americans, this dissatisfaction with the status quo is amplified. On both ends of the generational spectrum are calls for action – elders asking how long we are going to keep using the same tactics and millennials wanting an LGBTQ revolution. LGBTQ organizations have been doing the work and have a strategy, but we are still under attack. Our lives are literally on the line

For LGBTQ Americans, this dissatisfaction with the status quo is amplified. On both ends of the generational spectrum are calls for action – elders asking how long we are going to keep using the same tactics and millennials wanting an LGBTQ revolution.

depending on the outcome of this election, and if you're paying attention at all to the rhetoric and legislative actions across the country, you're scared.

The established leadership has plotted a course, but many in the LGBTQ community are not at that table. Their voice needs to be part of an inclusive solution and strategy. It's time to build our beloved community. It's time to shut down the trash talking, the back and forth insults and the back stabbing. It's time for us to reach out to one another to fight the real battle, not each other. We must work together to win full equality, to protect our families and protect those most vulnerable to attack – our transgender sisters and brothers. No, we don't have to always agree, but we do have to work together and try to find common ground. Diversity, even in opinion, is good and will make us stronger.

Everyone won't agree with what I say. It is, after all, my viewpoint. Like the Rick Nelson song goes, "You see you can't please everyone, so you gotta please yourself." I walk in my truth. It is mine and mine alone.

Haters are going to hate! To them I can only say, "The way you're on my stuff must really hurt your knees!"

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



Online

Must Watch Video: Feds Suing NC Over 'Bathroom' Law

NC Law Declared State Sanctioned Discrimination

U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch announced last week that a civil rights lawsuit has been filed against the state of North Carolina and Gov. Pat McCrory over the state's controversial bathroom law. Watch the YouTube video at gaybe.am/nc.

Creep of the Week

Steve King

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

If you've never listened to Caffeinated Thoughts Radio, let me get you up to speed. It sounds a lot like one of those drive time morning shows with the chattering



Steve King

hosts who think they are hilarious and laugh at themselves a lot. Except Caffeinated Thoughts is a right-wing Christian show dressed up to seem a little hipper than most (and there are so many) right-wing radio shows.

"(Obama has) issued a federal decree that they're going to come after any school that doesn't allow boys in the girls' room, girls in the boys' room, anybody to go into any room that they happen to feel at the moment," laments King, "and genders can switch on the way to the bathroom."

On May 14, hosts Shane Vander Hart and Brian Myers interviewed Congressman Steve King, R-Iowa, about President Obama's directive that public schools must let transgender students use the restroom that corresponds to their gender identity.

The directive comes on the heels of Obama's Justice Department suing the state of North Carolina over its anti-LGBT law. In fact, if you haven't seen Attorney General Loretta Lynch affirming her support for trans people and her blistering take down of the law, you need to find it on the interwebs **now**. You can probably find the video by doing a Google search for "Loretta Lynch punches NC Gov. Pat McCrory in the dick."

Anywho, not everyone is happy about the directive and one of those unhappies is King. Never a friend to LGBT people, he has some very inspired thoughts about providing trans students basic decency.

"(Obama has) issued a federal decree that they're going to come after any school that doesn't allow boys in the girls' room, girls in the boys' room, anybody to go into any room that they happen to feel at the moment," laments King, "and genders can switch on the way to the bathroom."

Granted, Obama did not just call for

a bathroom free for all. But considering King's masterful understanding of gender identity, Obama might as well have.

In King's mind, not only is the girls' room fair game for boys now, but, like Mike Huckabee before him, King has a weird idea about what presumably cis gender boys with Senioritis are going to do now.

"All over America, they've got to be lined up right now, the pranksters, going, 'I'm going to go into the girls' room,'" King says. "There's a line-up in some school right now and no school can discipline them because the federal government will come in with the Justice Department and jerk their No Child Left Behind funding and who knows, they might even decide that they're going to cut the calories and the protein back in the school lunch program."

Um, yeah. Somehow I doubt this line-up of "pranksters" exists at all, let alone "all over America." Besides, the directive isn't about protecting students who are just being little shits and trying to cause trouble. But thank you for sharing what you would do if you were in high school right now, Rep. King.

But wait, what's he saying about the school lunch program? King jokes that Obama wants to make students vegan. "Transgendered (sic) vegans would satisfy them," King says, cracking up the hosts.

Ha. Get it? Transgender vegans. Because both vegans and transgender people might as well be space aliens to King.

Lest his hosts think that he's just kidding, King adds, "It's the unhumorous humorous reality of how perverse our society has gotten under Barack Obama."

The cure for what ails the U.S.? Prayer in schools, which, according to King, the Supreme Court had no business eliminating back in 1963.

I suspect, however, that if anyone has kept prayer in school alive, it has been transgender students who hopefully will no longer have to spend valuable class time praying that they can manage to either pee in peace or hold it until they make it home.

ELECTION 2016

Trump, Bathrooms, Secession: 5 Things from Texas GOP Convention

DALLAS (AP) – The Texas Republican Convention began under a “Unite to Win” banner but ended with many delegates still standoffish toward Donald Trump and mourning Ted Cruz’s exit from the Republican presidential race. A rundown of one of the biggest state Republican conventions in the U.S. that wrapped up Saturday:

CRUZ STAYS SILENT ON TRUMP

Cruz didn’t mention Trump and barely alluded to November in his first public event back home since suspending his campaign. He continues to withhold endorsing his former rival even as Gov. Greg Abbott and most other state officials urged delegates to get behind the billionaire businessman. Cruz told a convention hall of hardcore supporters that he didn’t know “what the future holds.”

TRUMP SENDS A SURROGATE

The job of winning over Trump-bashing Texas delegates fell to U.S. Sen. Jeff Sessions, who snubbed Cruz and backed Trump long before his Senate colleague dropped out. Sessions got big applause upon recalling Trump’s promise for another border wall, saying “Isn’t that conservative?” to a crowd largely skeptical of Trump’s faithfulness to Republican principles. Before Sessions took the stage, the party chairman implored delegates heading for the exits following Cruz’s speech to stick around.

ANOTHER FIGHT WITH FEDS

The disappointed air over the convention turned fiery after the Obama administration this week delivered new directives on transgender rights in public schools. Texas’ lieutenant governor said the state was ready to forego \$10 billion in federal education dollars instead of complying and the state attorney general signaled a possible lawsuit ahead.

