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## NEWS

### Great Lakes Bay Region Celebrates 6th Pride

MIDLAND – June is over but LGBT Michigan is not done celebrating pride. Perceptions, the community center for the Great Lakes Bay region will present its 6th annual Pride festival July 23 in the Veteran’s Memorial Park in Bay City.

“Our 2016 Great Lakes Bay Region Pride festivities have three simple goals,” said Christopher Lauckner, chairperson of Perceptions. “To lay a foundational legacy for a fully inclusive culture across the Great Lakes Bay Region; to bring unity to our diverse community through a celebration of life, equality and family - whatever your definition of family may be; and most importantly, to drive action as we continue to advance equal rights and acceptance for all - ensuring that our community and all its citizens can thrive and prosper in a growing, affirming community. There has never been a better time to get involved and make great things happen.”

The festival will run from noon to 8 p.m. and according to organizers, Bay City Pride will shine a light on the local LGBT community by celebrating its accomplishments.

This year’s event will provide activities for attendees of all ages including a children’s

education and fun area and multiple opportunities to connect with over 30 local businesses, nonprofits and governmental resources.

Mid-Michigan TV-5 news anchor David Custer will act as master of ceremonies for the list of nationally recognized and locally acclaimed scheduled acts. Performances will feature singer-songwriter Steve Grand, the inaugural public performance of Michigan’s newest LGBT choir the Harmony Diversity Choir, Louisiana native featured on HV1 and MTV Eryn Woods, De’Borah from NBC’s “The Voice,” Avenue 5, and local Drag favorites DeeDee Chaunte, Racine Alexander, Pollyanna High-Gloss and Dalylah Desmond.

A Pride festival after-party will be at The Prime Event Center beginning at 9 p.m. Eryn Woods will DJ with special appearances by Steve Grand and De’Borah. General admission tickets cost \$7. For the most up-to-date information visit [www.greatlakesbaypride.org](http://www.greatlakesbaypride.org).

Veterans Memorial Park is located in Bay City on McKinley street just west of the Saginaw River.

### Fair Michigan Launches Justice Project

DETROIT – A new project has started in southeast Michigan working directly with city officials to investigate hate crimes against the LGBT community.

Fair Michigan, the relatively-new nonprofit organization whose literature describes its mission as “dedicated to transforming Michigan to be a place where LGBT lives are celebrated, valued and respected,” has developed a program working directly with Wayne County city officials.

At a July 12 press conference the Fair Michigan Justice Project, a collaboration between Fair Michigan and the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office, was announced. It will investigate and prosecute crimes against the LGBT community, especially homicide cases, and those considered “cold” or those that lack eyewitness evidence.

According to the Detroit News, the project began months ago when Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy reached out to Dana Nessel to discuss how to better serve the LGBT community.

“I noticed a national trend, ticking upward, of people being killed because of their sexual orientation,” Worthy said.

Nessel is best known as the lead attorney on the Michigan same-sex marriage case, DeBoer v Snyder, that was integral in the path towards marriage equality.

LGB and especially trans men and women experience higher rates of hate crimes compared to their heterosexual counterparts.

LGBT individuals also experience extreme discrimination by the hands of the police, both institutional and prejudicial. While LGBT cultural competency trainings have been happening in communities and within police departments, more needs to be done so that LGBT people are provided with equal treatment under the law.

In an effort to keep up on hot and “cold” LGBT cases, Deputy Dani Woods was appointed in 2013 as the LGBT liaison to the Detroit Police Department, office of Police Chief James Craig. Since her appointment Woods has worked to open communication between the LGBT community and the police force and regularly meets with LGBT leaders in the area. Last year the department held a community conversation at Palmer Park following the tragic murders of Amber Monroe and Ashton O’Hara, two young trans women of color from the city. The event was attended by over 200 people. Monroe’s case has yet to be solved. Woods also conducted multiple police trainings.

The initial project launch will focus on Detroit, but Fair Michigan plans on expanding to other communities in Wayne County according to Worthy. Monroe’s case is one of 12 that the project will initially focus on, plus five other homicides.

The project is funded through a grant by the Hertz Schram law firm.

Learn more about the Justice Project at [www.fairmichigan.org/fair-michigan-justice-project](http://www.fairmichigan.org/fair-michigan-justice-project).

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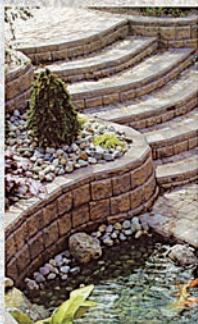
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# GOP Delegates Ratify Platform, Express Support for Anti-LGBT Language

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, REPORTER WASHINGTON BLADE

**CLEVELAND, Ohio** – Delegates at the Republican National Convention ratified Monday afternoon with little opposition a party platform considered to have the most anti-LGBT language in history.

As Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), chair of the platform committee, presided over the convention, delegates approved the 66-page document by voice vote at 4:42 pm. The number of “ayes” among the 2,470 delegates seemed overwhelming compared to the barely audible “nays.”

Despite efforts from pro-LGBT Republicans to remove opposition to same-sex marriage from the 2016 platform, the document seeks to reverse the U.S. Supreme Court decision in favor of marriage equality through either judicial reconsideration or a constitutional amendment returning the issue to the states.

Virgil Goode, a Virginia delegate and former six-term member of the U.S. House, told the Washington Blade at the Republican convention he backs the platform language in opposition to the ruling.

“I think the Supreme Court legislated,” Goode said. “The Supreme Court is not the decider of what marriage is. It should be the individual states have that right. They way overstepped their bounds on that.”

Goode said under his view allowing same-sex couples to obtain marriage licenses and having those relationship recognized “would be up to the states.”

“You have in the United States, including California, the people voted for a definition of marriage, and I think that vote should stand, that the Supreme Court shouldn’t be overriding,” Goode said.

In addition to opposition to same-sex marriage, the platform also objects to use of federal law to ensure transgender people can use the restroom consistent with their gender identity, indicates support for widely discredited “ex-gay” conversion therapy and endorses the First Amendment Defense Act, a “religious freedom” bill that critics say would enable anti-LGBT discrimination.

Joseph Knox, a 20-year-old alternate delegate from Washington, N.C., said he agrees with language in the platform on transgender restroom use – which is consistent with a law in his state signed by Gov. Pat McCrory requiring transgender people to certain public restroom according to their birth



Protestors outside the RNC Convention in Cleveland, Ohio Monday. Photo: Washington Blade: By Michael Key.

certificates, not their gender identity.

“I support that because I believe it’s the duty of our government in order to protect people for the cases where it may abused,” Knox said. “I understand where the argument is made for people and their rights, and they feel they need to use the bathroom of their choice. However, in public schools, or taxpayer buildings, or stuff like that, then it should be up to your birth certificate, and that’s where you should have to go.”

Knox said he also “absolutely” backs language in the platform in opposition to the Supreme Court’s decision in favor of same-sex marriage nationwide.

“I believe as a conservative, as a Republican, that the federal government has taken leaps and bounds that are involving themselves within states rights way too much,” Knox said. “It wasn’t mentioned in the Constitution. Our Founding Fathers were not worried about that along with a lot other things.”

Knox added he believes the establishment of the Department of Education is also

unconstitutional “things like that should be left up to the individual states.”

Delegates at the convention who spoke about the language in the platform against LGBT rights were largely in support of those planks. Many of the delegates and alternate delegates at the Quicken Loans Arena refused to speak with the Washington Blade on the subject of gay rights in the party platform.

Dwayne Collins, a delegate from the Dallas-area in Texas, said he agrees with the platform’s opposition to the same-sex marriage on the basis that “marriage between a man and a man, and a woman and a woman, is just not biblical.”

In response to the platform’s veiled endorsement of “ex-gay” conversion therapy, Collins indicated support for that language as well.

“There should not be anything to force anybody to do such therapy, but if it’s out there and available, then, yes,” Collins said. “But to force somebody into therapy, no, no, not at all.”

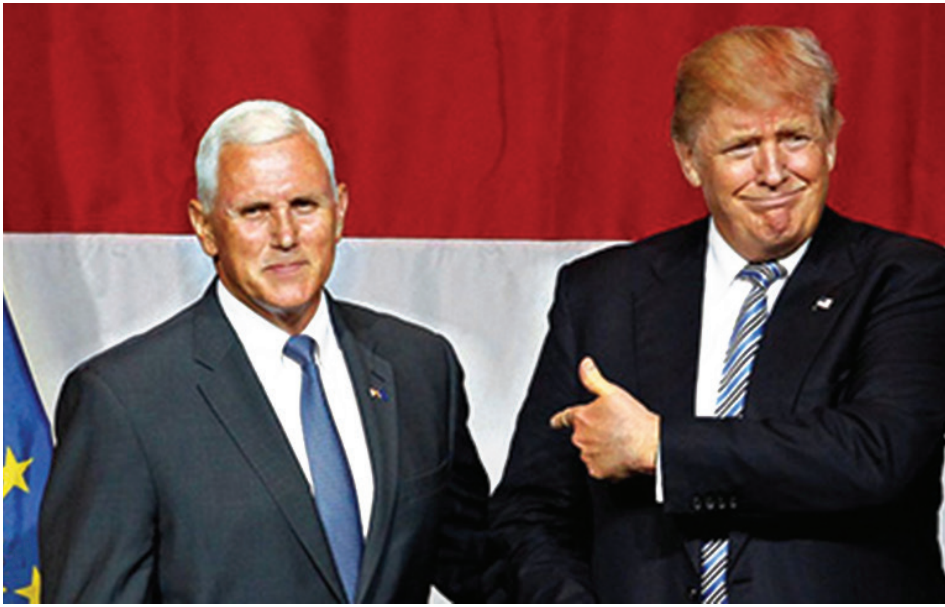
Collins, who identified himself as a small business owner, also voiced concerns about non-discrimination laws threatening the livelihoods of those offering wedding-related services.

“I feel intimidated by what the gay movement is doing to my business,” Collins said. “I own a wedding venue, OK? It’s privately owned. I rent it to people for weddings, but it’s got to be a man and a woman. Now in the state of Texas, I have a little bit of protection, but in other states, if you don’t do that, you get sued. And that’s my business, they are infringing on my rights. That’s why we got to come to a consensus here and say, ‘Hey, enough’s enough. You got your rights; we got our rights.’”

A North Dakota delegate, who refused to offer his name, said in response to the language, “I’m a live and let live guy.” Asked if he supports the platform calling for reversal of the Supreme Court decision and returning the issue of same-sex marriage, he replied, “I prefer that when states can make their own

See GOP Anti-Gay Platform, page 16





Indiana Governor Mike Pence has a long record of opposing LGBT equality. Trump selected him as his running mate Friday in what media outlets described as an "underwhelming" introduction.

## Trump Names Pence As Running Mate

BY LISA KEEN

**INDIANA** – If Indiana Governor Mike Pence has one weakness in the eyes of the conservative Republican Party base, it's that he's too soft on LGBT people.

That seemed to be the general assessment of various commentators this week as they imagined and then learned through a Twitter post Friday morning that Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has named Pence as his vice presidential running mate.

Trump was scheduled to hold a press conference Friday morning to announce his choice of a running mate but abruptly canceled that plan Thursday night after a shocking attack on Bastille Day revelers in Nice, France, killed more than 80 people. Trump then posted a Twitter message late Friday morning, making the announcement official.

Pence, who pondered a run for the Republican nomination in 2012, is said to be well-respected among Republican conservatives, but he is not well-liked by LGBT activists.

Rich Tafel, former president of the national Log Cabin Republicans group, called Pence "about one of the worst people for gay equality based on his experience in the House and as Governor."

But, added Tafel, "There is an upside."

"Pence is a favorite of the evangelicals and endorsed [Ted] Cruz. If this bus goes off the cliff, which I think it might," said Tafel, "it is better to have the evangelicals and the white nationalists in it together. Whatever happens, they will blame others for their failure, but the fact that 85 percent of evangelicals are on board with Trump is good for those of us

seeking to create a new center right party. Had Trump chosen someone more moderate, the far right would say that's why we lost."

As a member of the U.S. House, Pence opposed every piece of pro-equal rights legislation that came to the floor in the House, including the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. He also voted for amending the U.S. Constitution to ban same-sex marriage. In each of those years, his record on LGBT issues repeatedly earned him a zero on the Human Rights Campaign's Congressional Scorecard.

