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**KHAOS REIGNS AT
HOTTER THAN JULY**

**INTERNET SENSATION TO HOST LIVE
SHOW AT PALMER PARK PICNIC** pg. 20



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20 Khaos Reigns at HTJ, Internet Sensation to Host Live Show at Palmer Park Picnic. Photo: Jason Michale

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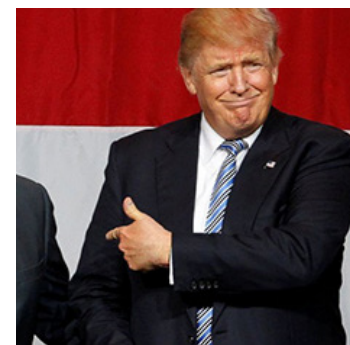
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Community Chat with Detroit Police LGBT Liaison Aug. 3

DETROIT – Detroit Police Department Deputy Dani Woods, LGBT liaison to the office of the chief, will hold the second annual LGBT Community Chat Aug. 3 at Palmer Park.

The first LGBT community chat was a huge success and had more than 100 attendees. This year's meeting will focus on breaking down barriers and will discuss program assistance and resources for the LGBT community and will address the concerns of the LGBT

community in a relaxed environment set to spread awareness. Chief James Craig and Officer Dani Woods will discuss preventive measures the DPD is taking to address concerns of the LGBTQ Community, including violence and hate crimes against members in the community and victim resources available. A Q&A session will follow for continual dialogue and to readily address any concerns.

Palmer Park is located at 910 Merrill Plaisance St. in Detroit.

Study Finds LGBT Adults Experience Food Insecurity

A new study by the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law has found that 27 percent of LGBT adults experienced a time in the last year when they did not have enough money for the food that they or their families needed.

LGBT adults and adults in same-sex couples often experience food insecurity and participate in the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) at higher rates than non-LGBT adults and adults in different-sex couples. Using data from four representative, population-based surveys, the authors found that some groups of LGBT adults - women, certain racial and ethnic minorities, unmarried adults, and adults with children in the home - are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity.

“Contrary to the stereotype that LGBT people are affluent, many do not have the resources to access the food that they and their families need,” said Taylor Brown, one of the authors of the study. “Policy makers and anti-hunger organizations need to include LGBT people when considering issues of poverty, homelessness, and hunger.”

The study, titled “Food Insecurity and SNAP Participation in the LGBT Community,” by Brown, Adam P. Romero and Gary J. Gates, updates previous findings and provides further evidence of the disparities experienced by LGBT people.

Key findings from the study include: More than one in four LGBT people,

approximately 2.2 million – experienced a time in the last year when they did not have enough money for the food that they or their families needed, compared to 17 percent of non-LGBT adults.

Twenty-seven percent of LGBT adults ages 18-44 participated in SNAP, compared to 20 percent of non-LGBT adults in the same age range.

Food insecurity is not distributed evenly in the LGBT community. Among LGBT people, certain racial and ethnic minorities (42 percent among African-Americans, 33 percent among Hispanics, and 32 percent among American Indians and Alaskan Natives), women (31 percent), unmarried individuals (30 percent), and those raising children (33 percent) are particularly likely to report not having enough money for the food that they or their families needed at some point in the last year.

LGBT adults are 1.62 times more likely than non-LGBT adults, on average, to report not having enough money for the food that they or their families needed at some point in the last year.

Adults in same-sex couples are 1.58 times more likely than different-sex couples to have participated in SNAP in the past year.

The study was made possible with a grant from the ConAgra Foods Foundation. To read the whole study visit <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/research/lgbt-food-insecurity-2016>.

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Michigan Non Profit Resource

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If you or someone you know has experienced discrimination, intimidation, harassment or violence because of sexual orientation, gender expression or gender identity,

contact Equality Michigan's Department of Victim Services at :

report@equalitymi.org or call 1-866-962-1147

Equality Michigan is working with state legislators to update the Ethnic Intimidation Act to include proper protections for the gay and transgender community.

To get involved in the movement for better hate crimes law, contact policy@equalitymi.org.

Hundreds more resources can be found at
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2. Hunskaar S, Sandvik H. One Hundred and Fifty Men with Urinary Incontinence. III. Psychosocial Consequences. Scand J Prim Health Care. 1993; 11:193-96.



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Aug. 2 Michigan Primary Could Put Three Additional Out Gay Candidates On Nov. 8 Ballot

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Tim Sneller has a gravelly voice and a thick black moustache. He's also got 31 years of legislative staffer experience in the Michigan legislature. Never, however, did he imagine seeing two openly gay men take their places on the floor of the Michigan House in his lifetime.

"I've been here since 1983, when Jon Hoadley and Jeremy Moss came in," he pauses. "I thought I would never see that. It was a breath of fresh air."

The 60-year-old has been an out gay man for "as long as I have been out," and is seeking a win in the Democratic primary on Aug. 2. Voters will decide between Sneller and another Democrat.

That primary could result in pushing the Michigan House of Representatives contingent of openly gay men serving as elected officials from two to five.

Sneller, along with political newcomer Brian Stone, 29, and political operative Jeff Chicoine, 31, are all vying for the Democratic nominations in their districts.

Stone is running to represent the city of Dearborn in the 15th District. Chicoine wants to represent the people of the House 14th District which includes Wynadotte, Riverview, Melvindale and Lincoln Park. Sneller is running to represent the cities of Burton and Grand Blanc, as well as two neighboring townships. Sneller's district is the 50th.

Openly gay state Reps. Jeremy Moss



Jeff Chicoine



Brian Stone



Tim Sneller

(D-Southfield) and Jon Hoadley (D-Kalamazoo) are expected to handily win re-election to the state house. After being elected, the two men started the Equality Caucus and they are eager to welcome more out LGBT lawmakers to the fold.