TOUGH ANTI-GAY PLATFORM STAYS

Widely rebuked “reparative therapy” for gays is no longer recognized as legitimate and effective by the Texas GOP. But the party platform still opposes “self-motivated youth and adults” from being denied access to counseling that seeks to turn gay people straight. Efforts to scrub decades-old opposition to homosexuality as a “chosen behavior” that “must not be presented as an acceptable alternative lifestyle” also failed.

SECEDE DOESN’T SUCCEED

Texas remains part of the United States, much to the chagrin of secessionists who came closer than ever to a full convention vote on their fringe cause joining the party platform. Their “Texas Independence” shirts were a more prevalent sight than handguns holstered on the hips of delegates – who won’t be allowed to carry firearms into the Republican National Convention in Cleveland this summer.

Sharing Commencement with Obama

Graduating Rutgers Law School Student, Who also Grew Up in Hawaii, is Inspired by President’s Commitment to Civil Rights

BY AMBER E. HOPKINS-JENKINS

The president of the United States was not the only lawyer who grew up in Hawaii at Rutgers’ commencement this past Sunday.

Like President Obama, Michael Ganoot, who will graduate from Rutgers Law School in Camden with a juris doctorate, was born and raised on the island of Oahu.

“Hawaii is a great place to grow up and live. It’s really ethnically diverse, which brings a lot of different opinions and perspectives, and you’re always 20 or 30 minutes from a beach,” he says.

Ganoot, who is of Japanese, Filipino and Puerto Rican descent, grew up in the town of Waipahu, about 15 miles from Honolulu.

“As a state, we were very excited for President Obama when he was elected. We’re extremely proud to have a person from Hawaii in the office.”

After commencement, Ganoot will return to Hawaii to prepare for his home state’s bar exam. He plans to practice administrative law through an agency, preferably the Department of Justice or Homeland Security, in the nation’s capital after licensure.

Ganoot realized the importance of law in society and decided to become an attorney following the national tragedies of Sept. 11, which occurred during his junior year of high school. He says the tone of the country changed and racial profiling and discrimination against Arab Americans and Middle Eastern immigrants became more commonplace.

“This is not the first time this has been done,” he says, recalling a high school field trip to the Honouliuli camp in western Oahu, where hundreds of Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II. (The Obama administration designated the site as a national monument in 2015.)

“It’s scary how easily our country can turn on people during conflict. Racial profiling doesn’t have to happen to people who look like me for me to be sensitive and want to affect change. Marginalized people usually suffer first and worst.”

Ganoot did not pursue his goal to be a lawyer immediately. After graduating

from the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 2008 with a degree in political science and government, he worked in retail management for Best Buy for five years to save money for law school. He’d never left Hawaii, but wanted to experience



“The impact of his presidency – from the Supreme Court’s historic ruling striking down the Defense of Marriage Act to its most recent stance against transgender discrimination in North Carolina – will help us move forward, at least legally.”

– Michael Ganoot

living elsewhere and decided to research east coast law programs.

Apparently, leaving Hawaii is not the most popular idea.

“People on the continent think I’m crazy to have left ‘paradise’ for law school,” he says. “But Hawaii is obviously geographically isolated. One can’t just drive to explore new states and new places.”

Ganoot didn’t even visit campus before matriculating. Rutgers’ academic rigor, the high concentration of lawyers in Philadelphia and New York City, and the opportunity to have a new vantage

point were enough to help him make his final decision.

During law school, Ganoot, who came out as gay during college, served as secretary and vice president for Outlaws, an affinity and outreach group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender law students. The organization connects with LGBT attorneys and students at other law programs in the Philadelphia area; fundraises for AIDS Walk; and raises awareness of minority issues, particularly law enforcement’s interactions with minorities.

He considers the Obama administration’s advocacy for equality and LGBT rights unparalleled.

“The impact of his presidency – from the Supreme Court’s historic ruling striking down the Defense of Marriage Act to its most recent stance against transgender discrimination in North Carolina – will help us move forward, at least legally,” Ganoot says.

“Social acceptance of the LGBT community is a separate issue, but there have been giant steps in the right direction.”

Ganoot spent most of his final year of law school participating in the Rutgers Civil Practice Clinic, which is both a law course and a law office for the Camden community. He has represented clients in Social Security benefits and adoption disputes under the supervision of a faculty attorney.

“It’s really fulfilling to apply what we’ve learned to the problems of real people who don’t have the means to get representation,” he says. “We’ve provided such a valuable service, and it’s been an opportunity to experience our future role and workload as attorneys and counselors.”

Ganoot is excited to see the president in person and that his parents will make the long journey from Hawaii to New Jersey for his graduation.

“This is a historic opportunity... to have the president of the United States – from Hawaii – speaking during commencement, particularly one that celebrates Rutgers 250th anniversary. It’s all pretty fantastic.”

This piece originally published in Rutgers Today.

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Schools Offer Lessons on Accommodating Transgender Students

BY LISA LEFF

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) – From locker rooms and sex education classes to dress codes and overnight field trips, many U.S. public schools already are balancing the civil rights of transgender students with any concerns that classmates, parents and community members might have.

The U.S. Department of Education is drawing on those practices to guide other schools as they work to comply with the Obama administration's directive that transitioning children be treated consistent with their gender identity.

That has been the policy since 2013 of the Arcadia Unified School District in Southern California. As part of a settlement with the federal departments of Justice and Education that became the foundation for the national mandate issued Friday, students may use the bathroom, locker room or wilderness cabin that corresponds with their recognized gender outside school, Superintendent David Vannasdal said.

"This is absolutely not about a student on a day-to-day basis saying, 'Today I'm a boy, tomorrow I'm a girl.' That has never happened," Vannasdal said. "By the time these students are at a point where they are asking for our help, they are presenting in all areas of their life as that gender."

The administration had warned schools before Friday that denying transgender students access to the correct facilities and activities was illegal under its interpretation of federal sex discrimination laws. But the new guidance, for the first time, offers advice for accommodating the privacy needs of nontransgender youngsters.

Citing guidelines adopted by Washington, New York, the District of Columbia and Atherton High School in Louisville, Kentucky, President Barack Obama's Education Department said schools could erect privacy curtains in changing areas, permit all students to make use of single-stall restrooms or work out other case-by-case arrangements as long as the burden doesn't rest exclusively on transgender students.