Speaking at an event in Iowa in 2011, Pence suggested that allowing gay couples to marry would lead to an economic meltdown. He told MSNBC that repeal of DADT amounted to trying to "advance a liberal social agenda" and "mainstream homosexuality."

In 2014, Governor Mike Pence led support behind a state bill to ban recognition of same-sex marriages. The bill also called for also banning recognition of other forms of same-sex relationships, such as civil unions. And in 2015, he supported and signed a bill that would have allowed citizens to discriminate against LGBT people by claiming to hold a religious belief that compelled them.

Bob Vander Plaats, who has headed up anti-gay campaigns in Iowa, told an Iowa television station that Pence will attract evangelicals to the ticket because he is "pro-life" and against marriage for same-sex couples.

But Pence disappointed some conservatives last year when - after first supporting and signing the "religious freedom" bill - he signed a "clarification bill" aimed at "resolving controversy" and "making clear every person feels welcome and respected" in Indiana.

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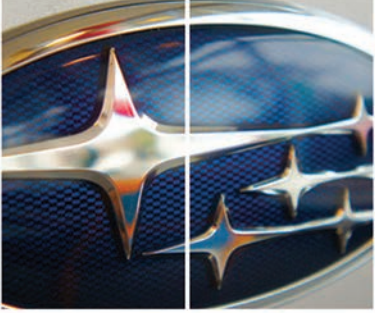

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## Families of Deceased Pulse Patrons to Get Highest Payments

**ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)** - The families of the victims slain at the Pulse nightclub June 12 will get the most money from a fund established to help the victims' families and survivors of the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

A proposal on how to distribute the money was released July 14 by Kenneth Feinberg, the OneOrlando Fund's administrator.

The fund has at least \$17 million. The exact amount each family will get is to be determined by how much is raised by Sept. 26.

Omar Mateen opened fire at Pulse last month, leaving 49 victims dead and injuring 53 people.

The proposal creates four classes for distributing the funds: families of deceased victims, people hospitalized for more than one night, people injured but not needing overnight hospitalization and patrons who were not hurt.

## Justice Dept. Reviewing Police Response to Nightclub Rampage

**WASHINGTON (AP)** - The Justice Department said Friday that it will review the Orlando Police Department's response to the attack last month at a gay nightclub.

The city police department faced questions after the June 12 shooting at the Pulse nightclub, in which a gunman who pledged allegiance to the Islamic State killed 49 people, about whether it had waited too long after the rampage began to send in a SWAT team.

The Justice Department will examine the police department's preparedness and response, as well as strategies and tactics it used during the massacre.

The review will be led by the Justice Department's Community Oriented Policing Services office, which offers technical assistance to departments who have experienced high-profile events and emergencies.

Among past reports from the office was one last year that examined the police response to protests in Ferguson, Missouri following the shooting death of Michael Brown, an unarmed 18-year-old black man. That report called on police to strengthen policies for handling protests and to improve training on diversity, among other recommendations.

Orlando Police Chief John Mina requested the federal review, said Ronald Davis, director of the COPS office. The lessons learned from the review will benefit not only Orlando police but "provide all law enforcement critical guidance and recommendations for responding to future such incidents," Davis said in a statement.

## Ethics Panel Wants Alabama Chief Justice Removed from Office

BY KIM CHANDLER

**MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)** - Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore should be swiftly removed from office for a second time because he urged the state's probate judges to defy federal courts on gay marriage, a state ethics commission argued Friday.

The Alabama Judicial Inquiry Commission wrote in the court filing that Moore - who was ousted from the bench in 2003 for refusing to remove a boulder-sized Ten Commandments monument at a state building - was again flouting the rule of law, but this time he was urging 68 probate judges to do so with him.

"Because the chief justice has proven - and promised - that he will not change his behavior, he has left this Court with no choice but to remove him from office to preserve the integrity, independence, impartiality of Alabama's judiciary and the citizens who depend on it for justice," lawyers for the commission wrote in the filing with the

Alabama Court of the Judiciary.

The commission said Moore disrespected the judiciary when he told probate judges in January that a state injunction against same-sex marriage remained in "full force and effect" even though the U.S. Supreme Court had ruled six months prior that gays and lesbians had a fundamental right to marry and a federal judge had ordered the judges not to enforce the ban.

The ethics accusations against Moore are part of a series of scandals engulfing Republicans at the helm of Alabama's three branches of government. House Speaker Mike Hubbard was removed from office in June after being convicted on corruption charges. The House Judiciary Committee is investigating whether grounds exist to impeach Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley.

The Alabama Court of the Judiciary, a panel of judges, lawyers and citizens who hear misconduct complaints against judges, will decide if Moore violated the standards

of judicial ethics. Moore urged the court to dismiss the case; arguments on his motion are set for Aug. 8.

In the response filed Friday, the commission argued there were sufficient grounds to remove Moore from office instead of hashing out the matter in a trial-like proceeding.

Moore had argued the complaint is baseless and he never ordered state probate judges to refuse wedding licenses to gay couples. His attorneys have said that Moore was correctly summarizing the status of a state injunction in answer to questions from probate judges.

"The Administrative Order of Chief Justice Moore expressly said he could not provide guidance to the probate judges because the matter was pending before the Alabama Supreme Court," Moore's attorney Mat Staver said in a statement last month.

The commission responded that Moore was playing "semantic gamesmanship."

## Analysis: Rule Shows Religious Objections Debate Not Over

BY ANDREW DEMILLO

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)** - For critics of Arkansas' religious objections law, a new rule allowing counselors to refer clients elsewhere if they have a religious or moral objection to treating them shows the Pandora's box the majority-Republican Legislature opened last year. It also is a sign that the debate over the law that was upended in the final days of last year's legislative session is far from over.

A legislative panel last week approved the rule by the Board of Examiners and Counseling, which regulates 2,800 counselors and marriage and family therapists in the state. The rule will allow counselors and therapists to refer a patient to someone else over sincerely held "ethical, moral or religious principles" but only after careful consideration and consultation, and only if the counselor is unable to effectively serve the client. It also says counselors cannot abandon someone who seeks assistance.

The board's executive director has called the rule a way for the panel to address any complaints if such referrals occur and an attempt to head off a more far-reaching law like one recently enacted in Tennessee that allows counselors to refuse to treat patients based on the therapist's religious or personal beliefs.

"We're going to be policing our own profession, making sure folks are doing what they're supposed to be doing about those

issues that intrude upon their ability to be with a client," Michael Loos told lawmakers.

But the rule is drawing criticism from several groups, including the American Counseling Association. The association, which represents more than 56,000 professional counselors, says the rule runs counter to its code of ethics.

"This (rule) blatantly circumvents that process and opens the door for discrimination," Richard Yep, the association's chief executive officer, said in a statement last week.

Though tame by comparison in tone and attention, the debate over the rule echoes last year's fight over a religious objections measure that was approved in the final days of the legislative session. Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson asked lawmakers to revise the legislation in the wake of widespread criticism from groups like the Human Rights Campaign and businesses such as Bentonville-based Wal-Mart, who said the initial version was discriminatory against the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

Hutchinson has indicated little willingness to wade back into the issue when lawmakers return to the Capitol. The two lawmakers behind the religious objections legislation - Sen. Bart Hester and Rep. Bob Ballinger - have said they're not looking to reopen debate over the law either.

But they may not get much say in the matter, with other fights looming on LGBT

rights that could wade into similar territory on religious objections. Hutchinson earlier this year recommended public schools in his state disregard an Obama administration directive that they must permit transgender students to use bathrooms and locker rooms consistent with their gender identity, and has said he expects the issue to come up during next year's session. Attorney General Leslie Rutledge, a Republican, is among a number of Republican attorneys general, including Michigan's Attorney General Bill Schuette, who have filed a lawsuit over the bathroom directive.

The state has also asked the state Supreme Court to strike down Fayetteville ordinance that bans discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, saying it violates a state law aimed at preventing local protections for LGBT people.

Opponents of the religious objections law face an uphill fight in the Legislature to either scale back the religious objections law or add protections for LGBT people to the state's civil rights law. But they're hoping that the attention Arkansas receives for such measures could help make the case for revisiting the issue.

"I just think, for the image of Arkansas, it makes it seem as though we create rules here that are going to be unfriendly to members of the LGBT community and that's problematic for the image of our state," Democratic Rep. Clarke Tucker of Little Rock said.



## Clyburn: Election 'most consequential' of lifetime

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS

CLEVELAND – South Carolina Congressman Jim Clyburn on Monday described this year's election as the "most consequential" of his lifetime.

"I hear people telling me that they're so upset about what happened in the primaries that they're going to boycott their voting in November," said the South Carolina Democrat during a voting rights town hall at Cleveland State University that U.S. Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-Ohio) hosted. "Just remember this, on Nov. 8 you're going to have national elections. When you wake up on the morning of the 9th, somebody is going to be elected. Now whether or not you participate in that process or not, there's going to be an election and somebody's going to get elected."

"This is the most consequential election of my lifetime," he added.

Clyburn specifically pointed to the U.S. Supreme Court and cases around voting and abortion rights, the DREAM Act and immigration.

"These things are going to end up before the Supreme Court," he said. "Who will be sitting on that Supreme Court will be determined by who wins on Nov. 8."

Clyburn did not mention the case of Gavin Grimm, a transgender student who is challenging his Virginia school district's bathroom policy, that could go before the justices during their upcoming term.

MSNBC anchor Joy-Ann Reid moderated the panel that took place on the first day of the Republican National Convention.

Ohio state Rep. Stephanie Howse (D-Cleveland), Julie Fernandes of the Open Society Foundations, Camille Wimbish of Ohio Voice and Mike Brickner of the American Civil Liberties Union were also panelists alongside Mississippi Congressman Bennie Thompson.

"The greatness of this country is that we settle our differences at the ballot box," said Thompson. "Nov. 8 will come, you choose your person, others choose theirs. It doesn't matter on Nov. 9 other than who won, but we don't have a coup. We don't burn buildings or shoot people because we are a democracy."

"It's inherent upon us to make sure that we promote our interests," he added.

The town hall took place a day after a gunman killed three police officers in Baton Rouge, La. Factions within the Turkish military over the weekend staged an unsuccessful coup against their country's president.

# Democratic Convention Preview

BY LISA KEEN

Both the Republican and Democratic national conventions are marked this year by something tantalizingly new. For the GOP, it's a nominee essentially untethered from the party yet carried along to the top of the ticket by voters who are said to be "angry." For the Democrats, it's a candidate for the history books - the first woman to win a major party's nomination and, perhaps, to win the presidency.

For Republicans, this "new" phenomenon is Donald Trump, whose barker-like and volatile ramblings have promised something "huge" and something "great," but something that, to many, sounds more ominous than it is specific.

For the Democrats, the historic candidate is Hillary Clinton, whose calculated climb to the top has overcome decades of push-back from Republicans and even a dynamic challenge from the progressive wing of her own party.

Trump is hobbled by his extremist solutions, pugilistic temperament, and self-contradictory remarks. Clinton is hobbled by feuds that erupted between Republicans and the administration of her husband, President Bill Clinton, and by a recent FBI report that said she was "extremely careless" in the handling of "very sensitive, highly classified information" during her tenure as Secretary of State.

But for most LGBT viewers, much in convention watching will be familiar.

At the Republican convention, which got underway Monday afternoon, the GOP will once again approve a platform that is hostile to equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. Its convention podium will host a parade of speakers who either share that hostility or, like Trump, show no sense of responsibility to confront it in the party. And the emerging ticket - Trump and Indiana Governor Mike Pence - will promise nothing specific to LGBT voters.

At the Democratic convention, which opens next Monday, the party will approve a platform that is, once again, deemed more LGBT friendly than the one previous. Its numerous speakers will include openly LGBT people

and will commit the party to seeking equality and respect for LGBT citizens. And a large contingent of LGBT delegates will be visible on the convention floor.

In fact, Earl Fowlkes Jr., chairman of the LGBT Caucus of the Democratic National Committee, predicts the Democratic convention in Philadelphia will be the "gayest ever."

"I am certain there will be a number of speakers talking about the differences between the homophobic and transphobic GOP and the LGBTQ welcoming and supportive Democratic party," said Fowlkes. And it will likely include the largest number of openly LGBT delegates and alternates - more than the 500-plus who attended the 2012 convention.

So what should LGBT viewers watch for at the July 25-28 convention in Philadelphia?