Stone, a Navy veteran, is facing a six-way primary. The Aug. 2 winner is widely expected to win election in November in the heavily Democratic seat.

Chicoine is in a four-way primary and if he wins, it is widely expected he will go on to win the November ballot as well.

Chicoine worked for former Congressman

John Dingell as well as his wife and current Congresswoman Debbie Dingell. He has an undergraduate degree in international relations from Eastern Michigan University and a Master's Degree from the University of Sydney Australia in Asian Studies. He said he deliberately walked into the race after trying to determine if any other viable candidates existed.

"I think lots of good things are happening in Downriver," he said. "But that is not necessarily being told in Lansing. I want to tell that story."

He called his journey a "hometown story."

And despite a perception that the Downriver voters are "conservative on social issues," he said he has not seen that.

"I have never run across anyone who said they would not vote for me because of (being gay)," he said. And those that did disagree, he said they were helpful and thoughtful.

"You learn a lot from them, if you listen," he said.

The perception of the district versus the reality is one he hopes to take to Lansing, noting that demographics in the area have shifted.

Taking Back State House

Democrats are also focusing the races for Chicoine, Stone and Sneller as part of their plan to take back control of the State House. There are 110 seats in the House, and currently Democrats control 44 of those seats to the

GOP's 63. Two of the seats in the legislature are currently unoccupied. A Democratically run House could run interference with a GOP dominated Senate (which currently has a two-thirds majority controlling that body), delaying or stopping legislative initiatives that undercut progressive ideas and policy positions.

Sneller said he has witnessed the degradation of the legislature as a result of the term limits amendment adopted by voters in the 90s.

"You watch these legislators come in and they have no clue," he said. "They have their own agendas... I will be ready to hit the ground running."

He said term limits have forced him to "train" lawmakers when they arrive in Lansing, and "fold 'em up" when their terms expire.

"That's part of the reason the legislature is not very effective in my opinion," he said.

For his part, Stone rose to prominence when he led a charge to address unfair tuition policies at state universities. He had come back from his service in the Navy and the University of Dearborn charged him out-of-state tuition rates. He fought back and won what he calls "veteran's equality."

That experience introduced him to political leaders and he said he thought he could make a difference as a lawmaker.

And being out was a key part of that decision.

"Part of that is my own experience growing up in high school and facing a lot of challenges, and not seeing any public officials out there speaking positively about people like me," he said.

All three men, plus Hoadley and Moss the incumbent out lawmakers, are white and cisgender male identified. That is a concern raised during a fundraiser for Hoadley's political leadership PAC - AZO PAC - two weeks ago in downtown Plymouth.

That PAC expects to raise about \$50,000 before the August primary ballot and wants to use it to support progressive candidates across the state.

Sneller said he supports those efforts.

"I think it's time we broaden the umbrella for everyone," he said.

And that broaden should include mentoring, said Chicoine.

"We don't do a very good job of identifying the strengths of young people and offer them the experience and the support they need to grow," he said. "We need to do that."

In 2016, we have five LGBT Michiganders running in house districts across our state. They are:

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www.votejeremymoss.com

State Rep. Jon Hoadley (60th - Kalamazoo, parts of Kalamazoo Township and City of Portage)
www.jonhoadley.com

Jeff Chicoine (14th - Cities of Lincoln Park, Melvindale, Riverview and Wyandotte)
www.jeffchicoine.com

Brian Stone (15th - City of Dearborn)
www.votestone.com

Tim Sneller (50th - Cities of Burton and Grand Blanc; Townships of Grand Blanc and Mundy)
www.timsneller.com

Democrats Ratify Most Pro-LGBT Platform Ever

'It says we're welcome, we're going to make life better'

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

PHILADELPHIA – Democrats ratified a party platform late Monday called the most LGBT-inclusive in history and a unifying document after a bitter primary.

As convention chair Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-Ohio) presided, delegates at the Democratic National Convention approved the platform by voice vote. Although loud “nays” were heard, the overwhelming “yays” in favor of the platform carried the day.

Jessica Frisco, a Manhattan-based delegate pledged to Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), said having LGBT inclusion in the Democratic Party “has always been really important to me.”

“Not that it’s become less of a priority, but I think the Democrats have always been pretty progressive on the issue, at least in recent years, and you know, it’s been Democrats that have been supporting that type of legislation in contrast to Republicans,” she said. “I guess I wasn’t really surprised to see that that was a big part of the platform and I wouldn’t be surprised to know that everyone in the Democratic Party supports that.”

The 55-page document has a specific LGBT plank titled “Guaranteeing Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Rights” and includes LGBT references in planks throughout the document.

The LGBT plank endorses LGBT comprehensive non-discrimination legislation (although it doesn’t explicitly address the Equality Act by name), condemns violence against transgender people, endorses the U.S. Supreme Court decision in favor of same-sex marriage and repudiates state laws seeking to undermine LGBT rights.

“Democrats applaud last year’s decision by the Supreme Court that recognized that LGBT people – like other Americans – have the right to marry the person they love,” the platform says. “But there is still much work to be done. LGBT kids continue to be bullied at school, restaurants can refuse to serve transgender people, and same-sex couples are at risk of being evicted from their homes. That is unacceptable and must change.”

In contrast, the platform adopted last week at the Republican National Convention seeks to reverse the Supreme Court decision on same-sex marriage, indicates supports for widely

discredited “ex-gay” conversion therapy and supports state anti-trans bathroom laws.

Matt Hughes, a 25-year-old delegate from Chapel Hill, N.C., pledged to Hillary Clinton, said the LGBT inclusion is important to him both as a Democrat and a gay man.

“For me as a Democrat, it’s important, but also as a gay man that we have these ideals in our party’s platform about non-discrimination in terms of employment and transgender rights and really everything,” Hughes said, “especially when you compare and contrast it to the Republican Party platform that was passed last week, which is definitely the most anti-LGBT platform that the Republican Party has ever put forward.”