"The concerns for right to privacy and safety of children applies to every single child, including the transgender child," said Atherton's principal, Thomas Aberli, who faced community opposition when he first allowed a transgender freshman to use the girls' restrooms two years ago. Since that first student, about

a half-dozen more have come out as transgender, Aberli said.

Asaf Orr, a lawyer who directs the Transgender Youth Project Staff at the National Center for Lesbian Rights, said the guidance could help temper the transgender rights backlash that the restroom issue has engendered in states such as North Carolina by showing that minority rights and privacy rights can co-exist if schools respect all students' need to be comfortable.

At least 13 states and the District of Columbia prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity in schools. Hundreds of school districts, from Anchorage, Alaska, and Tucson, Arizona, to Fairfax County, Virginia and Chicago, have adopted similar protections.

Nearly two dozen state high school sports federations have adopted rules

with it, but we can't let some people's discomfort violate other people's civil rights," she said.

But there was a high level of discomfort as soon as the directive came out last week, with officials in several states saying they would defy the administration. The rallying cry was against what Mississippi's Republican governor said was the federal government's "forcing a liberal agenda on states that roundly reject it."

While the guidance is not legally binding and the Supreme Court may ultimately decide whether federal civil rights law protects transgender people, schools refusing to comply could face lawsuits from the government and a cutoff of federal aid to education.

Even in areas of the country where such policies enjoy broad support, putting them into practice can be complicated.

The Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference allows transgender students to play on teams that match their gender identities. Since the policy took effect in 2013, a few transgender boys have played on boys' high school teams, said Karissa Niehoff, the group's executive director.

Niehoff said that since the state has a policy prohibiting boys from playing on girls' teams, a transgender girl would be allowed to play on a girls' team, but not a boys' team. She said students are allowed to establish eligibility to compete under a different gender once during their school careers to prevent players from bouncing between teams.

So far, there have been no complaints, she said.

"But had somebody said to us, 'Hey, you have a transgender (student) playing on the team and we think there is a physical disadvantage, well we support that student,'" she said.

Boston's public schools require staff members to use the names and pronouns requested by students, change school records to reflect them and acknowledge they've read the district's policy regarding transgender students, according to Steven Chen, the senior equity manager.

But sometimes there are mistakes. "If you've known a student for the first three years as one name and one pronoun, and then in year four the student has a different name and a different pronoun, I think just naturally you might make a mistake," he said. "Honest mistakes are much different than affirmatively saying, 'I'm not going to support my students on this.'"

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governing the participation of transgender athletes on competitive teams, including the ones in South Dakota, Maryland and Nevada.

In Portland, Oregon, Lincoln High Principal Peyton Chapman recalls the "challenging times" about seven years ago when a transgender student who identified as female transferred there after being bullied at her previous school. The student made the cheerleading squad and "bathroom and locker rooms became an immediate issue with the cheerleading parents," she said.

An anti-bullying campaign that focused on the difference between sexual orientation and gender identity diffused the situation, Chapman said.

"Some students may be uncomfortable

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NH Senate Passes Ban on Gay Conversion Therapy for Minors

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) – Republican and Democratic lawmakers in the New Hampshire Senate reached agreement May 12 on a bill to ban gay conversion therapy on minors after a debate over religious freedom nearly derailed the effort.

“Who among us would want to be converted from the essence of who we are? I don’t think any of us would,” Republican Senate Majority Leader Jeb Bradley said during debate.

Gay conversion therapy is the practice of trying to change someone’s sexuality or gender identity. Both the Senate and House have now approved a bill barring licensed counselors from engaging in the practice with anyone under age 18. The chambers passed bills including slightly different language, which means they’ll need to reach agreement before sending the legislation to Gov. Maggie Hassan’s desk.

Hassan, a Democrat, praised the Senate’s passage of the bill, saying it sends an important message to young people that they can be who they are.

The Senate’s passage of the bill comes after two weeks of emotional debate. The measure looked certain to fail earlier Thursday, when lawmakers tabled it after being unable to reach agreement over language regarding religious freedom. The final bill says people licensed to provide counseling services under state law, from nurses to marriage counselors, can’t engage in the practice. It also includes language saying the law cannot infringe on religious freedom, intended to ease concerns

that the bill would prevent priests and other religious leaders from talking to teenagers about their sexuality.

Democratic Sen. David Pierce, who is gay, made several personal appeals to his colleagues to back the ban. Pierce said he realized he was gay at age 11 and struggled to accept it. Research shows gay and lesbian teenagers are more likely to commit suicide than their peers and the risk increases if they undergo conversion therapy, Pierce said.

“I worked my way through it, but there was no person sitting next to me telling me I was sick and needed to be cured,” he said.

The American Psychological Association and other major health organizations have discredited gay conversion therapy and states are beginning to pass bans on the practice for minors. California, New Jersey, Oregon, Illinois and Washington, D.C. ban the practice for minors and Vermont is likely to join them. But efforts in Hawaii and Colorado failed this year.

Republicans who opposed the bill expressed concern that it would prevent priests from counseling teenagers.

The bill passed on a voice vote after a key amendment cleared with support of all 10 Democrats and six Republicans.

Oklahoma Lawmaker Delivers Anti-gay Farewell Speech

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) – Rep. Sally Kern, a conservative Oklahoma Republican who’s sparked fierce criticism for disparaging remarks about gays and other minorities, doubled down on her anti-gay remarks this week as she closed her

12-year career in the state House with a farewell speech to her colleagues.

A former schoolteacher and wife of a Baptist preacher from a suburban enclave in northwest Oklahoma City, Kern is term-limited and can’t run for re-election. Her retirement is being celebrated by gay rights advocates who have worked to oppose Kern’s legislative agenda for years and who sponsored a “Farewell Sally” fundraiser.

Kern, 69, drew national attention in 2008 after saying at a political forum that the “homosexual agenda” poses a greater threat to the U.S. than terrorists, comments she stood by on May 11 when she took to the House well to deliver her speech, a ritual for outgoing lawmakers.

“Same-sex marriage has been forced on every single state by the courts, when 31 of our states voted overwhelmingly to define as God has always defined it,” Kern said. “All across the nation, children are being encouraged to try the homosexual lifestyle and even to play like the opposite sex, because they could be a transgender.”

“I didn’t apologize in 2008 and I don’t apologize today either, because God’s word has not changed.”