## What to watch for

**Party Platform:** The proposed Democratic party platform this year commits Democrats to fighting for "comprehensive federal non-discrimination protections" for LGBT citizens. It promises to "combat LGBT youth homelessness," "improve school climates" protect transgender individuals from violence, "promote LGBT human rights and ensure America's foreign policy is inclusive of LGBT people around the world." LGBT Caucus Chair Fowlkes said the platform is the result of collaboration between the campaigns of Clinton and her biggest challenger, U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders, along with input from "hundreds of Democrats."

"I am satisfied with the platform," said Fowlkes, "because I know that [Clinton] will be a strong advocate for LGBTQ rights as president and her administration will continue to build on the pro-LGBTQ foundation that was laid by the Obama Administration."

**The Nomination:** Since the beginning of the primaries, the bulk of visible LGBT support in the Democratic primaries has been behind Clinton. Fowlkes said he doesn't have any breakdown of how many LGBT Caucus

members supported Clinton and how many supported Sanders. He's hopeful that Clinton, in accepting the nomination next Thursday night, "speaks to the continued violence towards LGBTQ Americans and the need for full equality protections for our community."

**The Vice President:** Fowlkes said, "I think Senator Tim Kaine would be an excellent VP choice and would be a great vice president." Kaine has a strong record of supporting equal rights for LGBT people. As governor of Virginia, he signed an executive order to prohibit discrimination against state employees based on sexual orientation. He earned a 90 rating from the Human Rights Campaign's Congressional Scorecard. Other possibilities, including U.S. Senators Elizabeth Warren and Cory Booker, also have pro-LGBT records. Clinton is expected to announce her choice soon after the Republican convention ends, perhaps as early as Friday.

**LGBT community visibility:** A number of LGBT groups will be hosting events around the Democratic convention, including the Equality Forum, which will hold its annual LGBT civil rights conference in Philadelphia.

There will two LGBT caucus meetings open to the delegates and the general public, said Caucus Chair Fowlkes.

And on Thursday night, a coalition of LGBT groups will again air a political ad that ran during the Republican convention and explains the injury that is done by laws banning transgender people from using bathrooms that correspond to their sexual identity. The ad was funded by the National Center for Transgender Equality, the Movement Advancement Project, and others.

**Convention Speeches:** Fowlkes said he is "very hopeful" of seeing an openly LGBT speaker during a prime-time slot. Although a brief preliminary list of high-profile speakers does not include any LGBT speakers, likely possibilities include U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin, one of 11 states that have been pegged as not clearly Democratic or Republican.



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## My Nearly Forgotten Gay Twenties

# Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

I went to my first gay bar, the Silver Slipper, a dyke bar on Grand River, near downtown Detroit. Just 19, I used borrowed ID, escorted authoritatively by two 'stone butches': Speedy and Draino.

Lesbians sat in an upstairs balcony. Gays and "tourists," downstairs. (Tourists - straight guys and their giggly dates - came to gawk at queers.)

Entertainer was porkulent Chi Chi LaTrine, aka Benjamin Ernest Franklin. He wore wide, be-ribboned picture hats, sang songs with lyrics of questionable OB-GYN soundness. ("Douche yourself with kerosene. Light it with a match. You will be the only queen with a blow torch for a snatch.")

Chi Chi's comedy routines closed with his trademark insertion of a champagne glass into his ample mouth and rouged facial cheeks. (Sidebar: Franklin had a sociology M.A., and in the '60s was the first openly gay person to speak to Wayne University psych classes. He had a scholarly typing service, and ran a second-hand bookstore.)

With teenage friends Gary and Richard, I next hit the Scenic Bar in Toledo, Ohio. 3.2 Zing! beer. Soon our little circle - "Claudia," (Richard) "Margo," (Gary) and (groan) "Crystal" - took our sing-along road show to Cleveland, staying at the Y-M-C-A!

I met Marcus, who took me home, played Maria Callas arias from Verdi's "La Traviata," fed me a wonderful breakfast. It was magic, until I learned to my over-stuffed chagrin that my gourmet cook was yet another crossdresser. Two that summer!

Next came Big Apple week. Our threesome took the New York Central train - playing gin rummy for most of 13 hours - and booked into the notorious Sloan House Y. It was mid-July. No air conditioning. Heat 90-plus. Sweat soaked outdoors in minutes. So, we slept at day; partied at night.

I had no sooner unpacked my things at Sloan House when the phone rang. "Hi! I'm Jerry. I saw you in the lobby. Can I take you to dinner?" He left two days later. Ever faithful at 19, I thought of Jerry for 36.5 hours, 36 seconds. (Jerry, who?)

Our trio went to a Greenwich Village downstairs bar, the Sans Souci. "Cry Me a River," sung by Roberta Sherwood, was the jukebox hit. Bar ambiance was intimate but very discreet. I met a bona fide actor: Gunther Wilde. (Gunther, who?)

Richard reeled in two mid-30s Italians who invited us to Fire Island. We took the train to Babylon - three hour ride - and a ferry boat to Cherry Grove. "Truman Capote's there," they told us. (Capote, who?) I experienced a toothache, a sunburn, no sleep, a sore back. (It was worth it.)

In the mid-50s, we had no role models. We suspected certain movie stars. (Tab Hunter - now 85 - Barbara Stanwyck, James Dean, Sal Mineo). All wishful thinking. These Sen. McCarthy witch-hunting years were terror for "known homosexuals." Gays had no choice but the closet.

For those who could pass for straight, problems were few. Vice cops. Crabs. VD. Job firing. Shock therapy. Excommunication. Incarceration. Media exposes. You kept your "she this" and "she that" as coded lingo.

Travel was a revelation. We realized we weren't alone. We were everywhere: doctors, stevedores, actors, professors, cops, nurses, American Indian chiefs, average Joes, exceptional Jills.

Gaydar was a godsend. Question: Who needs gaydar these days?

Charles@pridesource.com



BY JAY KAPLAN

## Viewpoint

# Court's Decision Harms Kids of LGBT Parents

Last week's decision in the ACLU's equitable parent case, *Lake v Putnam*, was definitely a step backward for LGBT rights in Michigan.

A panel of three Michigan Court of Appeal judges issued an opinion denying legal standing to our plaintiff, Michelle Lake, to see her son, whom she had co-parented since birth with former partner Kerri Putnam. Putnam, the biological mother and the only legal parent recognized by Michigan, denied Michelle all contact with their son after their relationship ended.

"Equitable parent" is a legal doctrine wherein a person who has an established parent relationship with a child that was encouraged and fostered by the child's legal parent, is given legal standing to seek custody and visitation in court. In Michigan, the equitable parent doctrine was the result of a 1988 Michigan Court of Appeals decision, in *Atkinson v Atkinson*, that considered the harm a child faces when he/she is denied contact with one of his/her parents, due to the unilateral action of the legal biological parent.

This judicial doctrine was severely undermined by the Michigan Supreme Court in the 1999 decision of *Van v Zahorik*, where the court said this doctrine can only be recognized in the context of a legal marriage. The Court majority railed against unmarried couples raising children while in "meretricious relationships" and refused to recognize a heterosexual man who co-parented his former girlfriend's children as an equitable parent.

The best interests of the children were not even considered in this very flawed decision. All that mattered was the marital status of the parties. And since LGBT couples could not marry in Michigan until 2015, LGBT co-parents could legally be denied this protection of equitable parent, meaning these co-parents could be "erased" from their children's lives according to the whims - and, sometimes, vindictiveness - of the biological parent.

And in countless heartbreaking situations, too many of these men and women were indeed "erased."

But the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Obergefell v Hodges* should have changed things. *Obergefell* held not only that it was unconstitutional to deny same-sex couples the right to marry, but also the benefits of marriage. And if equitable parent is considered by the Michigan Supreme Court to be a benefit of marriage then an LGBT co-parent like Michelle Lake should not be denied this benefit. After all, she was unconstitutionally denied the right to marry her partner while they were in a relationship.

In other words, Michigan courts have to grapple with the reality of the collateral damage caused by the state's adamant refusal to recognize LGBT relationships and LGBT families, and included in this damage is the harm that can come to children when one parent is suddenly yanked out their lives. Children of heterosexual parents, who are subject of custody disputes, have the courts to arbitrate these disputes, and the courts to look out for their best interests. Not so for children of LGBT parents whose

See KAPLAN: Courts, next page



# Atty Gen. Bill Schuette's Viewpoint Lawsuit Ignores the Facts: Transgender Students Thrive in Safe, Affirming Schools

BY CHARIN DAVENPORT, COLEEN YOUNG, REBECCA JAYNE VEAL, LISA A. GOYETTE, GINGER CLIFTON, SARA JACOBS, JAYNE LOCKE

At some point during the typical school day, virtually every teacher is going to give at least one student a pass to use the bathroom. When students visit the bathroom they want privacy, safety and respect. It's what every student deserves and what parents trust their schools will provide for their children.

Unfortunately, for many transgender students, who already face high rates of harassment and discrimination, something that should be a daily routine can subject them to even more abuse when the bathroom they are made to use is not consistent with their gender. Some have suggested separate restroom accommodations for transgender students, but such a policy forces trans students to reveal their transgender identity and can make them even more vulnerable.

For too many transgender students, one way to avoid having to use a gender inappropriate bathroom has been to not eat or drink anything for an entire school day. Having to make such a choice is more than just disruptive; it can damage a Transgender child's health and can bring a child's education to a screeching halt.

Ultimately, continued bullying and harassment, as well as discrimination, results in lower GPAs and excessive absenteeism. Transgender students are also less likely to participate in extra-

Though it is true that no single group of students is more at risk in our public schools than transgender students, there is no good reason for that to continue to be the storyline. In fact, a significant body of research shows that transgender students thrive socially and academically in safe and affirming learning environments.

curricular activities such as sports, field trips and special events. Feeling more and more isolated, many drop out altogether.

Though it is true that no single group of students is more at risk in our public schools than transgender students, there is no good reason for that to continue to be the storyline. In fact, a significant body of research shows that transgender students thrive socially and academically in safe and affirming learning environments. Not only are they more likely to graduate high school, but they are also better prepared for college and a meaningful adult life.

The truth is, transgender students deserve a fair

See Viewpoint: Schuette, page 12

relationship that should afford our client this equitable parent protection.

Such a favorable decision could help many LGBT co-parents, but the only way we are going to make sure that Michigan courts focus on the best interests of children of LGBT parents - instead of their marital status (or their marriage-like status) - is to have a law in Michigan that specifically spells out the requirements for equitable parent: a parental bond between an adult and a child.

I repeat: the parental bond between the adult and the child.

Given our present Michigan legislature, getting this law passed will require a great deal of heavy lifting, including education of both our lawmakers and the general public. However, it is worth that heavy lifting to provide protection and stability for children.

Make no mistake about it. Last week's decision in *Lake v Putnam* hurts the struggle for LGBT equality. It hurts LGBT co-parents. But most importantly, it hurts and harms the kids of LGBT parents.

*ACLU of Michigan staff attorney Jay Kaplan runs the group's LGBT Project.*

## Creep of the Week Mike Pence

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI



Mike Pence

Was anyone really surprised that Donald Trump picked Indiana Governor Mike Pence as his co-captain for the most terrifying boat ride since the Titanic?

Pence may be best known for signing Indiana's "just say no to gays" law, the intention of which was to give anti-gay bigots free reign to discriminate against LGBT people so long as their discrimination stemmed from a deeply held religious belief. In other words, if a baker doesn't want to make a cake for some kind of homo wedding he just needs to point out that "God hates fags" and he's in the clear. As God intended.

This law gave anti-gay bigots major boners which they presumably showed off during the secret signing session Pence held for them.

After the business community freaked out, Pence signed a little fix to the bill to make it less anti-gay, but it was basically window dressing.

Ah, but Pence's anti-gay record is much longer than just some silly little discrimination law that brought scorn heaped upon his state and resulted in a loss of millions of dollars.

In 2006 as a Senator, Pence supported amending the U.S. Constitution to ban marriage equality. He said letting same sex couples marry would bring upon "societal collapse." Clearly he was foreshadowing a Trump-Pence presidential run.

He was also against the Employment Non Discrimination Act, claiming in 2007, "By extending the reach of federal law to cover sexual orientation, employment discrimination protections, in effect, can wage war on the free exercise of religion in the workplace." Because, you know, protecting LGBT from discrimination is totally

comparable to the horrors of war.