Hughes said he helped draft a North Carolina platform that included similar language, which he said is important because of the recently enacted House Bill 2 in the state. That law bars pro-LGBT city ordinances and prohibits transgender people from using the restroom consistent with their gender identity.

“That language says to me that for the second time in four years, that on LGBT issues, North Carolina is on the wrong side of not just fairness and equality, but also just the wrong side of history,” Hughes said. “And I think that the Democrats have always stood up for the marginalized and oppressed in our communities, and so having language that is so strongly in favor of rights for our transgender brothers, I think, is very important.”

Other language throughout the document recognizes immigration detention for LGBT people who sought refuge in the U.S. “can be unacceptably dangerous.”

Referencing the recent end to the ban on transgender military service and “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” repeal, the platform says the U.S. military is stronger with people of different “sexual orientations and gender identities.”

Delegates ratified the platform after the full platform committee reviewed and made changes to the document during a meeting earlier this month in Orlando, Fla.

During the meeting, the committee enhanced the LGBT language further by adding a plank insisting LGBT rights should be part of U.S. foreign policy. The language was based on Clinton’s 2011 speech in Geneva where she declared, “Gay rights are human rights and human rights are gay rights.”

See Dem Platform, page 16

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GOP Convention Wrap-Up



Rachel Hoff, a defense analyst for the American Action Forum in D.C., and the first openly gay member of the Republican Party's platform committee. Washington Blade photo: Michael Key

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

CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE REPORTER

CLEVELAND – Delegates at the Republican National Convention ratified July 18 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 p.m. 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.

“I think the Supreme Court legislated,” Virgil Goode, a Virginia delegate and former six-term member of the U.S. House, told the Washington Blade. “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.”

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.

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.

Day 1: At GOP Convention, Speakers Undertake LGBT Attacks, Outreach

CLEVELAND - Over the course of one night at the Republican National Convention, two different speakers July 18 exemplified the party's desire of LGBT outreach on one hand and continuing attacks on LGBT people on the other.

Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, who served in both Iraq and Afghanistan before becoming director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, took a knock at the Obama administration's effort to advance LGBT rights in which he called President Obama “spineless” and Hillary Clinton “reckless.”

“Too often, way too often, our troops are instead are distracted by trivial matters, trivial matters about what words to use, what terminology is politically correct and what bathroom door to open up,” Flynn said. “My God, my God, war is not about bathrooms, war is not about political correctness or words that are meaningless.”

It's hard to say what exactly the “bathroom” remarks were intended to mean, but given national debate on transgender use of restrooms, it could be a reference to the end of the ban to transgender military service.

It conceivably could also be an attack on Obama's effort to repeal “Don't Ask, Don't Tell,” a law that prohibited openly gay people from serving in the armed forces.

Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who energized the crowd more than any other speaker July 18, on the other hand offered a gay-inclusive vision as he praised police officers in the aftermath of fatal attacks on them.

Both speakers made the remarks just hours after the delegates ratified a Republican platform considered the most anti-LGBT in history. Among other things, the platform seeks to overturn the U.S. Supreme Court decision in favor of same-sex marriage and opposes laws enabling transgender people to use the restroom consistent with their gender identity.

Rachel Hoff Won't 'Leave' GOP Over Anti-LGBT Platform

CLEVELAND – The first openly gay member of the Republican Party's platform committee said July 19 she does not “plan to leave” the GOP.

Rachel Hoff, a defense analyst for the American Action Forum in D.C., made the comment as she spoke about her party's anti-LGBT platform at a panel that Equality Ohio, a statewide advocacy group, held at the New West Theatre in Cleveland's Ohio City neighborhood.

She acknowledged there is “some bad stuff on bathrooms” and “hurtful language on gay parenting and adoption” in the platform. Hoff also noted there is a “veiled reference” to so-called conversion therapy.

“It no longer says conversion,” she said. “We're supposed to thank them that it only says therapy, but we'll take small signs of progress as mini-victories.”

Draft platform ‘much better’ on LGBT issues

Hoff said the draft platform that the committee received from the Republican National Committee was “much better on LGBT issues.”

“It then went into a sort of family values subcommittee and came out worse,” she said.

Hoff said the full committee debated three proposed amendments.

One would have removed what she described as “traditional marriage language” from the platform and replaced it “with a message of inclusion, to basically respect and acknowledge a diversity of opinion within the Republican Party on this issue.”

Another proposed amendment would have acknowledged “the LGBT community around the world as victims of violence and extremism.” The third proposed amendment would have “specifically” named and called

See GOP Wrap-up, page 10

Dem VEEP Tim Kaine Has Strong LGBT Record

BY LISA KEEN

Many political observers have described U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine as a moderate, but his record on equal rights for LGBT citizens could hardly make that case.

After signaling her intent through a Twitter post Friday night, Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton on Saturday afternoon, formally announced Kaine as her vice presidential running mate.

Clinton said Kaine is “a progressive who likes to get things done.” She praised his “commitment to social justice,” noting that his early work as an attorney was as a civil rights attorney and praising his leadership on LGBT equality.

Kaine used his first speech on the campaign trail to criticize Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump. He also talked about his faith, his interest in social justice, and caring for everyone in the “rainbow of cultural diversity that embraces all people...regardless of sexual orientation.” He praised Clinton for fighting for the rights of minorities, including LGBT Americans. He said the Clinton-Kaine ticket would have a “strong progressive agenda.”

Since entering his first term in the U.S. Senate in 2013, Kaine, 58, earned a 90 score from the Human Rights Campaign Congressional Scorecard. The 10-point deduction appears to have been his decision not to co-sponsor two bills: the Student Non-Discrimination Act and the Safe Schools Improvement Act.