Her anti-gay remarks came at the end of an otherwise humorous and emotionally touching tribute to her colleagues. But the final minutes of her speech drew a sharp rebuke from both fellow members and the head of group that lobbies for equal rights for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

“The representatives’ final speech before her colleagues was shameful and will be remembered as the capstone of a career built on hatred and discrimination. For that I pity her,” said Troy Stevenson, executive director of Freedom Oklahoma.

Rep. Emily Virgin, a Democrat from Norman, said she was surprised that despite all of the LGBT supporters who have met personally with Kern over the years, “she has not changed her position one bit.”

Stevenson’s group is hosting a \$35-per-plate “Farewell Sally” fundraiser later this month. The proceeds will go toward advocacy efforts for LGBT rights.

Kern hasn’t just insulted the gay community over the years.

The full House voted to reprimand Kern in 2011 after she denigrated blacks and women during a debate on an affirmative action.

Event Celebrates Salt Lake City Street Named for Harvey Milk

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) – A Utah gay rights group is holding a dedication event for a new Salt Lake City street named for pioneering gay leader Harvey Milk.

The Saturday celebration featured Neon Trees singer Tyler Glenn.

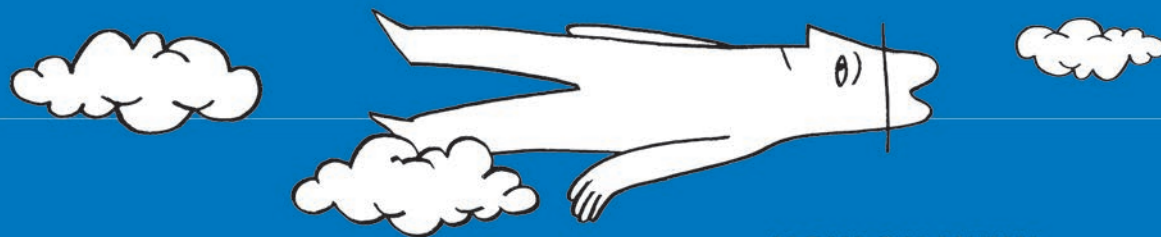
Signs bearing Milk’s name have been added to parts of 900 South, near thoroughfares honoring civil rights icons like Martin Luther King Jr. and Cesar Chavez.

The move highlights the thriving LGBT community in the city that’s home to the Mormon church, whose leaders preach tolerance but have steadfastly opposed same-sex marriage.

Milk became one of the first openly gay men elected to public office in the U.S. when he won a seat on San Francisco’s board of supervisors. Supporters say he set the tone for the modern gay rights movement.

Milk was assassinated in 1978.

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WORLD OF RUFUS WAINWRIGHT

Musician on Being 'the Gay Elizabeth Taylor,' North Carolina & 'Sensitive' Gays

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

“I’m not at the psychiatrist’s office.” Rufus Wainwright realizes that now, years later. There was a time, he acknowledges, amused by the notion, that interviews such as the one we’re engaged in passed as therapy. For that reason, the singer and composer is transparent, a book that never closes. That frankness has long marked his raw musings, windows into his life as a gay man, as a former drug addict, as a son, as a father. The personal catharsis of his latest work is less discernible.

Featuring guest collaborators Helena Bonham Carter, Carrie Fisher, William Shatner, Florence Welch and sister Martha Wainwright, “Take All My Loves: 9 Shakespeare Sonnets” adapts the Bard’s work within non-traditional sonic structures, because this is a Rufus Wainwright album.

Before we launch into a wide-ranging conversation – encompassing issues he sorted through while recording the Shakespearean project, how his “very wry” personality rubs gay people the wrong way and the Benedict Cumberbatch conundrum – Wainwright says “don’t worry,” reassuring me that even though this isn’t quite psychiatry, “I’m still pretty open.”

Just when I think you’ve reached peaked ambition, you release an album of Shakespeare sonnets set to music. Where do you think your desire to be so outside of the box comes from?

Well, I was never in the closet, I was never in the box... I was never in my right mind! I don’t know. This album, in a lot of ways, is kind of a miracle in the sense that it’s nothing that I ever really planned on or was working toward; it sort of made itself, and all in conjunction, of course, with the 400-year anniversary of Shakespeare’s death.

It just so happens that many years ago I was working on a project of the sonnets (“Five Shakespeare Sonnets,” in 2010) and somehow the work that I was doing with these poems really resonated with all sorts of people, whether it was the San Francisco Symphony wanting arrangements of them or “Songs for Lulu” (his 2010 album grieving



Photo: Matthew Welch

the loss of his mother, Kate McGarrigle) or other singers performing them. In fact, there are a few dance choreographers now who have started to choreograph pieces to the

work, so it’s just something that happened, and lo and behold it fell right in line with this 400th anniversary. I just had to facilitate that as much as I could. What a lot of people think is outside of my box is really just me following my brute instincts and going with that fully. I’ve never been able to work otherwise, so I suppose that will continue to be the case.

Yes, you seem a bit artistically restless.

Yes. Also, for me, music is where I really – I mean, speaking about being in a psychiatrist’s office – exorcise a lot of my demons and emotionally confront issues, and in order to do that I can’t really coast now. I have to crack the ice a little bit. That’s the way it is.

With this piece in particular, what issues are you confronting?

I think a lot of this is centered around my mother’s illness and death (in 2010), and also aging is in here. I think one of the reasons “A Woman’s Face” is repeated several times – it’s really about an older man kind of fawning over a younger man and that’s a tradition that now I’m on both sides of (laughs). I’ve been a younger man and I *am* that older man now, and so I see it from both sides. To have a woman (Anna Prohaska) sing it is very interesting, because that takes it into a whole other mirrored image, which is what’s amazing about Shakespeare – how many reflections (we) can illustrate depending on how old one is or how young one is or what gender one is relating to at that moment. It’s like a vortex of possibilities.

When it comes to aging, what has been your experience as a middle-aged gay man who’s a public figure?

The catch-22 is that in 20 years – I’m 42 now – I’ll probably look back at this period as really my zenith, when I was probably the most attractive I’ve ever been. But now that I’m in the middle of it, I’m looking backwards to when I was 22... and when I was 22 I was really miserable! (Laughs) So it’s, “You don’t know what you’ve got till it’s gone,” as Joni Mitchell said. But I think artistically in one’s 40s you do feel the joint

rapture of both experience and still a sense of youth that can combine and really make you feel like you're in the present.