And speaking of war, Pence didn't want any homos in the military because they would try to touch other privates' privates.

Oh, and speaking of the uncontrollable sexual perversions of gays, Pence thought that money for HIV/AIDS would be much better spent on anti-gay conversion therapy. Because if you stop all those gays from being gay it'll stop this gay disease. Oh, he also was against needle exchange programs. Because he

**The Republican platform this year is one of most anti-gay in history. Clearly they are hoping that when voters go to the polls they will hate gays more than they hate Trump. Hey, it worked in the past. And the past - where women can't get abortions, where brown people can't vote, where gays can't marry - is what the Republicans love best.**

clearly was an HIV/AIDS expert.

Remember when Donald Trump claimed that the gays loved him? That he was actually a better champion of gay rights than Hillary Clinton? Wasn't true then, and even less true now.

"Donald Trump just doubled down on his agenda of hate and discrimination by choosing the notoriously anti-LGBTQ Mike Pence for his ticket," Chad Griffin, president of the Human Rights Campaign, said in a statement.

But hey, doubling down on bad decisions is right in Trump's wheelhouse, whether in business or politics.

The Republican platform this year is one of most anti-gay in history. Clearly they are hoping that when voters go to the polls they will hate gays more than they hate Trump. Hey, it worked in the past. And the past - where women can't get abortions, where brown people can't vote, where gays can't marry - is what the Republicans love best.

### ► KAPLAN: Courts

Continued from p. 10

parents' relationships ended before marriage equality was available in Michigan.

Last week's decision means another child of LGBT parents finds his mommy torn from his life because of discriminatory policies of our state, because of bad case law, and because of the unwillingness of Michigan's appellate courts to look out of the best interests of these children.

Yes, you could say that I'm angry, frustrated, disappointed and concerned about our Michigan courts regarding this issue.

But I'm also not one to dwell on negativity. I see a silver lining in Judge Shapiro's concurrence in *Lake v Putnam*, where he proposes that LGBT co-parents should be afforded the protection of equitable parent when they can demonstrate factually that the couple would have married in Michigan had state law permitted them to.

We have another case *Mabry v Mabry*, whose application for leave to appeal is pending before the Michigan Supreme Court. Should the Supreme Court grant leave, we believe we have the strong facts to demonstrate a marriage-like



## ► Viewpoint: Schuette

Continued from p. 11

shot at succeeding academically. However, until very recently, the vast majority of schools had no policy on the use of bathrooms by transgender students, and decisions were typically made on a case-by-case basis. At the request of school administrators and school boards, as well as parents and community leaders, the United States Department of Education and Department of Justice issued guidance in the form of a letter sent to every school district. The letter provided long-awaited guidelines and strongly urged schools to adopt policies in accordance with Title IX regulations, stating that “transgender students must be allowed to participate in such activities and access such facilities consistent with their gender identity.”

Sadly, Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette responded to this crisis in our education system by joining nine other states in a lawsuit against the United States government. Under the guise of “states’ rights”, the lawsuit claims that the Federal government has overstepped its authority. This is an old argument and we have seen it before.

We are all stakeholders when it comes to the education of our children, but the stakes are especially high for Transgender students. All adults, especially those in leadership positions,

including Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette, have a responsibility to protect our youth and those who are the most vulnerable in our public schools. The lawsuit only exacerbates the hostile climate that already exists for so many transgender students and threatens to further undermine their education.

This isn’t complicated. Transgender students have always attended public schools. Transgender girls are girls, and Transgender boys are boys. Students should be able to use the restroom that is consistent with their gender identity. Any alternative discriminates against transgender students and puts them at risk of harassment and violence, and no child should ever be forced to decide between their education and their safety.

*Signed,  
Charin Davenport, Trans Advocate and  
Lecturer at Oakland University, Hazel Park,  
MI*

*Coleen Young, Ally Parent and Retired  
Teacher, Wayland, MI*

*Rebecca Jayne Veal, Transgender Advocate,  
U.S. Army veteran. Flint, MI*

*Lisa A. Goyette, Ally Parent, Lake Orion, MI*

*Ginger Clifton, Ally Parent, Portage MI*

*Sara Jacobs, Ally Mom, Kalamazoo, MI*

*Jayne Locke, Transgender Advocate, Howell,  
MI*

## Online Resources:

“Harassment of Transgender People in Bathrooms and Effects of Avoiding Bathrooms”, National Center for Transgender Equality, [www.ustransurvey.org/preliminary-findings](http://www.ustransurvey.org/preliminary-findings)

The 2013 National School Climate Survey, A Report from the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network, [www.glsen.org](http://www.glsen.org).

Safe Schools Policy for LGBTQ Students, A Social Policy Report from the Society for Research and Child Development, [www.srccd.org](http://www.srccd.org).

“Dear Colleague Letter on Transgender Students”, U.S. Dept. of Justice and U.S. Dept. of Education [www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-201605-title-ix-transgender.pdf](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-201605-title-ix-transgender.pdf)

“Schuette Joins Coalition Challenging Federal LGBT Youth Guidance In Schools,” [PrideSource.com](http://PrideSource.com)

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# Annual Detroit Black Gay Pride Celebration to Take Place Next Week

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

**DETROIT** – It's that time of year again. Hotter Than July, aka Detroit Black Gay Pride, is scheduled for next week. Events run Tuesday, July 26 – Sunday, July 31.

The week kicks off with the annual candlelight vigil/opening ceremony Tuesday. The vigil will take place at Palmer Park near the blue spruce memorial tree (pond area). Longtime community activist Ron Doe will be speaking.

"The candlelight vigil sets the tone for the whole week," said Lawrence Pennymon, coordinator for the event. "It's a time for us to call upon the elders and reflect on those we've lost to HIV/AIDS, cancer and other illnesses."

Pennymon said the vigil will take on special significance this year in the wake of the Orlando tragedy.

"We will definitely be honoring and remembering those souls lost in Florida last month," he said.

Wednesday evening there will be a media reception at the Virgil Carr Center, where the Poor Man's Art

Collective is currently exhibiting. The show opened earlier in the month to great reviews. The Carr Center is located at 311 E. Grand River Ave. Following the reception, the party will move over to the Woodward Bar where HTJ's opening party will take place. The Woodward, one of Detroit's oldest gay bars, is located at 6426 Woodward Ave.

On Thursday, there will be a play entitled "Before It Hits Home." The play, written by playwright Cheryl West, first debuted in Seattle in 1990. The performance, like the media reception, will take place at the Virgil Carr Center.

The Annual Gathering on LGBT Issues will take place Friday at the Ecumenical Theological Seminary of Detroit, which is located at 2930 Woodward Ave. This year's gathering will feature several panel discussions including community engagement, experiences of the transgender and gender non-conforming community, an inter-generational discussion, and caregiving, among other topics. These discussions will feed into the overall theme of "Where do we go from here?"

"We are excited to present this year's historic event," said Cornelius A. Wilson, committee chair of the Annual Gathering. "Our community has made an important impact locally and nationally. These efforts have continued to be the groundwork for the next generation of LGBT folks to use as a foundation of continued growth. The committee has worked very hard to put together a gathering for our community and our allies to come together and share in education, inspiration and fellowship."

Roland Stringfellow, senior minister and teacher for Metropolitan Community Church-Detroit, will give the keynote address at the Gathering. In addition to his role at MCC-D, Stringfellow also works with congregations

on LGBTQ inclusion as the director of ministerial outreach for the African-American Roundtable, a program of the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Sexuality on the campus of Pacific School of Religion. Stringfellow has been routinely consulted by

media outlets regarding his work on marriage equality and the role people of color and communities of faith have played in this local, state and national debate.

The biggest event of the week will undoubtedly be Saturday's picnic in Palmer Park. The picnic, which draws thousands of people, will be moved from the front of Palmer Park back to the pond area.

"Founded in 1996, the picnic remains one of the flagship events," said Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of LGBT Detroit, the agency that produces HTJ. "The Picnic continues to pride itself as the 'family reunion' of social justice and equality celebrations. The focus is not only on fun, family, friends, faith and excitement of the event, but nurturing the minds and souls of all participants with the implementation of education and advocacy to each event held."

The picnic will be emceed by MC Tre and Rahjn 'Star-Studded' King. The Hotter Than July Soundstage and Showcase will highlight sounds by DJ Romeo Milliown with



File photo: Jason Michael

See HTJ Coming Up, page 16

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# Uniting Activism and Advocacy to Create Lasting Change in Transgender Rights

*This is part two of a two-part series on transgender activists in Michigan.*

BY AMY LYNN SMITH

For transgender rights, 2016 is turning out to be both the best of times and the worst of times.

Significant progress has been made toward greater equality and inclusion, thanks to federal rulings affirming transgender people's rights to equal treatment in schools, healthcare access and military service. What's more, two openly transgender candidates won major-party Congressional primaries.

But it's impossible to ignore the worst of times. Laws like North Carolina's HB2 treat transgender people like second-class citizens – or worse, presumed predators – and are inspiring similar “bathroom bills” in many states, including Michigan, where two such bills have been introduced.

It can often seem like it's two steps forward, three steps back – but progress will overtake backlash if Michigan activists have anything to say about it.

According to Amy Hunter, a transgender woman who is spearheading the ACLU of Michigan's Transgender Advocacy Project (TAP), that requires fostering not just activism, but advocacy.

“Activism is certainly necessary for the trans community, but advocacy is a long-term game,” she says. “Advocacy is about developing relationships and a presence that leads to systematic change.”

A core element of TAP is Transgender Advocacy University, which Hunter describes as an initiative “to provide transgender individuals and their close allies an in-depth training experience focused on learning how to strategically advocate for issues that directly impact our daily lives and the transgender community as a whole.”

Advocacy University's first cohort included trans people and allies who are relatively new to activism, as well as long-time activists and advocates who continue honing their skills, like Michelle Fox-Phillips.

When she began transitioning in 1998 at age 50, Fox-Phillips didn't



Char Davenport has helped pass non-discrimination ordinances across Michigan and works with the National Center for Transgender Equality.

have much of a support system in place. So she created one.

“Affirmations asked me if I wanted to start a support group for transgender people and I said yes,” she says. “That's when I came out of the closet and began identifying as trans.”

Still active with Affirmations, Fox-Phillips is a tireless advocate for the transgender community. She served on the Board of Transgender Michigan, which she helped establish, and later co-founded Transgender Detroit. She also served on the Board of Crossroads and worked with the Triangle Foundation on their Equality Pride PAC (now all part of Equality Michigan), began a transgender support group for parents and allies at PFLAG Detroit, which is ongoing.

About four years ago, Transgender Detroit evolved into Gender-identity Network Alliance (GNA), with Fox-Phillips as its Executive Director.

“GNA wants to make it as easy as possible for people to transition – we want to be a service activists' organization,” she says. “There are so many resources now for transgender people. Just be proud of who you are.”

Another highly visible activist is Char Davenport, who has helped pass non-discrimination ordinances across Michigan and works with the National Center for Transgender Equality. She's often in Washington,



Michelle Fox-Phillips, arms raised, did not have much of a support system when she began transitioning so she created one.

“Finding the keys to equality is having a consistent presence with lawmakers, other lobbyists and advocates within the LGBT community. The goal of an effective advocate shouldn't necessarily be an immediate gain, but a long-term structural shift that also drives the broader cultural shift.”

~ Amy Hunter

D.C. lobbying her representatives, including a recent trip to support measures to curb gun violence.

Due, in part, to her activism, she was invited by the Bernie Sanders Presidential campaign to attend the

Amy Hunter, a transgender woman who is spearheading the ACLU of Michigan's Transgender Advocacy Project. BTL photo: Andrew Potter



Sanders/Clinton Town Hall debate in Detroit.

Davenport also notably filed a federal lawsuit against Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU) for sex discrimination after losing a job because of her gender.

Davenport knows that being a visible transgender woman has its risks.

“I choose to be visible because that's my defense,” she says. “If anybody's going to do anything to me, they're going to do it in broad daylight and everybody's going to know it. Choosing visibility can be dangerous. On the other hand, you want to be visible because you want

See **Uniting Activism**, page 16



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## ► GOP Anti-Gay Platform

Continued from p. 6

decisions."

Joel Craig, an 18-year-old delegate from Colorado Springs, Colo., and pledged to Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), said he supports platform language in opposition to the Supreme Court's decision on same-sex marriage because "states should be allowed to choose what their definition of marriage is."