But Kaine is a chief sponsor of Equal Dignity for Married Taxpayers Act, seeking to provide for equal treatment of LGBT citizens under federal tax codes. He is a co-sponsor of the Equality Act, which seeks a federal law to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the workplace and housing. And he voted for and co-sponsored the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) in 2013, when the Senate passed the measure.

He also urged President Obama to issue an executive order banning discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity by contractors doing business with the federal government.

Last month, following the attack on an LGBT nightclub in Orlando, Kaine joined U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisc.) and 22 other senators in a letter to urge the Food and Drug Administration to end its “discriminatory blood donation policy for men who have sex with men.” He was also among 40 senators to ask the Department of Education to provide guidance to schools on how to best provide for the “protection of LGBT students.”

Also last month, Kaine signed onto a friend-of-the-court brief in a case in the Second



Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., arrive at a rally at Florida International University Panther Arena in Miami, Saturday, July 23, 2016. Clinton has chosen Kaine to be her running mate. AP Photo/Andrew Harnik

Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, arguing that Title VII of the federal Civil Rights Act already prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Kaine began elective office in 1994 as a member of the city council of Richmond, Virginia; then as mayor. He next served as lieutenant governor and governor of Virginia and is currently a U.S. Senator from Virginia.

As governor, Kaine banned discrimination based on sexual orientation for state employees. Although he was for giving same-sex couples the same rights as straight couples in marriage, he initially referred only to giving same-sex couples “relationship equality,” which many took to mean he preferred civil unions or domestic partnerships. But he campaigned against an effort to amend the state constitution to explicitly ban marriage for same-sex couples and, by the time he reached the U.S. Senate, he became a co-sponsor of a bill to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act.

Openly gay Virginia State Senator Adam Ebbin called Kaine “a great choice.”

“He is a genuine and authentic leader who is respected by Virginia politicians from both sides of the aisle. As a governing partner with Hillary Clinton, all Americans will benefit from Tim Kaine’s leadership—including the LGBT community,” said Ebbin.

“It is worth noting that, on then-Governor Kaine’s first day in office, in 2006, he issued an executive order barring discrimination

Last month, following the attack on an LGBT nightclub in Orlando, Kaine joined U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisc.) and 22 other senators in a letter to urge the Food and Drug Administration to end its “discriminatory blood donation policy for men who have sex with men.” He was also among 40 senators to ask the Department of Education to provide guidance to schools on how to best provide for the “protection of LGBT students.”

in state hiring based on sexual orientation,” said Ebbin. “Later in 2006, when Virginia voters were faced with an anti-marriage equality constitutional amendment, then-governor Kaine announced his opposition to the measure on the steps of the Governor’s Mansion with his wife and her parents.”

Kaine is married to the daughter of another former governor of Virginia, Republican Governor Linwood Holton. Kaine’s wife,

Anne Holton, was appointed by Virginia’s Democratic Governor Terry McAuliffe, as Virginia Secretary of Education.

In the Senate, Kaine serves on the Armed Services Committee and the Foreign Relations Committee.

Kaine is a Catholic and attends a predominantly black church. He spent a year as the principal of a Jesuit school in Honduras as a missionary. There, he became fluent in Spanish. He has said that his religious beliefs render him personally opposed to abortion, but he has stood up for a woman’s right to have an abortion if she chooses. He is opposed to capital punishment but did not stop several executions from taking place when he was governor of Virginia.

The Human Rights Campaign praised the selection of Kaine, saying he has demonstrated “a solid commitment to LGBTQ equality.”

“While Donald Trump doubled down on discrimination by picking Mike Pence,” said HRC President Chad Griffin, referring to the Indiana governor who has made a name for himself by opposing equal rights for LGBT people. “Hillary Clinton has bolstered her campaign’s historic commitment to LGBTQ equality by choosing Tim Kaine.”

Kaine’s nomination for vice president will be approved by the Democratic National Convention, which begins Monday in Philadelphia.

► GOP Conventions Wrap-Up

Continued from p. 8

“the LGBT community as the victims” of the June 12 massacre at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida.

Day 2: GOP Subtly Seeks LGBT Support Through Orlando, Gun Rights

CLEVELAND - Amid attacks impugning Hillary Clinton’s character and calls for her incarceration, Republicans on the second night of the GOP national convention subtly sought to obtain LGBT support to further their goals.

Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), who’s defending himself against a challenge from progressive champion and former Sen. Russ Feingold, invoked the Orlando shooting when he recalled provoking Clinton to say, “What difference does it make?” during a Senate hearing on Benghazi.

“It made a difference to the young men and women dancing on a summer night at a club in Orlando,” Johnson said. “And it made a difference to the families watching fireworks at the celebration of freedom in by asking a simple question, why did you not just pick up the phone and call the survivors?”

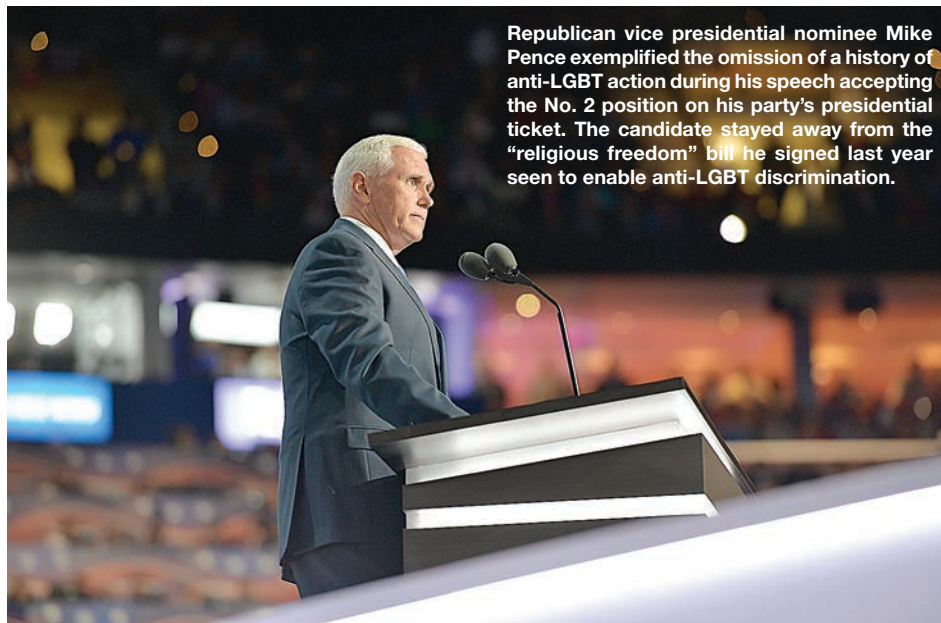
Chris Cox, executive director of the NRA Institute for legislative action, invoked the protection for gay people when he called his organization “the largest and oldest civil rights organization in America.”