Your cross-genre collaborations are constantly surprising people, and there are some unexpected ones on this album. Who is someone you want to work with that we wouldn't expect?

The other day my sister Martha had her 40th birthday and we had some people up to the house. One of them was Sufjan Stevens, who I've admired for a long time and, yeah, he'd be fun to write a song with. I've given up on Björk. She's not taken my lead. (Laughs) I'm like, "Hey Björk, let's do this" and she's, like, hanging out with aliens or something.

I saw you in Toronto in 2014 for "If I Loved You: Gentlemen Prefer Broadway," which was wonderful.

Thank you.

And I've seen you many times before, but not in that dynamic, with a bunch of men, many of whom were straight. So I was watching you and, of course, admiring the performances, but I was also noticing the way you interacted with the other fellas on stage and I'm like, "Rufus is such a shameless flirt."

(Laughs) I know! I'm terrible!

Have you always been that way?

I have. I'm just built that way. I'm sort of a gay Elizabeth Taylor.

When you're singing a love song with Josh Groban, I can't blame you.

Yes, yes. He's a handsome man.

Did you get a chance to meet Benedict Cumberbatch while recording the BBC's "The Shakespeare Show: Recorded Live from the Royal Shakespeare Company"?

Yeah! I've hung out with Benedict a couple of times. He's... he's quite the figure. Most amazing thing is, I can't tell if he's gorgeous or incredibly ugly. (Laughs) It's a weird combination. At certain angles he looks like my aunt, and then at certain angles he looks like the man who's gonna ruin my marriage.

A couple of years ago, I was surprised to hear you say you didn't think you had a big gay following. I've been following you since "Cigarettes and Chocolate Milk" and I'm definitely gay.

Aww! Well, thank you. I guess I just feel with the gay community my kind of very wry and frank opinion on things can be misinterpreted. Us queers are kind of a sensitive bunch, so sometimes there's a bit of a tempest in a teapot (reaction) when I put out certain concepts. Some people enjoy the dialectic of that and other people shy from it and, well, the gay community... it can get a little insular.

You never had to make a coming out announcement, so I wonder: How do you feel about famous people coming out making headlines in 2016?

Yeah, well... I mean, it's good that they're doing it. (Hesitates) I don't know. I just... it's still to be applauded because the sad truth is we are living in reactionary times now and whether it's Donald Trump or ISIS, there is this kind of tremendous backlash to a lot of the advancements that have been made in the last 20 years, and so I think it's probably harder in certain places to be gay now than it was a while ago. The pendulum has started to swing the other way. So, as long as people are coming out and continuing the battle, then I think it's good.

I know you have a lot of opinions on today's pop divas. So Lady Gaga, Adele and Beyoncé: Which would you fuck, marry, kill?

Fuck, marry, kill – oh boy. Dangerous. I guess I would marry Adele. Ahh, I would, you know, fuck Gaga and kill Beyoncé.

Did you not like "Lemonade"?

I just, ahhh... whatever. I was only given a few choices, so it's not my fault. (Laughs)

You don't have any tour stops in North Carolina, but what's your take on how artists are handling the situation regarding House Bill 2, the "bathroom bill"? And if you did have a date there, what would you do?

This relates back to what I said before: I think that any kind of pushback against this rising wave of right-wing extremism coming from large sectors in the world is a positive act. What's good about the North Carolina thing is, I mean, I think the artists are doing their part, which is great, but I think it's also the business leaders who are really pulling the money out of the state that's gonna really make a huge difference. It's all people working in conjunction from all different fields that's important. And yeah, I'd probably pull out.


So, no North Carolina shows anytime soon?

No, and I *don't* have any gigs there. I'll go to the ladies room one time in protest and scare everybody. (Laughs)

You're restaging "Rufus Does Judy At Carnegie Hall" on June 16 and 17. How will the music and the show reflect the way the world's changed in the last 10 years since you first performed it?


The main reason I'm doing the show again is to see what condition my voice is in. I mean, I have an inkling that it's at the top if its game, and the only way to really prove that is to sing that material, so it's more of a practical exercise for me to do this show again. I've been working very hard on my singing over the years and I want to show that off, but on a more philosophical level: I originally did this show because of my broken feelings


See Rufus Wainwright, page 25



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MSU's Department of Theatre Hosts Summer Circle Series

BY BTL STAFF

Summer isn't too far around the corner, so it's time to start planning summer activities – and there's no better place to look than Michigan State University's 56th Annual Summer Circle. The theme of this year's festival is "Experience the Magic of Theater."

From its traditional roots to today's most original works, Summer Circle's magical line-up has something for everyone. Experience a Rodgers and Hammerstein musical revue, a comedic Shakespeare troupe, a fizzy Noel Coward comedy, a hilariously dark late night comedy, and a world premiere musical for young audiences as part of free theater in the Circle's accessible courtyard. This summer also includes expanded programming before all shows and the free Summer

Circle Theatre kids camp.

MAINSTAGE 1: "A Grand Night for Singing"

8 p.m. June 8-June 11

Music by Richard Rodgers, Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II, Music arrangements by Fred Wells, Conceived by Walter Bobbie

Direction and Choreography by Brad Willcuts

Musical Direction by Dave Wendelberger

(For the whole family)

Some of musical theater's most recognizable songs are included in this elegant musical revue.

MAINSTAGE 2: "The Groundling"

8 p.m. June 15-June 18

By Marc Palmieri

Direction by Rob Roznowski

(Ages 12 and up)

A first-time playwright tries to write a new Shakespeare show in this touching comedy.

MAINSTAGE 3: "Fallen Angels"

8 p.m. June 22-June 25

By Noel Coward

Direction by Ann Folino White

(Ages 8 and up)

Noel Coward's wit and wordplay are on display in this comedic gem.

CHILDREN'S SHOW: "Mount Olympus Junior High"

6:30 p.m. June 10-11 and June 17-18

Book by Rob Roznowski Score by Seth Burk

Direction by Deric McNish Musical Direction by Seth Burk

Some of Greece's most famous gods and goddesses deal with adolescence in this world premiere musical comedy.

LATE NIGHT SHOW: "Mr. Marmalade"

10 p.m. June 10-11, June 17-18 and June 24-25

By Noah Haidle

Direction by Matt Greenbaum and Karen Vance

(For adults only)

Young Lucy's imaginary friend wreaks havoc in this very dark comedy.