"I think that this is a deal for the states," Craig said. "The states are in charge of issuing marriage licenses, why then are they not in charge of how the marriage licenses are issued?"

But Craig contested the notion the platform endorses conversion therapy, saying the platform mentions it, but doesn't endorse it. The language says, "We support the right of parents to determine the proper medical treatment and therapy for their minor children."

"I believe that the current language, the way it is set, does not endorse conversion therapy, as you've suggested, however it is mentioned," Craig said. "I didn't exactly read how it was mentioned, but I do believe the platform as a whole represents the Republican electorate very well."

Not every delegate at the convention was behind the anti-LGBT planks in the Republican Party platform.

Sharon Jackson, a 52-year-old delegate from the Anchorage-area of Alaska and pledged to Trump, said she's against the platform language and thinks same-sex couples should be able to wed throughout the nation.

"I feel that everyone should have the freedom to feel and do what they choose, and that's what American is all about," Jackson said.

Asked if that applies to gay couples seeking to marry, Jackson replied, "If that's what they want to do, they should be able to do that."

Jackson also said she's against

platform language opposing transgender people using the restroom consistent with their gender identity.

"I don't think that should be politicized," Jackson said. "It happens already, right? No one says anything, so to make it a political issue, I think, it opens the doors for perpetrators, and that's not fair, that's not fair. So, if it was just left alone, everything would be fine just as it is today."

LGBT advocates blasted the platform upon its ratification by delegates. The National Log Cabin Republicans, which had previously dubbed the platform the most anti-LGBT in the party's 162-year history, placed a full-page ad Monday in USA Today with the message against the document.

"LOSERS! MORONS! SAD! No, these aren't tweets from Donald Trump," the ad says. "This is what common-sense conservatives are saying about the most anti-LGBT platform the Republican Party has ever had. Out of touch, out of line, and out of step with 61% of young Republicans who favor same-sex marriage."

Matt McTighe, executive director of Freedom for All Americans, also condemned the platform, saying it doesn't represent the views of many Americans.

"It's disappointing that the far right wing of the Republican Party has successfully pushed for a platform that discriminates against LGBT Americans and their families," McTighe said. "This platform just does not reflect the direction that many Republicans - nor the majority of Americans - want to see the party move."

For a time, efforts among pro-LGBT Republicans were underway for a motion on the convention floor to strip the platform of its anti-LGBT language.

A minority report signed by 37 delegates of the platform committee petitioned the Republican National Committee to replace the platform with a 1,200 word statement of 17 core

principles of the Republican Party with neutral language on LGBT issues.

Although only 28 delegates are needed for a successful petition, the efforts failed when the delegates who initiated the report - Boyd Matheson of Utah and David Barton of Texas - disavowed it.

Giovanni Cicione, a Rhode Island delegate who circulated the petition to replace the platform, said afterwards the initiative failed amid disagreement on those behind it and queasiness in Republican leadership over a floor fight.

"To have contentious floor votes on anything, content aside, is very disruptive to the process that they're trying to lay out this week," Cicione said. "In my opinion, that didn't matter. This was more important than us running a convention where each speaker gets their five minutes. I think we needed to try to make a point here, but they were able to pull back."

Annie Dickerson, a New York member of the platform committee and adviser to GOP philanthropist and LGBT rights supporter Paul Singer, said the goal now is to advance LGBT non-discrimination legislation regardless of the platform.

"Polling on non-discrimination is going off the charts on the Republican side," Dickerson said. "But those are just not the people that were those delegates, which is why Gio and I are here, to give rise to that voice, so we can be a bigger tent because this is not the 'Big Tent' document."

## ► HTJ Coming Up

Continued from p. 13

live performances by Kai Edwards, Charlie B. Keyz, Ray Gifted Keyz, D. Woods, Antonia, and Famouz Jay with Jermaine Lovesongz. The Hotter Than July Showcase is led by Miss Seekers and Miss St. Clair County Raven Devine, and Miss Woodward Cierra Malone, with performances by Mr. Gay Black Ohio Newcomer Christan Dior, Mr. Star City Noah M. Steele, Little Miss Woodward Isis Dupree, Davanna Couture Malone, Jasmine Dior and others.

HTJ will wrap up with two events on Sunday. The first is the worship service at Whosever Ministry, located inside the Ecumenical Theological Society of Detroit. Service starts at 10 a.m. Following worship service will be the annual HTJ brunch sponsored by Imagine This Productions. The brunch will take place at the Charlevoix Gallery, which is located at 14505 Charlevoix Street. Advance tickets are required for the brunch and may be purchased through the LGBT Detroit office.

## ► Uniting Activism

Continued from p. 14

to be your authentic self."

In pursuit of safe visibility and equality, the work continues. To Hunter, uniting activists and advocates is fundamental to creating long-lasting change.

"Finding the keys to equality is having a consistent presence with lawmakers - which I now have the opportunity to do - as well as other lobbyists and advocates within the LGBT community," Hunter says. "The goal of an effective advocate

shouldn't necessarily be an immediate gain, but a long-term structural shift that also drives the broader cultural shift. It's critical for the trans community that we build the relational structures that give us a political voice."

Applications are now being accepted for the second Transgender Advocacy University. The deadline to enroll is August 12 and space is limited. Enroll and get more details here: <https://action.aclu.org/secure/advocacy-university>

*This original series can be found at: [www.electablog.com/tag/trans-stories](http://www.electablog.com/tag/trans-stories).*



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Much of what Bruce photographed is gone today. His images have preserved a piece of Detroit history which will be on display from July 30-September 30, 2016.

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# Forever Fabulous

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## Over Drinks (Obvs), 'Ab Fab' Stars Dish on Their Gay Darlings and Being Ahead of the Queer Curve

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

How to be a free spirit, why a wallet, not a toaster, is better suited to carry cash, the power of a heavy pour – since 1992, fictional besties Edina Monsoon and Patsy Stone, played by Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley, respectively, have guided legions of outsiders into the light. (And not just after a late-night Stolichnaya vodka binge blackout.)

As the “Absolutely Fabulous” duo cheerfully imbibe from London, it’s a classic case of life imitating art – everyone wants to get these iconic ladies smashed as they “work” the promo for their long-awaited return to the screen with “Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie.” Oh yes, sweetie darlings, it’s a real thing now. Thank god; thank vodka.

The film is Edina and Patsy’s first time together since 2012, when the series celebrated its 20-year anniversary. In the premiere movie adaptation of the BBC series, Saunders, making good on her pledge to write more adventures for the TV-born trainwrecks, stars alongside

Lumley and a cast of familiar faces – Julia Sawalha as Saffy, Jane Horrocks as Bubble and June Whitfield as Mother, plus star cameos – as they continue to live their best, booziest lives.

Pour yourself a Stoli-Bolli and read on as Saunders, 58, and Lumley, 70, sip their signature cocktail and dish about their “great crash entrance” into queendom, being post-gay before it was cool and how the LGBT community catapulted “Absolutely Fabulous” into a global phenom.

**I don't want to shock you with this news and I hope you're sitting down, but gay people really like you.**

**Jennifer:** (Both laugh) And we love gay people!

**For both of you, what was your introduction to the gay community?**

**Jennifer:** Oh! So long ago I can’t really think. It just seems like college; I had gay friends then. To be honest, I don’t know. It just seems

to have always been there.

**Joanna:** But I think the great crash entrance was when we had “Absolutely Fabulous” and we were welcomed into New York to a certain extent. That was quite fantastic.

**Jennifer:** Yeah. And the first time we saw our drag doubles was startling! (Laughs) Because you realize quite how small we are, and short and insignificant, when you’re standing next to your drag doubles. They’re more glamorous than we could even hope to be!

**Joanna:** And occasionally with a beard!

**Jennifer:** And often with a beard; yes, you’re right! (Both laugh)

**You just made an appearance during London Pride. Because the gay fandom for “Ab Fab” is so intense, I’m surprised you can go anywhere with a sea of gays and it’s not a mob scene. When gay fans see you in everyday life, what are those encounters like?**

**Jennifer:** Really lovely, I have to say. Because people love the show and love the characters,

I always get such a nice response.

**Joanna:** We get kissing and we get a bit of selfies, and it’s lovely.

**Jennifer:** I think we’re recognized more if we’re together. The response is more extreme.

**How did “Ab Fab” come to be so gay? Did you make the show for gay people?**

**Jennifer:** No, we didn’t. And we’ve been thinking about this a lot, and I think (the gay fandom is) because of the friendship and because they’re not in search of love – they’re not constantly looking for a man, they’re quite happy with each other. They live life to the fullest, they live life without brakes and the friendship is all (they need), I think.

**Joanna:** And I think because they’re glamorous. Edina always longed for (her daughter) Saffy to come out as gay and she’s very proud of having a gay son, Serge. But there were always gay people in the show,

See Ab Fab, page 20



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### ► Ab Fab

Continued from p. 18

Jennifer: you always had them written in.

Jennifer: Yeah, 'cause it's normal.

**When the show ran from 1992-1995 the word "gay" was barely uttered on television. Then you two came along and changed the game.**

Jennifer: Good!

**Was it your intent to introduce queer themes and people into the television zeitgeist?**

Jennifer: To be honest, we never analyzed it like that. It just seemed to me, if we were representing lives, especially those in the fashion world and the creative world – it's full of gay people. And you know, Edina married one – one of her husbands was gay! (Laughs) It's just part of the fabric of society.

**But it wasn't then, right?**

Joanna: Do you think it had a way of making people feel more open toward gays, Chris?

**I do think so. I also think it made gay people feel comfortable in their own skin. I know friends who call you their lifeline because they're gay and grew up in small towns; they had no role models, no one who even acknowledged them or their sexuality. How does it feel to know that you and these characters had an immense influence on people in the LGBT community?**

Jennifer: I feel incredibly proud, then. We have a lot to thank the gay community for, because I think the show largely started being popular in the gay community and through that into the wider community. So, it's been a lovely relationship.

Joanna: We had the most wonderful award given to us in New York from the LGBT community (the 2002 Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Award) and I'm totally proud of mine. It's a wonderful citation which has made us priestesses of New York forever. It came from them thanking us for exactly what you're thanking us for, and it makes me feel so humbled because Jennifer actually wrote these two characters and the characters are the people who have somehow become attached to us like an outer skin. It's rather thrilling to be attached to those characters.

**How attached are you to those characters?**

Jennifer: Only in that it's very hard to move without having a glass of champagne put into your hands. That makes life really, really nice. (Both laugh)

**Are you drinking at this very moment?**

Jennifer: We are! Hugely! She's just

poured a vodka into my champagne.

**What cocktail do you recommend people order when they watch "Ab Fab: The Movie"?**

Joanna: I think it's gotta be the Stoli-Bolli cocktail. Stolichnaya vodka slipped into a glass of champagne – it's almost half and half, actually, the way we drink it. (Both laugh)

Jennifer: It just knocks the bubbles out and puts a little bit more alcohol in.

Joanna: But as they would *not* add: Please drink responsibly.

Jennifer: It would damage your health. It would *severely* damage your health. (Both laugh)

**Edina is always saying, "All my friends are gay." How true is that for you in real life?**

Jennifer: (Laughs) All my friends *are* gay!

**Joanna, let's talk about Patsy being transgender. Her gender change was addressed several times during the series. Why was it decided that Patsy should be trans?**

Joanna: Yes, in series 2 (episode "Morocco" we had a flashback to when Patsy had indeed been taking hormones and grown a mustache...

Jennifer: (Laughs)

Joanna: And cut her hair off, had something switched on. Sadly after a year, it dropped off and she stopped the hormones, had a quick shave and went back to being Patsy again. But she goes in and out of it. And I think she was slightly dreading having to do it this time (for the movie), which is why she tried to resist. (Slips into character as Patsy) "No, Eddy, no!" And indeed she managed to fool a very, very old almost-blind woman that she was a man.

Jennifer: She makes a very good man. We are basically like a married couple, Edina and Patsy, in a funny way. (Laughs) And they are sort of genderless.

Joanna: Indeed. In one of the New York episodes we got married by Whoopi Goldberg! (Both laugh)

**I've always thought of you as gay men in women's bodies.**

Jennifer and Joanna: We are, yeah!

**What advice do both of you have for gays who are on a quest to live their best life?**

Jennifer: Don't listen to anybody else. Kate Moss's great thing: "Never complain, never explain." That's a very good way of living.