The remarks stand in contrast to speeches from individuals at Republican National Conventions in years past seeking to build support by demonizing gay people and railing against LGBT rights as opposed to making subtle outreach.

“The NRA only protects the bottom line of gun manufacturers, ignoring the majority of Americans who support common sense gun reforms,” Jason Lindsay, executive director of the Pride Fund to End Gun Violence, said. “Pride Fund to End Gun Violence is standing up to the NRA by supporting candidates committed to reforming our gun laws to make all Americans safer. It is time to take back our public and private places from the threat of gun violence that has proliferated under the NRA’s watch.”

Day 3: Pence Omits ‘Religious Freedom’ Law In Acceptance Speech

CLEVELAND - The third night of the Republican National Convention featured unprecedented LGBT inclusion from speakers on stage, but that embrace was undercut by



Republican vice presidential nominee Mike Pence exemplified the omission of a history of anti-LGBT action during his speech accepting the No. 2 position on his party’s presidential ticket. The candidate stayed away from the “religious freedom” bill he signed last year seen to enable anti-LGBT discrimination.

omission of anti-LGBT histories and hints of support for anti-LGBT policy.

Republican vice presidential nominee Mike Pence exemplified the omission of a history of anti-LGBT action during his speech accepting the No. 2 position on his party’s presidential ticket. The candidate stayed away from the “religious freedom” bill he signed last year seen to enable anti-LGBT discrimination. That law sparked outrage by LGBT advocates and the business community forcing him to sign a “fix” limiting its impact.

The omission was most glaring during a portion of his speech on the economic prosperity he says Indiana has enjoyed during his tenure as governor.

Pence also made the case that Trump would appoint conservative justices to the Supreme Court, raising fears about the judiciary using “unaccountable power to take unconstitutional actions.” Although Pence didn’t enumerate on stage the Supreme Court decision in favor of same-sex marriage, conservative critics have charged that was one of the rulings in which justices overstepped their bounds.

Jim Obergefell, lead plaintiff in the lawsuit that won marriage equality nationwide and supporter of Hillary Clinton, said in a statement the impact of Pence’s decision to sign the law shouldn’t be forgotten.

“Donald Trump’s selection of Mike Pence is a clear message to the LGBTQ community in Ohio and across the country: he doesn’t believe we matter and he doesn’t believe we count,” Obergefell said. “In Indiana, Pence supported, fought for, and signed into law the ability for businesses to discriminate against individual members of the LGBTQ community. Trump and Pence are in lockstep when it comes to repealing marriage equality and opposing non-discrimination protections. Together, they represent the most divisive ticket I can imagine.”

Jenner Denounces Anti-Trans Bathroom Bills

CLEVELAND - Transgender personality and Olympic decathlete Caitlyn Jenner denounced anti-trans state bathroom measures July 20 during an event seeking to promote a “big tent” within the GOP.

Jenner made the remarks at an event hosted by the pro-LGBT American Unity Fund, which took place in a literal big tent just outside the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Margaret Hoover, president of the American Unity Fund, held a Q&A with Jenner before an estimated 500 attendees.

In the aftermath of North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory signing a bill prohibiting transgender people from using certain restrooms consistent with their gender identity, Jenner said the law compounds the bullying transgender youth already face.

“Now, you’re telling me that the state of North Carolina is going to come in and bully you, too, to say you can’t live your authentic life and you have to go in this other bathroom,” Jenner said. “It just doesn’t work.”

Many state legislatures this year considered proposals seeking to bar transgender people, especially students, from using the restroom consistent with their gender identity.

“You’re creating laws for a non-issue,” Jenner said. “We don’t have a problem. Their thing is we want to protect the kids. When call a trans person a man in a dress, you’re totally misgendering them. They are not men in dresses. They are trans people, and so that’s an important point.”

Jenner attributed the high rate of suicide among transgender youths to anti-LGBT bullying, saying she has friends working at suicide hotlines who said calls from transgender people have skyrocketed amid the bathroom controversy.

Gays For Trump’ Make Case For Anti-Islamic Policies

CLEVELAND - Rallying attendees before posters of scantily clad young men in “Make America Great Again” hats, speakers at a “Gays for Trump” party July 19 urged LGBT people to look to defeating radical Islamic extremism as its next goal.

The featured speaker at the event, which was called “Wake Up” and took place at Wolstein Center Ballroom at Cleveland State University, was Milo Yiannopoulos, a provocative gay conservative activist and journalist.

Wearing a white tank top with the image of a firearm in rainbow colors and “We Shoot Back,” Yiannopoulos said the time has come has come for the LGBT community to separate itself from the progressive movement to take on Islamic extremism.

In the aftermath of a shooting in Orlando at a gay nightclub perpetuated by a follower of Islamic extremism, Yiannopoulos said while the left once had the backs of gay people, that’s “no longer the case.”