SUMMER CIRCLE THEATRE KIDS CAMP

June 20-24

Performance for community at 6:30 p.m. on June 24.

(Free to local rising first through sixth graders)

The Summer Circle Courtyard is located on Auditorium Road between the Auditorium Building and the Kresge Art Center in East Lansing. For more information, visit www.theatre.msu.edu/SCT.

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Jody Valley's LGBT Sequel Brings Dark Thrills

BY AJ TRAGER

LANSING – Many writers struggle with protecting their protagonists too much, which leads to poor character development and a stifled plot. Jody Valley is not that writer. Valley's sequel to "A Venomous Cocktail" – "Twisted Minds" – was released in February and has thriller readers completely



Jody Valley

enthralled as they race through the happenings of a murder mystery involving unhinged figures paired with Valley's quick wit.

"Maybe it's just my pathology?" Valley said. "I like to put people in bad situations and make things worse and finally let them get out of it. I find it challenging to put all the clues along the way – to stash them but not give it away. And try to figure out who says what, when and what's going to come next. It's like a puzzle to remember all those things and keep them in my head, and know when to introduce things

at a specific time or not." "Twisted Minds" tells the story of Kera Van Brocklin, a private eye living in a fictitious town on the west side of Michigan called Lakeside City. Kera is a veteran dealing with PTSD from her time serving in the Iraq War, and her adventure turns even darker when she is hired by a lesbian teacher who has been accused of murdering her partner.

Lakeside City loosely resembles Holland, Michigan and has all the classic details of a lakeside village including a diverse yet conservative small-town atmosphere, a beautiful lighthouse, conflicting personalities and small town drama.

"My protagonist is very flawed which makes it difficult for her," Valley told BTL.

Valley wanted to make some significant changes from her first book which featured the changing dynamic between Kera and her partner Mandy, how LGBT families cope with death in the family, and the intersection of LGBT activism and small town politics.

"In the first one you didn't know until the very end who had done it, but in this one you don't know who it is but you're hearing from them. It's a different way of putting the story together. I like figuring out different ways of doing things – it keeps me interested in what I'm working on," Valley said.

Without giving too much away, the thriller starts with a murder, described in the perspective of the killer.

"In this one you start out hearing from the murderer. It starts right out and goes along hearing from this person and then what's going on with Kera," Valley described.

It's a new technique that she's trying out and said that the process of writing those scenes was quite dark. She had to get into the mind of a murderer in order for readers to truly suspend their disbelief. In Lakeside City, it's not just the murderer who has temperament and violence problems – the dark energy has infected many within the town. Valley had to flirt with violence to create the formidable feel of the town and pulled from her 12 years of social work experience to create the havoc in Lakeside City.

"I think that when you listen to people all day long about what goes on in their lives and what they're thinking and feeling, you have a lot of insight into why people do things and you understand where they're coming from," Valley said. "It gave me a good understanding of people."

Valley harnessed more than just her social work experience to create the dismal feel of the town and pulled from the experiences she has had throughout her life living as an out lesbian



facing direct and indirect instances of violence.

"I think the whole city is twisted. I think it's rampant with twisted thoughts. I have lived the life of a lesbian woman for many years. I thought about how people see us – even today," Valley said.

In a previous interview with BTL directly following the debut of her first book, Valley confessed that her sequel would be named "The Mark of Satan." The title was changed to "Twisted Minds" after a suggestion by Valley's wife.

"I thought that would give it the wrong idea of what the book is about," Valley said. "People would see that as a different genre. It was my wife that came up with 'Twisted Minds.' She came up with the title and designed the cover, too. She's a talented artist. It gives the flavor of a mind not doing well."

To learn more about Valley or her protagonist Kera, visit her website at www.jodyvalley.com.

► Rufus Wainwright

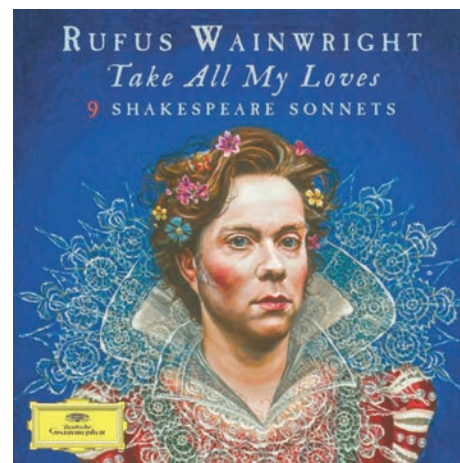
Continued from p. 23

toward the Iraq War. I needed something to remind me of how great America could be when it wanted to be, and sadly we're in the same predicament with Donald Trump and this racist, sexist blowback. I don't know, it just seems to be something that occurs every 10 years in the United States and I'm happy that the Judy show is gonna be back out there again because it is all the good that this country can represent.

Regarding your voice: Haven't you already proven yourself as a singer?

Well, I'm a big opera fan and in the world of opera, you don't really hit your stride until you're in your 40s vocally. That's when you get all the big roles, so it's just more of a personal thing. I'm not trying to prove it to anybody; I'm just proving it to myself, and also just to be really on top of the material. I loved doing Judy the first time because it was this kind of mad rollercoaster ride that I just attached myself to with handcuffs (laughs) and went along with, but this time I feel like I can hold onto the reigns a little better and just really nail it.

You've done Judy and Shakespeare. Which other legendary figures intrigue you enough to make



you want to dedicate an entire album's worth of material to their work?

The figure that's kind of looming all of a sudden – I'm just hearing little squeaks of this in my psyche, but I'm a big (William) Blake fan. I love Blake. Who knows. Maybe something like that. I'd also like to do a French record at some point to just sort of, you know, loosen it in up a bit. (Laughs) And of course there are my own songs from my own life, so there are a lot of possibilities.

And the Shakespeare character you call your spirit animal?

Oh, gee. I would say I've always wanted to be



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Ferndale-based Step On Bus Tours will host a winery tour to nearby Ohio next week titled "Wineries & Rolling Hills of Ohio Tour." Between Toledo and Cleveland, Step On Tours visits three wineries, stops for lunch and visits a couple of unusual off-the-beaten-track historic sites. Enjoy award-winning wines while relaxing and taking in the picturesque views of the vineyard and countryside.