Joanna: She's adapted it from the original quotation, which was from the 1930s: "Never apologize, never explain."

Jennifer: Oh!

Joanna: Never apologize – I think that's a good one.

**You've always had something to say about**

**the PR industry on the show. What other business could use some mocking?**

Jennifer: I think politics is just making a mockery of itself at the moment, so that's not much help.

Joanna: Bankers have sort of been done, with things like "The Wolf of Wall Street" and "The Big Short" and so on. All those that have kind of taken on the financial world. What else is there, Jennifer? Plenty?

Jennifer: (Laughs) I don't know!

Joanna: But you didn't really set out to make a parody of it – you just had that as the background.

Jennifer: Well, the great thing about PR is you can do anything. It can be any job, you can go anywhere. It's such a wide, wide field, so it was the perfect job for (Edina) because it meant that during any show you could do anything – you're not stuck in an office. But I suppose nowadays the thing is, nobody's stuck in an office anymore. You know, anyone can live online, live at home, work at home, do their own PR via social media. You could honestly do your job from your bed, and that's fantastic.

**When doing Eddy and Patsy in drag what should a queen always keep in mind?**

Jennifer: Ohh, well, you know, the funny thing is, when they do Patsy they used to always do kind of trashy dressing. But actually, I noticed yesterday at London Pride they were very well dressed. I think Patsys are becoming better dressed, and that's quite important for Patsy because you've gotta start off looking good, like you've got somewhere to go. Always give yourself somewhere to go.

**And then by the end of the night?**

Jennifer: By the end of the night, you can be hopeless. I mean, literally. Spread eagle.

**What about Eddy?**

Jennifer: Oh, Eddy... everything's gotta be too small. Wear shoes that literally hobble you and costumes that strangle you. Remember that Eddy has never woken and not been marked by her clothing; she's always marked. Elasticated marks everywhere on her body from the clothes.

**Where can we expect to see Eddy and Patsy in 20 years?**

Jennifer: In a home.

Joanna: Attached to intravenous bottles of Stolichnaya and Bolli. Still smoking like chimneys. Organs removed.

Jennifer: But having a fabulous time.

Joanna: *Still* having a fabulous time.

**Any final words for your gay darlings?**

Joanna: We love you, sweetie darlings!





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International speaker, media contributor and author, Page bridges the gender and racial gap in technology. She has keynoted for Microsoft's DigiGirly Program, SXSW, Techonomy, Tech Week, Meeting of the Minds, and the Tom Joyner Foundation. She is also a regular contributor on WDIV's Live in the D.



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Recognized as a "Super Lawyers Rising Star" and a Top Woman Attorney in Michigan, Shelton provides counsel on labor and employee relations, employment policies and procedures, and regulatory compliance to a wide array of companies large and small. She is known for her advocacy on behalf of same-sex partners and their families.



**Amy Hunter, Project Coordinator for the ACLU of Michigan's Transgender Advocacy Project**

Hunter is a leading advocate and expert on employment issues facing transgender people in Michigan.



**Nikki Pardo, Owner Global Alliance Solutions**

Pardo's consulting company offers customized diversity training to management, staff, and law enforcement agencies. She has been featured in publications such as Crain Detroit Business, Michiprenuer, Model D, Recruit/Detroit, spoken on talk radio shows, frequently serves as a keynote and panel expert on the topic of diversity and inclusion.


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# JTCC Hosts 22nd Annual OUTFest in Ann Arbor

BY BTL STAFF

The Jim Toy Community Center will host OUTFest, their annual pride celebration of the LGBT community and its accomplishments, Aug. 5-7 in Ann Arbor's Kerrytown District and Braun Court. This year's three-day event is the 22nd anniversary of OUTFest with emphasis on how to build on the success of establishing marriage equality and what to focus on next.

JTCC will offer an array of activities spread out over Friday, Saturday and Sunday for the LGBT and allied communities. "Rent" will be featured during movie night on Aug. 5 in Braun Court complete with free Domino's Pizza and popcorn, as well as a Pride Night at Necto beginning at 9 p.m. with DJ's Jace and Mark.

Attendees can enjoy a full day of festival booths and exhibits on Saturday featuring a variety of businesses, organizations, and other community partners. Live music in Braun Court returns with performances by Elemental Meaning, Alise King, the Out Loud Chorus and Sam Tolson. A poetry slam

hour with Jason Crawford and guest poets begins at 5 p.m. at The Bar. The pop-up Brillig Dry Bar hosts a board game night at 6 p.m. serving non-alcoholic, lively beverages and snacks.

This wouldn't be a pride celebration without a burlesque show and a couple of drag revues hosted by Jadein Black, Deja Dellataro and Sabin on the North 4th Avenue Stage. Other activities include a Kids Zone, Beer and Wine Garden and Silent Auction. Necto will open their doors again on Aug. 6 to continue the Pride Night party, as will the Cavern Club for the official OUTFest After-Party.

Attorney Eli Savit from the Citizen Education Law Clinic will speak about Civil Rights and Equal Protection with a nonexclusive focus on LGBTQ identities on Saturday at 4 p.m. at The Bar on 327 Court St. in Ann Arbor.


Savit is an attorney with a specialty in appellate and Supreme Court litigation. He has litigated cases in the U.S. Supreme Court, and in both state and federal trial and appellate courts. He has also litigated pro bono cases focused on consumer protection, civil liberties,

asylum rights, and the rights of special education students.

The 14th amendment states that all persons born or naturalized in the U.S. has equal protection under the law and that civil rights are provided to all people. This teaches an array of topics including constitutional and statutory protections for women, LGBTQ people, racial minorities and religious minorities.

The weekend will conclude with the annual Washtenaw County Pride Picnic at Wheeler Park from 12-4 p.m. For more information about the weekend of events, visit <http://www.a2outfest.com>.

All OUTFest proceeds benefit the Jim Toy Community Center, a nonprofit, to provide information, education, social events and advocacy for and by the LGBTQ and allied residents of Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti and greater Washtenaw County. JTCC envisions an inclusive community where people of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity are visible and live together in equality, respect and happiness. JTCC is located at 319 Braun Court in Ann Arbor. Contact the Center at 734-995-9867 or visit them online at <http://www.jimtoycenter.org>.



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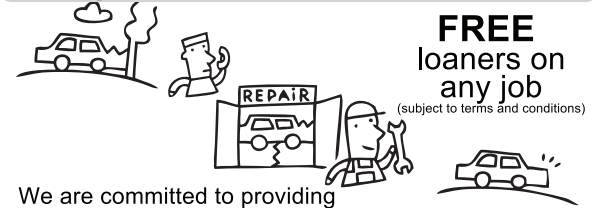
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# Happenings

## Editor's Pick

### Ann Arbor Street Art Fair Celebrates 57 Years of Originality

From July 21-23, the Ann Arbor Street Art Fair will host 200 artists, the Ann Arbor Potters Guild, and seven or eight emerging college artists through the New Art, New Artists program.

Established in 1960, the Ann Arbor Street Art Fair is the Original of the now four award-winning Ann Arbor Art Fairs: The Ann Arbor Street Art Fair, the Original; The State Street Area Art Fair; The Ann Arbor Summer



Art Fair; and Ann Arbor's South University Art Fair.

Together, the fairs attract more than 500,000 attendees from across the nation. The Original Fair was named the Number One Art Fair in the country by AmericanStyle magazine readers survey (October 2004) and has made the Top 10 Fairs and Festivals list every year since.

Their mission is to increase public knowledge and appreciation for contemporary fine arts and fine crafts by creating opportunities that connect artists, the Ann Arbor community and the general public to their mutual benefit, culminating in a top quality juried street art fair.

The Street Art Fair is set on North University Avenue and on the University of Michigan's Central Campus, amidst elegant architecture and beautifully landscaped pedestrian walkways, including the landmark Burton Carillon Tower.

Don't miss the Ann Arbor Street Art Fair July 21-23 from 10 a.m.-9 p.m., and July 24 from 12-6 p.m. For more information, visit [www.artfair.org](http://www.artfair.org)

## OUTINGS

### Thursday, July 21

**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/](http://www.facebook.com/prontorestaurantRO/)

**Rehearsals for Metro Detroit LGBT Chorus** 7 p.m. New members welcomed year round. One Voice Chorus uses singing to promote understanding outside of the LGBT community, and unity within it. One Voice Chorus, 1589 W. Maple Road, **Birmingham**. [detroitonevoice@yahoo.com](mailto:detroitonevoice@yahoo.com) <http://onevoicechorus.net>

### Saturday, July 23

**Great Lakes Bay Pride Festival** 12 p.m. Performances by both nationally recognized and local musicians and performers. Tickets: \$7. A festival after-party will be held at the Prime Event Center at 9 p.m. Perceptions, a 501c3 non-profit organization, **Bay City**. [www.greatlakesbaypride.org](http://www.greatlakesbaypride.org)

**Retro Fever Saturdays** 9 p.m. The best dance music from the 80s, 90s, and today mixed by DJ Beau Derek and Prime Minister. Red Door Night Club, 22901 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. 2485411600. [events@reddoornightclub.com](mailto:events@reddoornightclub.com) <http://www.reddoornightclub.com/events/>

### Sunday, July 24

**Paddle Group** 1 a.m. Bring a kayak, canoe or whatever floats. The paddle group hits the watersheds known as Brighton, Huron-Clinton, Irish Hills, Jackson, Pinckney and Waterloo Recreation Areas. They paddle for two to three hours most Sundays. Life jackets are required. Yak season is April through October. Yak Womyn, **Ann Arbor**. [sapphosis@yahoo.com](mailto:sapphosis@yahoo.com)

**Ann Arbor Street Art Fair** 10 a.m. Ann Arbor Art Fair, **Ann Arbor**. [www.artfair.org](http://www.artfair.org)

**First Annual Farm Festival** 1:30 p.m. Tickets: \$8 Zingerman's Cornman Farms, 8540 Island Lake Rd., **Dexter**. 734-619-8100. [www.cornmanfarms.com](http://www.cornmanfarms.com)

### Tuesday, July 26

**Candlelight Vigil** 6 p.m. Free. Hotter Than July, Palmer Park, **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. [www.Hotterthanjuly.org](http://www.Hotterthanjuly.org)

### Wednesday, July 27

**Fine Arts Reception** 6 p.m. Hotter Than July, 311 E. Grand River, **Detroit**. [www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/](http://www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/)

**Official Opening Party** 9 p.m. Hotter Than July, 6426 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. [www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/](http://www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/)

### Thursday, July 28

**Hockeytown BrewHaHa "The Final Fowl"** 6 p.m. Tickets: \$47.50-\$129. One last chance to experience fowling on the floor level of The Joe. Detroit Red Wings and Olympia Entertainment, 19 Steve Yzerman Drive, **Detroit**. 313-396-7000. [www.olympiaentertainment.com](http://www.olympiaentertainment.com)

**Play** 7 p.m. Details TBD. Hotter Than July, **Detroit**. [www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/](http://www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/)

### Friday, July 29

**Annual Gathering on LGBTQ Issues** 8 a.m. Registration is required. Hotter Than July, 3663 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. [www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/](http://www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/)

**Red Hot Fridays** 9 p.m. Top 40 and current dance music mixed by DJ Beau Derek and Prime Minister. Enjoy \$3 mixed drinks until midnight and \$1 "we call it" shot specials. No cover charge before midnight. Use the password "Red Hot." Red Door Night Club, 22901 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. 248-541-1600. [info@reddoornightclub.com](mailto:info@reddoornightclub.com) [www.reddoornightclub.com](http://www.reddoornightclub.com)

### Saturday, July 30

**14th Annual Orchard Lake Fine Art Show** July 30-31. Admission: \$5. 12 and under free. Hot Works LLC, 6900 Orchard lake Road, **West Bloomfield**. 248-684-2613. [social@hotworks.org](http://social@hotworks.org) [www.Hotworks.org/orchardlakefineartshow/index.php](http://www.Hotworks.org/orchardlakefineartshow/index.php)

**Palmer Park Picnic** 10 a.m. Free. Hotter Than July, **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. [www.Hotterthanjuly.org](http://www.Hotterthanjuly.org)

**Outdoor Games** 12 p.m. Games offered in the park include table tennis, chess, checkers, beanbag toss, and more. Quicken Loans, 662 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. [www.campusmartiuspark.org/events](http://www.campusmartiuspark.org/events)