Day 4: Thiel Declares ‘I Am Proud to be Gay’

For the first time in 16 years, an openly gay speaker took the stage at the Republican National Convention - but the meaning of his words on LGBT rights is unclear.

Peter Thiel, a co-founder of PayPal and Facebook and a California delegate supporting Trump, proclaimed his sexual orientation to attendees at the convention.

“Of course, every American has a unique identity,” Thiel said. “I am proud to be gay, I am proud to be a Republican, but most of all I am proud to be an American.”

The audience at the Quicken Loans Arena applauded when he made the declaration. Convention officials in neon-colored hats rallied the crowd in a chant of “U-S-A! U-S-A!”

As he spoke, three other openly gay delegates from California - Charles Moran, Ric Grenell and Juan Hernandez - were positioned in seats in the front row of the stage. Thiel was given a prime speaking slot at the convention less than an hour before Donald Trump gave his acceptance speech to claim the Republican presidential nomination.

It was the first time since 2000 that an openly gay speaker addressed a Republican National Convention. At that time, then-Rep. Jim Kolbe spoke to the crowd. Although Kolbe didn’t mention his sexual orientation and discussed trade policy, delegates on the floor turned their backs as he spoke.



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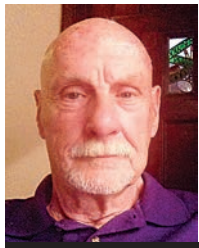
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Remembering Jeff (1 of 3)

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

It's amazing what one can do with a wooden spoon, a shoe lace, a bare neck, and a twist of the wrist (occasionally limp). Play asphyxiation games. Commit suicide. Perform a deuce of a murder.

Or create a mystery worthy of Sherlock Holmes and his literary life's partner Dr. John Watson, of 221B Baker Street (where they recently hosted a gala for Sir Elton John. Housekeeper Mrs. Hudson, a High Church Anglican, was absent.)

The victim in this strange scenario (if indeed he was such) is one Richard Lancelyn Green – age 50, a millionaire, the world's foremost Holmes expert – who on a foggy London day last March 2004 was found in his double bed quite, quite dead. Alone.

Green was surrounded by stuffed toys, a bottle of good gin, and Holmesian memorabilia. When the police broke in – his frantic sister Priscilla West had repeatedly tried to telephone him – he was found with a shoe lace coiled tightly around his ample neck.

Prior to this curious garroting Green had been trying to prevent the auctioning at Christie's of unpublished Sir Arthur Conan Doyle letters and manuscripts originally promised to the British Library. He coveted access to this material to finish a "definitive" Doyle biography he had been working on for 20 years.

The coroner ruled suicide, but foul play was strongly suspected by many. Chat rooms were rife with speculation. ("As for self-garroting, it's like trying to choke oneself to death by your own hands," emailed one armchair sleuth.)

A British tabloid headlined CURSE OF CONAN DOYLE STRIKES HOLMES EXPERT. Extra! Extra!

As far as curse du jour is concerned there are those (unfortunately dead) who might have agreed. Doyle. Actors Basil Rathbone and Jeremy Brett. Doyle found that his brainchild had become a monster he couldn't control. His waking hours were spent devising plot twists and singular solutions worthy of his genius detective.

Six years after Doyle created Holmes, he did the poor bloke in, along with nemesis Professor Moriarty, in "The Final Problem." Doyle wrote in his diary for December 1893, "Killed Holmes!" But public outcry was so great that Doyle had to bring Holmes, like some mythic demigod, back from the dead eight years later.

As for Rathbone and Brett, playing Holmes on screen so closely identified each actor with the detective that other stage roles were eclipsed or forgotten. Rathbone grew to hate Holmes, and Brett suffered a nervous breakdown over him.

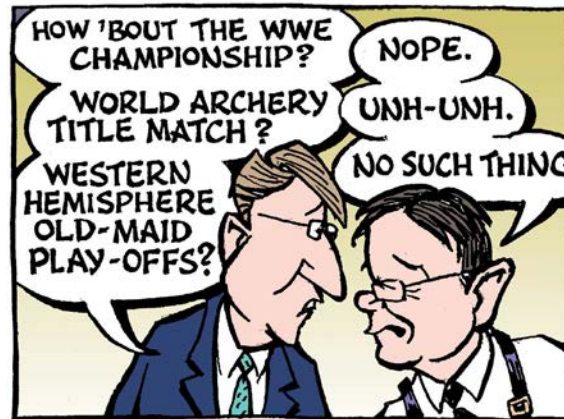
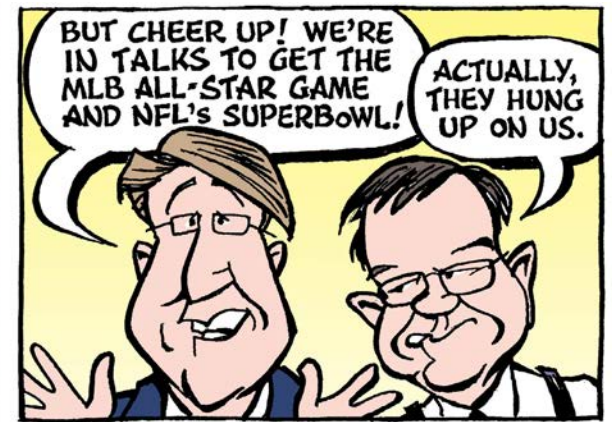
"There's something about the greatest of all detectives that's obsessing," says Jeff Montgomery, who since 1979 has been a member of the worldwide Baker Street Irregulars (named for street urchin informants). "You find yourself looking at details, connecting dots, and applying logic to everything. You know quotes by heart – the plots inside and out. It takes over."

According to Jeff, new Baker Street Irregulars are given two links to the Holmes canon: a shilling – the reward given by Holmes to his boys for uncovering clues – and a story name. (Jeff's – bestowed when he was 27 – is Inspector Montgomery, taken from "The Adventure of the Cardboard Box." Famous Irregulars include science fiction writer Isaac Asimov, mystery writer Rex Stout, presidents Franklin Roosevelt and Harry S Truman.)