Lunch is at the Mon Ami Historic Winery and Restaurant where guests will be treated to an elegant wine tasting. Guests will be able to purchase wine, fruit and other unique items.

Step On Bus Tours is headquartered at 215 W. Troy St. Ste. 2046, Ferndale, which is also where most tours begin. To register or find out more, call 248-619-6692, email steponbustours@gmail.com or visit www.steponbustours.com.

Editor's Pick

Thursday, June 2
Equality on Tap Date TBD. Bill's Beer Garden, **Ann Arbor**. www.Billsbeergarden.com/

Naked Men's Yoga 6:30 p.m. Naked Men's Yoga, **Ann Arbor**. massage4@aol.com http://groups.yahoo.com/group/michigan_mens_clothing_optional_yoga

All Media Art Exhibition 7 p.m. Ferndale Pride, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.Goaffirmations.org

THEATER

Professional
Heathers the Musical Tickets: \$10-25. The Ringwald Theatre, 2274 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through June 13. 248-545-5545. www.TheRingwald.com

Rogers & Hammerstein's The Sound of Music Directed by Jack O'Brien. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Through May 22. 313-872-1000. www.Broadwayindetroit.com

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"
The exhibition is organized by the DIA and presents more than 90 paintings, sculptures, photographs and costumes brought together for the first time to celebrate and explain the important place of dance in American culture. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. March 20 - June 12. 313-833-7900. www.Dia.org

Lawrence Street Gallery "Birds of a Feather"
A few years ago a group of artists - Suzanne Allen, Glenn Corey, Gwen Joy, Sabrina Nelson, and Gary van Gorp - got together to put on an exhibit at the Majestic Cafe in Detroit. They decided that the unifying theme of the show would be Birds, and hence the title of the show, Birds of a Feather. This year they are back together and include Laura Whitesides Host, Nancy Moseley and Joe Smith as part of the flock to show at Lawrence Street Gallery. One will see a variety of avian subjects ornithological birds, fantasy birds, even English Birds. It's an exhibition that will send you soaring like an eagle. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave, Ferndale. May 6 - May 20.

Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, May 19

Ladies who love Ladies Night The hottest lesbian DJ Team, \$3 Drafts from all 18 taps all night, \$3 Jack Fire and Jack Honey drinks from 10 p.m. to 12 a.m. served by the Jack Girls. Pronto!, 608 S. Washington Ave., **Royal Oak**. 248-544-7900. www.facebook.com/prontorestaurantRO/

A Night of Broadway Stars: A Benefit for Covenant House 6 p.m. Tickets: \$250. Covenant House, 333 Madison St., **Detroit**. www.Covenanthousemi.org/NOBS

Friday, May 20

Interfaith Reproductive Justice Conference Registration: \$20. Woodside Church, 1509 E. Court St., **Flint**. 248-549-5170. www.Ujjustice.org

LGBT Speed Dating: For Chocolate Loving Males 6:30 p.m. Both events are open to trans and gender queer individuals. The cost is \$10 which covers participant's first drink from our full espresso bar and a choice of truffle. For ages 21-35. Gayle's Chocolates, 417 S. Washington Ave., **Royal Oak**. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/speed-dating-at-gayles-for-single-gay-males-aged-21-35-tickets-24817766608>

Saturday, May 21

Annual Picnic in the Park 2 p.m. Food, Beverages, Veggie Options, Desserts, Games, 50/50 Raffle, Music, Performance by Sing Out Detroit, Prizes & Surprises! Sing Out Detroit, 1101 W. 13 Mile, **Royal Oak**. www.Singoutdetroit.org

LGBT Speed Dating: For Chocolate Loving Females 6:30 p.m. First drink is free and truffles will be given out. For ages 21-35. Gayle's Chocolates, 417 S. Washington Ave., **Royal Oak**. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/speed-dating-at-gayles-for-single-gay-females-aged-21-35-tickets-24818161790>

Destination: Me - The Journey of Transformation 8 p.m. Join Out Loud for a journey of transformation. Selections include a medley from Kinky Boots, Defying Gravity, Unwritten, Beautiful and I've Gotta Be Me. Paul Haebig directs the chorus with Annie Jeng on piano, Edie Herrold on bass and Tamara Perkuhn on percussion. \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door, \$12 for students and seniors, free for children under 4. Tickets available

online, from chorus members or at Common Language Books. Out Loud Chorus, 530 S. State St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-265-0740. outloudchorus@gmail.com www.OLconline.org

Friday, May 27

Wineries & Rolling Hills of Ohio 7 a.m. Enjoy award-winning wines while relaxing and taking in the picturesque views of the vineyard and countryside. From handcrafted cheeses and wines to meats and candies, theres a wide variety of items that tempt your taste buds. Lunch is at the Mon Ami Historic Winery and Restaurant where you will be treated to an elegant wine tasting. You will be able to purchase wine, fruit and other unique items. Step On Bus Tours, 215 W. Troy St. Ste 2046, **Ferndale**. 248-619-6692. steponbustours@gmail.com www.steponbustours.com

Hot Daddies Contest Think you're the hottest daddy in Ferndale? Males 35+ can put their name in the running for this Hot Daddy contest to benefit Ferndale Pride. Ferndale Pride, 205 W. Nine Mile, **Ferndale**. www.Ferndalepride.com

Saturday, May 28

LBGTQ ISRAEL TRIP 12 a.m. For additional information about the trip visit www.jcca.org/lgbtqisrael. Or contact Aliza

orent@shalomaustin.org or 512-735-8030 to talk about all aspects of the trip. Jewish Community Center Association of North America, Israel, **Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Galilee, Acco, Masada**. 512-735-8030. aliza.orent@shalomaustin.org www.Jcca.org/lgbtqisrael

Tuesday, May 31

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

Wednesday, June 1

Foster Care and Adoption Orientation 6 p.m. Orchards Childrens Services is hosting an informational orientation about foster care and adoption for individuals in Michigan that are interested in caring for children in need. This free informational meeting will include information about fostering, adoption, the process, time-frame, legal process, etc. For more information please call 248-530-5370. Orchards Childrens Services, 24901 Northwestern Highway, Suite 601, **Southfield**. 248-530-5370. smarks@orchards.org www.orchards.org

Editor's Pick



The Humane Society of Huron Valley is hosting one of its biggest fundraisers of the year: Walk & Wag and Run. The event includes a 1-mile dog walk, 5K run, performance by the Rock N Roll K9s, best pet trick contest and other fun activities, including a raffle.