### Sunday, July 31

**Worship Service** 10 a.m. Free.

Hotter Than July, 2930 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. [www.Hotterthanjuly.org](http://www.Hotterthanjuly.org)

**Sunday Brunch** 12 p.m. \$25. Hotter Than July, **Detroit**. [www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/](http://www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/)

**Beginner Yoga for Baby Boomers** 7 p.m. Taught by Charles Baber, R.Y.T. Classes are drop-in for \$5 per person. Bring a yoga mat and towel. Class sizes are limited. RSVP is required. Universalist Unitarian Church, 25301 Halsted Road, **Farmington Hills**. 248-345-4867. [chas5540@aol.com](mailto:chas5540@aol.com)

### Monday, Aug. 1

**Ann Arbor "Aut" Social Group** 7:30 p.m. Ann Arbor area lesbians and friends gather to dine and socialize. Aut Bar, 315 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-769-8385. [joinautsocial@umich.edu](mailto:joinautsocial@umich.edu) [www.autbar.com](http://www.autbar.com)

### Tuesday, Aug. 2

**Care to dance?** 7 p.m. Learn to urban ballroom every Tuesday night. Bring a partner, or not. There is no cover charge, but they do ask that you patronize the establishment by purchasing a beverage or a meal from their kitchen. Sisterhood Social Excursions, 8670 Grand River Ave., **Detroit**. [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com)

**Detroit Metro Area Pagans Monthly Meetup** 7 p.m. This is an open pagan roundtable that has various discussions held on the first Tuesday of every month. Michigan Pagans, 150 Cass Ave., **Mt. Clemens**. [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com)

### Wednesday, Aug. 3

**Healthy Moves: Workout Wednesdays** 5:30 p.m. Join the First Responders 4 Fitness, Metro Detroit's emergency response professionals, who volunteer their services to deliver a variety of free fitness classes and wellness workshops. Quicken Loans, 662 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. [www.campusmartiuspark.org/events](http://www.campusmartiuspark.org/events)

**Foster Care and Adoption Orientation** 6 p.m. Orchards Children's Services is looking for adults from all counties to provide temporary care in their home for children ages 0 to 17 for foster care or independent living. Financial reimbursement, training and support system provided. For information please call 877-529-5532 or visit their website. Orchards Children's Services, 24901 Northwestern Highway, Suite 601, **Southfield**. 248-530-5370. [smarks@orchards.org](mailto:smarks@orchards.org) [www.orchards.org](http://www.orchards.org)

**Middlepath Meditation** 6 p.m. Guided meditation covering various topics and methods followed by silent meditations. \$5 suggested donation. No registration needed. This is a drop-in event. Michigan Pagans, 224 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-548-1415. [www.bostontearoom.com](http://www.bostontearoom.com)

**Dykes on Bikes Planning Sessions** 6:30 p.m. This organization is committed to creating a local community of women motorcyclists and friends of women motorcyclists. Dykes on Bikes Detroit, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. <https://dykesonbikesdetroit.com>

See Happenings, page 26



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## ▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 24

## MUSIC & MORE

### Benefits/Social Events

**Blue Water Folk Society** "Thumbfest 2016 Fundraiser Concert" A \$15 donation supports Thumbfest 2016, a premier acoustic music festival in the thumb area of Michigan. Rain venue is Trinity Episcopal Church at 5646 Main St. in Lexington. McCarthy's Lake House, 6121 Lakeshore Rd., Lexington. 2 p.m. July 24. 586-995-1974. www.bluewaterfolksociety.org

### Comedy

**Detroit Opera House** "FouseyTUBE" YouTube kings of comedy Roman Atwood and Yousef Saleh Erakat. Tickets: \$28.50. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. 7 p.m. July 27. 313-237-SING. www.michiganopera.org

**Go Comedy! Improv Theater** "The Go Comedy! All Star Showdown" Tickets: \$18. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. June 25 - July 30. 248-327-0575. www.gocomedy.net

**Go Comedy! Improv Theater** "BITS" Tickets: \$10. Michigan's largest improv tournament. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. June 29 - July 27. 248-327-0575. www.gocomedy.net

**Go Comedy! Improv Theater** "Plot Twist" Features Sheevani Desai, Chris Fortin, Brad Hicks, Erik Heiliner, Doug Kolbicz, Jessica Loria, and Janelle Souilliere. Tickets: \$15. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. June 30 - Aug. 5. www.gocomedy.net

**Live Nation** "Comedian Hari Kondabolu" Tickets: \$22. Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress St., Detroit. 6:30 p.m. July 29. www.saintandrewsdetroit.com/

### Concerts

**101 WRIF** "Zakk Wylde" Tickets: \$27.50-\$35. All ages welcome. Majestic Theater, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. July 28. 313-833-9700. www.majesticdetroit.com

**AEG Live** "Daughter with Julien Baker" Tickets: \$22-\$25. All ages welcome. Majestic Theater, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. July 26. 313-833-9700. www.majesticdetroit.com

**AEG Live** "Parachute" Tickets: \$25-\$28. 18 and over welcome. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. July 22. 248-544-3030. www.themagicbag.com

**AEG Live and The Crofoot** "Halsey" Special guest Oh Wonder performs. Tickets: \$35. All ages welcome. Masonic Temple, 500 Temple St., Detroit. 7 p.m. July 27. 313-832-7100. www.themasonic.com

**AEG Live, React, The Crofoot and Elektric** "Disclosure" Tickets: \$38-\$45. 16 and over welcome. Masonic Temple, 500 Temple St., Detroit. 8 p.m. July 28. 313-832-7100. www.themasonic.com

**Blind Pig** "iO Megaji and Bronze Mambas" With Echo of Silence, Damascus and Arson Party. Tickets: \$7, under 21 \$10. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9 p.m. July 29. 734-996-8555. www.blindpigmusic.com

**Live Nation** "Russ" Tickets: \$15. The Shelter, 431 E. Congress St., Detroit. 7 p.m. July 22. www.saintandrewsdetroit.com/

**MotorCity Casino Hotel** "Colvin and Earle" Tickets: \$30-\$50. Sound Board, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. July 29. 800-745-3000. www.soundboarddetroit.com

**MotorCity Casino Hotel** "The Whispers" Tickets: \$35-\$45. Sound Board, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. July 23. 800-745-3000. www.olympiaentertainment.com

**Royal Oak Commission for the Arts** "2016 Summer Concert Series" Pre-Show with The Detroit School of Rock and Pop Music followed by Duane Harlick, and the Twistin' Tarantulas. Center Street between Third and Fourth Streets, Center Street, Royal Oak. 6 p.m. July 28. 248-246-3201. http://romi.gov/arts

**Summer Carillon Concert Series** "Hylke Banning" Concert is free to the public. Elliott Tower at Oakland University, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. 6 p.m. July 29. www.oakland.edu/elliott-tower

**The Carr Center** "Evenings in Paradise" Showcase of musical performances and entertainment by local and national jazz and R&B favorites. Paradise Valley Beatrice Buck Park, See website for location details, Detroit. June 7 - Aug. 25. www.downtowndetroitparks.com

**The Fillmore Detroit** "The Last Shadow Puppets" Tickets: \$20-\$39.50. The Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. July 25. 313-961-5451. www.thefillmoredetroit.com

### Film & Video

**Detroit Institute of Arts** "Neon Bull" DFT Auditorium, First Level. Detroit Film Theatre, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. July 15 - July 24. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

## THEATER

**Honk!** The Youth Theatre musical is directed by Jody Florkowski and Theresa Williams. Tickets: \$8 for youth, \$14 for adult. Stagecrafters, Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. July 21 - July 24. 248-541-6430. www.stagecrafters.org

**LUBE: An Unauthorized Grease'd-Up Parody** Tickets: \$10-\$20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through Aug. 8. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

**Miscast: Right Singer, Wrong Song** Auditions held June 4 and 5 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Barefoot Productions, 240 N. Main, Plymouth. July 22 - July 30. 734-404-6886. www.justgobarefoot.com

**P.Y.G.** Play inspired by George Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion." Tickets: \$12. Slipstream Theatre Initiative, Slipstream Theatre, 460 Hilton Road, Ferndale. July 22 - Aug. 14. 3139869156. www.slipstreamti.com

**Michigan Shakespeare Festival** The Season of Rebellion includes "As You Like It," "Richard II," and "The Killer Angels." Michigan Shakespeare Festival, The Village Theatre, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. July 29 - Aug. 14. 734-394-5300. www.MichiganShakespeareFestival.com

**Shakespeare Royal Oak Outdoor Summer Theatre Festival** Tickets: \$12-\$22. The festival features "Richard III," "12th Night," and "Tempest." Water Works Theatre Company, Starr Jaycee Park, 1301 West 13 Mile Rd., Royal Oak. July 28 - Aug. 7. www.shakespeareroyaloak.com

**Summer Retreat by Annie Martin** Tickets: \$23-\$25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. Through Aug. 21. 517-655-SHOW. www.williamstontheatre.org

**Xanadu** Tickets: \$10. Pre-show picnics are encouraged for audience members. Penny Seats Theatre Company, West Park Bandshell, Downtown between Miller and Huron, Chapin and Seventh, Ann Arbor. Through July 30. 734-925-5346. www.pennyseats.org

## ART 'N' AROUND

**Ann Arbor Art Center** "Ann Arbor Street Art Fair, The Original" The Ann Arbor Street Art Fair hosts 200 artists, the Ann Arbor Potters Guild, and seven or eight emerging college artists through the New Art, New Artists program. Downtown Ann Arbor, North University Avenue, East Washington Street and Ingalls Mall, Ann Arbor. July 21 - July 24. 734-994-5260. www.theannarborartfair.com

**Ann Arbor Art Fair** "Ann Arbor Street Art Fair" Downtown Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor. July 16 - July 24. www.artfair.org

**Cranbrook Academy of Art** "John Glick: A Legacy in Clay" More than 200 pieces representing all phases of Glick's work. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. June 18 - Nov. 30. 877-462-7262. www.cranbrook.edu

**Detroit Institute of Arts** "Guest of Honor: Gallery of the Louvre" Part of a national tour organized by the Terra Foundation for American Art. The exhibition is free with museum admission and free for residents of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb county. Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Through Sep. 18. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

**Detroit Institute of Arts** "The Open Road: Photography and the American Road Trip" Tickets: \$12.50 for adults, \$8 for seniors, and \$6 for youth. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Through Sep. 11. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

**Lawrence Street Gallery** "Summer Invitational '16" Join us to celebrate over 50 area artists' original artwork. Reception Friday July 22 from 6-9 p.m. Gallery Hours: Wed & Sat 12-5; Thur & Fri 12-9 Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave, Ferndale. June 29 - July 29. 248-544-0394. www.lawrencestreetgallery.com

**Mo Pop Festival** "Mo Pop Festival" See festival website for additional information. West Riverfront Park, West Jefferson Avenue between Rosa Parks Boulevard and Joe Louis Arena, Royal Oak. July 23 - July 24. http://mopopfestival.com/

**Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit** "Methexis: Works by DEPE Space Resident Mitch McEwen" Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. July 8 - Aug. 28. 313-832-6622. www.mocaddetroit.org

**The Heidelberg Project and Detroit Bikes** "All About Bikes!" Unveiling of a funky up art bike by Tyree Guyton. Bring your own bike, take a ride on the wild side during a bike tour led by Guyton. 3632 Heidelberg, Detroit. 5:30 p.m. July 23. www.heidelberg.org

**The Scarab Club** "The Magical Realism of Whitney Snow" The artist's first solo exhibition since his passing in 2006. Large format paintings display an outcropping of social realism. The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. July 8 - July 30. 313-831-1250. www.scarabclub.org

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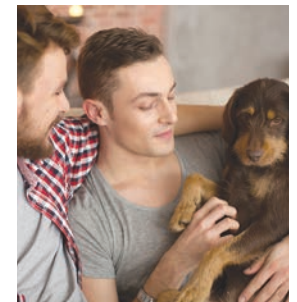


## BTL Pet of the Week - Daphne

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# Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

## HBO checks 'The Trans List'

Timothy Greenfield-Sanders, the director of "The Out List" and "The Black List," has returned with his latest interview-based documentary, "The Trans List," which focuses on the lives and stories of transgender people, some famous, some not. Produced for HBO (which will air it later this year), the film is currently making festival rounds, and returns to the format of the filmmaker's earlier work: subjects looking directly into the lens and telling their stories without any intrusion from off-camera. It's a simple, elegant way of making interviews happen, and one that the filmmaker has perfected over time. The community's most well-known faces will make appearances – people like Laverne Cox, Janet Mock, Caitlyn Jenner and Buck Angel – but the film will also focus on everyday trans Iraq War veterans, surviving Stonewall participants, community activists, and people like Amos Mac, publisher of "Original Plumbing" magazine. Fingers crossed that by the time it airs Ms. Jenner will be over her very public fixation on a certain reality show host-turned-Presidential candidate. And if not, well, we're watching it anyway.