"Green's death is still a mystery," says Jeff. "He was closeted, but for some reason Scotland Yard failed to contact Triangle Foundation for assistance. Frankly it's out of our jurisdiction."

"However there are enough dastardly Moriaritys around here to keep the game afoot. We shall prevail. Oh, yes: God save the Queen."

Charles@pridesource.com



BY DANA RUDOLPH

The Republican Platform: Leaving Out

Mombian

I had a good time poking fun at the plagiarism and grandstanding of the Republican Convention, as did many of my left-leaning friends. My amusement quickly turned sober, however. The fact remains that the 2016 GOP platform directly targets LGBTQ families and LGBTQ youth.

The platform asserts bluntly, "We do not accept the Supreme Court's redefinition of marriage and we urge its reversal, whether through judicial reconsideration or a constitutional amendment returning control over marriage to the states."

This view of marriage is tied directly to childraising: "Traditional marriage and family, based on marriage between one man and one woman, is the foundation for a free society and has for millennia been

entrusted with rearing children and instilling cultural values."

While they "honor the courageous efforts" of single parents who "should be treated with dignity and respect," the Republicans continue, "But respect is not enough. Our laws and our government's regulations should recognize marriage as the union of one man and one woman and actively promote married family life as the basis of a stable and prosperous society."

Their platform would also promote legislation to "bar government discrimination against individuals and businesses for acting on the belief that marriage is the union of one man and one woman." This would, of course, allow people to discriminate against same-sex couples and their families.

Then they claim: "Children raised

in a two-parent household tend to be physically and emotionally healthier, more likely to do well in school, less likely to use drugs and alcohol, engage in crime or become pregnant outside of marriage." Even if that's true (a point I leave aside for now), it doesn't lead to what the Platform calls the "inescapable conclusion" that "Every child deserves a married mom and dad." Two-parent households can just as easily have two moms or two dads.

I do agree with the platform's statement, "Families formed or enlarged by adoption strengthen our communities and ennoble our nation" and even "Private entities which facilitate adoptions enrich our communities." I balk, however, when it says we should "ensure these

See Rudolph: Republican Platform, Next page

► Rudolph: Republican Platform

Continued from p. 12

entities do not face government discrimination because of their views on marriage and family.” Yes, truly private entities may have that right. But when private adoption agencies receive public funds and contract with the state, as many do (including Michigan), to place children who are in the state’s care, it’s a whole different ball game, and they should abide by non-discrimination laws.

The platform is also vehemently anti-choice. It would defund Planned Parenthood and similar organizations, which provide vital health care to LGBTQ youth, among other services.

It would also “[replace] ‘family planning’ programs for teens with sexual risk avoidance education that sets abstinence until marriage as the responsible and respected standard of behavior.” Study after study has shown that abstinence-only programs do not lead to a reduction in sexual activity and may mean youth are less likely to use birth control or condoms. This harms LGBTQ and straight, cisgender children alike.

Not only that, but the platform touts “the right of parents to determine the proper medical treatment and therapy for their minor children.” This phrasing is actually a thinly veiled modification of an amendment that called for support of “conversion therapy,” or the curing of children who are LGBTQ, but which was seen as too extreme for the final platform, the Human Rights Campaign reported on its blog.

On another topic, the platform says that Title IX, which bans gender-based discrimination in education, is being used “to impose a social and cultural revolution upon the American people by wrongly redefining sex discrimination to include sexual orientation or other categories.” Among other things, the Obama administration has used Title IX to support transgender students’ right to use the bathroom of their identity. Republicans in contrast want to restrict Title IX to stopping

gender-based discrimination against (presumably cisgender) women and girls.

And not LGBTQ-specific, but worrisome after Orlando and other recent shootings, is the passage, “We oppose ill-conceived laws that would restrict magazine capacity or ban the sale of the most popular and common modern rifle.... We oppose federal licensing or registration of law-abiding gun owners, registration of ammunition, and restoration of the ill-fated Clinton gun ban.” That rifle they mention? It’s the AR-15, which the NRA called “America’s Most Popular Rifle” in a January 2016 blog post. A version of the weapon was used in the 2012 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School. The rifle used at the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando was a similar type of assault rifle, although a different brand.

There is much more in the platform related to education, immigration, health care, voting rights, protecting the environment, and other areas that impact our families (and many others). Read the whole thing at GOP.com.

The bottom line is clear: A Republican presidency would be a very dangerous thing to LGBTQ families and youth, especially if coupled with a Senate that remains Republican. Hillary Clinton may not be perfect—I realize opinions on her vary widely—but she is far, far better than the alternative.

One final observation. The platform states that the “daily lessons” of the American family, “cooperation, patience, mutual respect, responsibility, self-reliance – are fundamental to the order and progress of our Republic.” I couldn’t agree more – but also can’t help noticing that they left out one of the most important family lessons of all – love. May love win in November.

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory for LGBTQ parents.

Creep of the Week

Donald Trump

BY D’ANNE WITKOWSKI

Donald Trump made history at the Republican National Convention by daring to utter a string of five letters: LGBTQ.

More specifically, he said, “Only weeks ago, in Orlando, Florida, 49 wonderful Americans were savagely murdered by an Islamic terrorist. This time, the terrorist targeted LGBTQ



Donald Trump

community. No good, and we’re going to stop it. I will do everything in my power to protect our LGBTQ citizens from the violence and oppression of a hateful foreign ideology. Believe me.”

And people applauded, which prompted Trump to say, “I have to say, as a Republican it is so nice to hear you cheering for what I just said. Thank you.”

The moment was kind of surreal. It was also completely at odds with the Republican Party platform which even GOP-apologists the Log Cabin Republicans said was the most anti-gay in history.