Recognized for their best practices, fiscal responsibility and transparency, HSHV has been awarded Charity Navigator's highest rating and the highest animal "save rate" among all similar shelters in Michigan. Every dollar raised during the event assists in the rescue, care and start of a new life for the most vulnerable animals in our community.

Check in for the event begins at 8 a.m. Saturday, May 21 at Rolling Hills Park in Ypsilanti. The event will go until 1 p.m., rain or shine. Registration fees start at \$30; to register, visit www.hshv.org or do so before 8:15 a.m. the day of the event.


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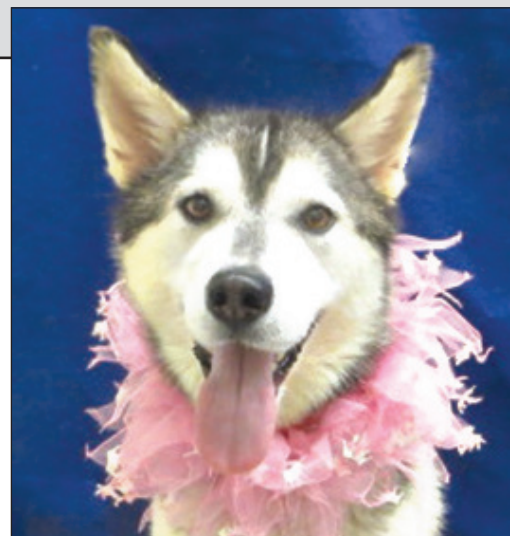
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• TUES 5/10 • WED 5/25 •

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7pm - 8pm

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http://groups.yahoo.com/group/michigan_mens_clothing_optional_yoga



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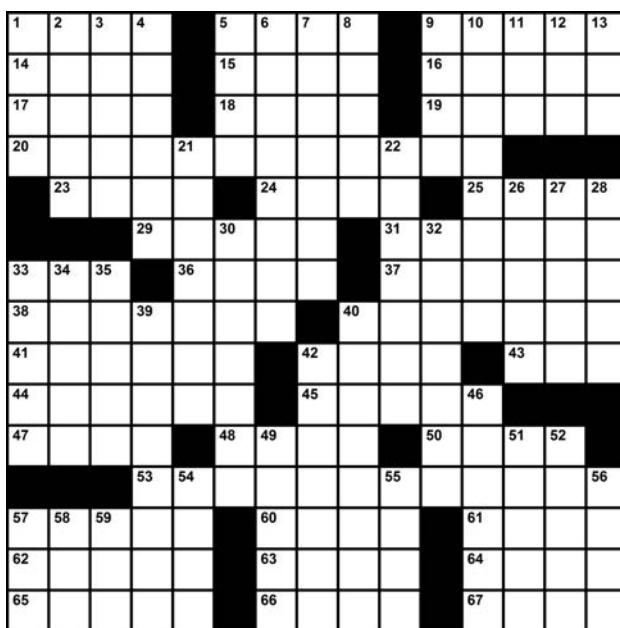
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Q Puzzle



Legendary Lesbian

Across

- 1 Instrument with several G-strings
- 5 Toon Le Pew
- 9 Long, hard one of construction workers
- 14 Israeli author Oz
- 15 Star quality
- 16 Fosse field

- 17 Able to bend over
- 18 "The Unicorn" author Murdoch
- 19 Standing up straight
- 20 Legendary lesbian name once of Lansing
- 23 Start of an online view
- 24 Part of UTEP
- 25 Locale of valuable stones
- 29 Playful mammal
- 31 Bottom's cry
- 33 "QAF" network
- 36 Wear at the edges
- 37 Become like a bear
- 38 Legendary lesbian name once of Fort Lauderdale
- 40 Legendary lesbian name once

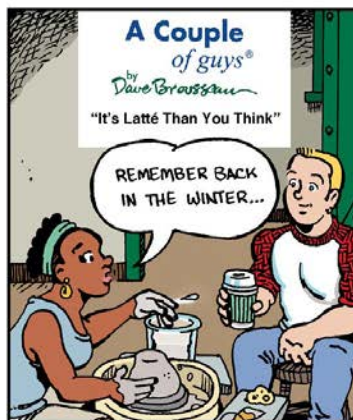
Down

- 1 Shakespeare's own?
- 2 Greek theater opening
- 3 Composer Ned
- 4 Anthony Perkins flick of 1960
- 5 Two of a kind
- 6 Pole, for one
- 7 Early contest for Hillary
- 8 Lets up
- 9 Head output
- 10 Big yellow fruit
- 11 WSW opposite
- 12 Jock org. for UNC
- 13 Trysted
- 21 Come quickly, with "it"
- 22 Catch in the North Atlantic

- of Philadelphia
- 41 "About Cherry" director Stephen
- 42 Trial run
- 43 NYPD rank
- 44 Succeeds a la Log Cabin
- 45 Needed some BenGay
- 47 Kind of IRA
- 48 "Etta ____" (old comic strip)
- 50 What an athletic supporter might do?
- 53 Legendary lesbian name once of Portland
- 57 "One of Ours" novelist Cather
- 60 Drag queen Gene
- 61 Fey of "30 Rock"
- 62 Poet Dickinson
- 63 Charged particles
- 64 Out partner
- 65 Events at Barneys
- 66 Petrol station choice
- 67 They wave their sticks in Cincinnati

- 26 Quit, with "out"
- 27 Brand for cutting leaves of grass
- 28 Adolf's intimate Rohm
- 30 Russian friend of Kahlo
- 32 Indiana Fever's conference
- 33 Look from Snidely Whiplash
- 34 Greeting for Dolly
- 35 One of the little hooters
- 39 Williams of "Brokeback Mountain"
- 40 Citrus fruit parts
- 42 Skin decorations
- 46 Arizona, on "Grey's Anatomy," e.g.
- 49 Beatles manager Brian's nickname
- 51 Kind of drab
- 52 Adjusted guitar strings
- 54 G of PFLAG
- 55 Errol Flynn's "The Sun ____ Rises"
- 56 Four of the answers in this puzzle
- 57 Bentley of "American Beauty"
- 58 "____ Yankee Doodle Dandy"
- 59 Like a one-incher, in Dogpatch

Find solution to this puzzle at www.pridesource.com



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