Kristen Stewart Photo: Keith Clark

## 'Vita & Virginia' unites lovers Sackville-West & Woolf

One of the 20th century's most talked about literary love affairs was the one between Virginia Woolf and Vita Sackville-West. Often ignored by scholars, who tended to focus their attention on the two writers' heterosexual relationships, their story has been told a few times now in various media, reclaiming a vital piece of queer cultural history. A play by Dame Eileen Atkins is the basis for this new project, "Vita & Virginia," which will be produced in England and directed by Chanya Button ("Burn Burn Burn"). More news to come on this one, obviously, since the leads have yet to be cast. But this is just the kind of British period drama we live for now that "Downton Abbey" is no more, and we were always not-so-secretly hoping for a couple of well-spoken aristocratic women on that program to conduct a clandestine affair. We'll finally get our wish with this one.

## Kristen Stewart is all about a female James Bond

It's funny how ideas take hold on the internet. Case in point: a female James Bond. Nobody from the world of James Bond-based decision-making is really talking about this. But Gillian Anderson did. So did "Game of Thrones" Emilia Clarke. So did Bollywood star Priyanka Chopra. They'd all like their shot at playing Bond, and who can blame them? And now it's a thing. So when the subject came up at a recent press junket with Kristen Stewart, she didn't exactly throw her hat in the ring of speculative consideration, but she did express enthusiasm for the subject, which is kind of the same thing. Calling the middle-aged while male version of bond "stale" (and she's right), she laid out her idea for how the next Bond film might introduce the change: a Bond Girl becomes a Bond girlfriend becomes Bond herself. It's sort of perfect, really, and why didn't we think of that? Now, Bond People, if Idris Elba is off the list (and we have no idea if he is or he isn't, but let's all pause for a moment to shed a couple of tears), then why not give one of these women the chance to prove her 007 chops? It's certainly time.

Romeo San Vicente just wants James Bond's gadget-filled car.

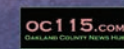
## Steve Buscemi will 'Lean On Pete'

Never forget, please, that back in the 1980s when non-gay actors were usually too afraid to play gay characters, Steve Buscemi launched his film career with a classic piece of Queer Cinema, "Parting Glances." So it feels right and fitting that after a critically lauded stretch of acting work these past three decades, he'll be joining forces with acclaimed gay filmmaker Andrew Haigh ("Weekend," "45 Years"). The film is titled "Lean On Pete," and instead of a boy and his dog tale, this one's about a boy and his horse. Well, maybe not "his" horse, exactly. A personal project for Haigh, he'll adapt Willy Vlautin's novel about a 15-year-old boy looking for his long-lost aunt, his only companion a stolen racehorse named Lean On Pete. One of Buscemi's former "Boardwalk Empire" co-stars, Charlie Plummer ("Granite Flats"), will play the boy, with Buscemi playing a character named "Del." More casting news to follow, no doubt, but look for this one sometime in 2017.

# LAST CALL

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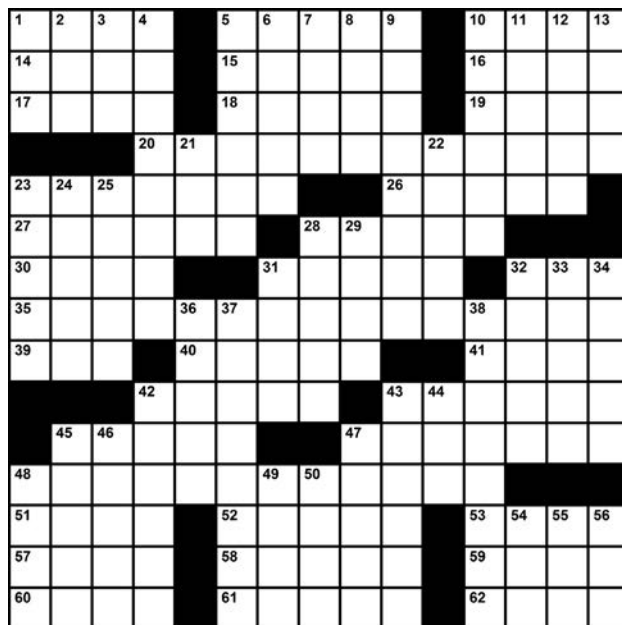
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## Q Puzzle



## Gay Anthems

### Across

- 1 1997 song of Ultra Nate
- 5 For this, for Caesar
- 10 Water-to-wine town
- 14 Spencer-Devlin's sport
- 15 Word after "pinky"
- 16 Some have it to grind
- 17 Word with gratification or abuse
- 18 Care for
- 19 Polished surface, for drag queens

- 20 1978 song of Gloria Gaynor
- 23 Claim of some porn stars
- 26 Moon position
- 27 Narcissist
- 28 Lorca's "Later!"
- 30 What you could get caught in
- 31 Brought into alignment
- 32 Film noir classic
- 35 1992 song of kd lang
- 39 Take too much of
- 40 Alaskan language
- 41 Culture Club's "\_\_\_ Miracle"
- 42 Be a ham in \_Hamlet\_?
- 43 It may be leather or strait
- 45 She hoped Gibson was gay in

### "What Women Want"

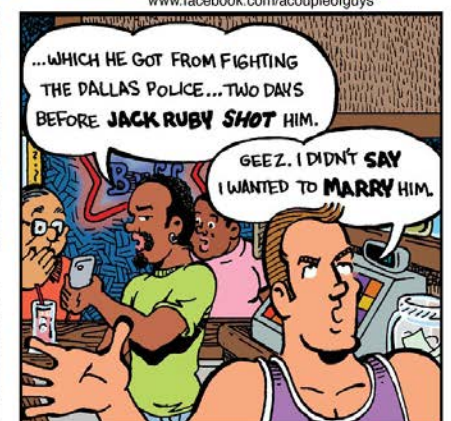
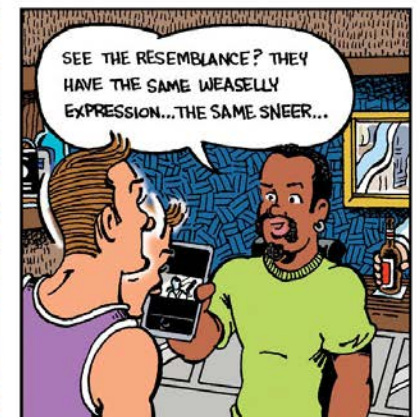
- 47 Family member, to a homophobe
- 48 1976 song of ABBA
- 51 Off-Broadway prize
- 52 Spud, in slang
- 53 Lesbian character in "No Exit"
- 57 Ice in the sea
- 58 1979 Broadway debut
- 59 Beauty that's only skin deep?
- 60 Provide, as for oneself
- 61 Place for a pickup
- 62 1978 song of Village People

### Down

- 1 3-pointers to Kopay
- 2 Lesbian opponent of Wade
- 3 Wing for Philip Johnson
- 4 Scarecrow and more
- 5 Lend a hand
- 6 Didst reside
- 7 Command to one's bitch
- 8 Stallion's supper
- 9 Bet middler?
- 10 Kahlo painting, perhaps
- 11 Erotic diarist Nin
- 12 Easily screwed
- 13 Trucker's rod
- 21 Bentley of "American Beauty"
- 22 Mary's "MTM" girlfriend
- 23 Literary lesbian Sylvia
- 24 Home near polar bears, perhaps
- 25 Auctioneer's word
- 28 "Glee" character Abrams

- 29 The vas, for one
- 31 Threaded fastener
- 32 "Iron Mike" of football
- 33 First appearance
- 34 Material for nice stones
- 36 Elizabeth Taylor's "The Last \_\_\_ Saw Paris"
- 37 Rubbed with oil
- 38 Neighborhood
- 42 Hosted the Oscars, for example
- 43 Taunt with homophobic slurs, e.g.
- 44 Caesar's salutation
- 45 Pool parlor fixture
- 46 Cocktail ingredient
- 47 On account of
- 48 Remove from the head
- 49 Put out
- 50 Bit of gay advice?
- 54 Locale for Brando's "Apocalypse Now"
- 55 And that's not all
- 56 Half of a Hollywood name

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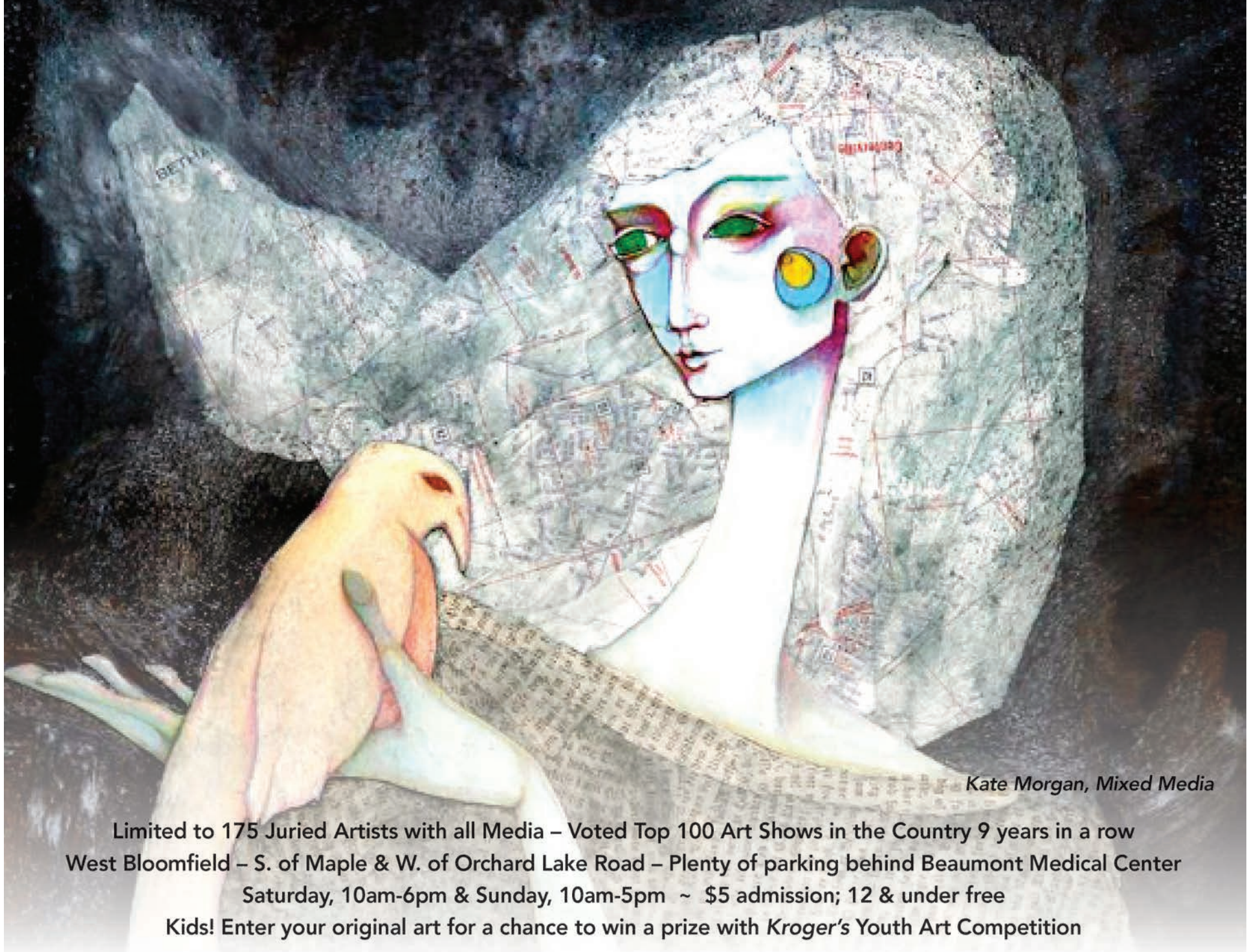


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