So does Trump’s stated support of LGBTQ people negate his party’s platform? Has Trump gone rogue?

Um, no. And also, no.

Let’s take a close look at what he said. What he’s vowing to protect LGBTQ people from is “a hateful foreign ideology.” In other words, he’s talking about “radical Islam,” and I believe that the applause he received was more anti-Islam rather than pro-gay. Even if he hadn’t referenced foreign terrorists, giving LGBTQ people a shout out after the horrific Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando is literally the least he could do. It’s hardly a courageous stance.

Don’t forget that Trump isn’t pro-gay. He isn’t pro-LGBTQ rights. For one thing, he did not acknowledge the hateful anti-gay ideology that exists right here in America. If anything he pledged his support to that ideology by selecting Mike Pence, a man with a long and storied anti-LGBTQ record, as his veep.

Trump himself has said that he doesn’t support marriage equality and that he

Conservatives are by and large supporting Trump because they want a Republican, even a bat-shit crazy one, appointing Supreme Court justices.

would seek to appoint Supreme Court justices that would undo that landmark decision. Granted, he changes his mind about almost everything on a rotating basis – he’s nothing if not inconsistent. But I highly doubt that he’s all of a sudden gonna be the marshal in a Pride parade.

Conservatives are by and large supporting Trump because they want a Republican, even a bat-shit crazy one, appointing Supreme Court justices.

That’s not to say Trump didn’t anger some with his LGBTQ reference in his convention speech.

Alexandra DeSanctis, writing for the National Review, lamented that Trump threw conservatives “under the bus.”

“Never has the party or its members questioned the right to life – or the very humanity – of LGBT people in the way Trump not-so-subtly implied,” she writes.

Lol. Wut? I’m not sure how closely DeSanctis has been following the decades-long assault on LGBT people and their families being waged by the GOP, but she apparently has a very different definition of “humanity” than I do. The right to love, to share a consensual sexual relationship with another human being, to marry, to parent, the right to exist rather than be declared crazy and dangerous and subjected to humiliating “therapy” and punitive laws – the GOP is against all of those things. It’s in their god damn platform.

While anti-gay conservatives no doubt bristled at Trump’s remarks and pro-gay conservatives cheered, the fact of the matter is Trump is a phony who will say anything to get elected. A Trump presidency would put the brakes on progressive momentum that has shepherded so many LGBT civil rights gains. Sadly Americans have a short historical memory – one need only look at Trump’s Make America Great Again slogan for proof. He’s a man looking backwards.

Between the Lines

COMING OUT SEPT. 1

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VOTE ON NOV. 4, 2014

Jeffrey Montgomery, LGBTQ Leader Dies at 63

Challenged 'Gay Panic Defense' Nationwide

BY TODD HEYWOOD

The man who took personal tragedy and turned it into a “brilliant” career fighting for the rights of the LGBT community has died.

Jeffrey Montgomery, the founder of Triangle Foundation in Detroit, died Monday, July 18 at age 63.

Montgomery’s life journey took him from a comfortable childhood in Grosse Pointe, Michigan; to the national stage as a leading voice combating anti-LGBT violence across the U.S.

“No other local activist for LGBTQ rights and sexual freedom from the past twenty-five years has had the potent impact on our history as Jeffrey Montgomery,” said Tim Retzlaff, a professor at Michigan State University who has extensively studied the LGBTQ rights movement in Michigan. “His unflinching devotion to queer justice and social justice will be a model for generations to come.”

Montgomery graduated from Grosse Pointe High School, where he served as the president of the student body, and went to Michigan State University. He said in his senior year in high school he flirted with the secret gay community in Detroit, visiting an adult bookstore. Soon he was visiting local gay bars.

He returned from East Lansing in the mid-70s and soon became a familiar face on television. His first crusade was to save the city’s crumbling Orchestra Hall. There, he helped raise millions of dollars to restore the facility.

But in 1984 tragedy struck. A man he was dating – Michael – was shot to death outside a Detroit gay bar. The day after his funeral, Montgomery was informed by a friend in the prosecutor’s office that he should not expect warrants or arrests in the murder. Why? The killing was “just another gay murder.”

This launched Montgomery’s passion to fighting anti-gay hate crimes and for the rights of LGBTQ people in Michigan and beyond.

In 1991, with John Monahan and Dr. Henry Messer, Montgomery set up shop for the Triangle Foundation – which he would lead until 2007. That organization merged with Michigan Equality to become Equality Michigan in 2010.

In a May 4, 2003 story in the Detroit News honoring Montgomery as a 2002 Michiganian of the Year, it noted he used his public relations skills combined with “a natural ability to connect with all kinds of people.”



Jeffrey Montgomery, left, the founder of Triangle Foundation in Detroit, died Monday, July 18 at age 63. He is pictured with the late Frank Kamney at Creating Change Conference in 2006. Photo: Ron Miotke

His national platform came from an odd murder case in Detroit. Scott Amedure, a 32-year-old Lake Orion gay man, appeared on the television tabloid talk show “The Jenny Jones Show,” on March 6, 1995. On the show, Amedure revealed his crush on then 24-year-old Jonathon Schmitz. Once back in metro Detroit, and before the episode aired, Amedure left a “sugesstive note” on Schmitz home. Schmitz withdrew cash, purchased a shotgun, and showed up at Amedure’s front door. The two talked, and the Schmitz walked back to his car, got the shotgun and returned to Amedure’s door. He shot Amedure twice in the chest with the shotgun, left the scene, and called 911 to confess to the murder. He was subsequently convicted of second degree murder in 1996.

Montgomery’s rational, thoughtful and oft-times witty interview skills won him kudos from national media as well as LGBTQ media advocates. Chief among those singing Montgomery’s praises is Cathy Renna. She was with GLAAD at the time of the Amedure murder, and worked closely with him on interviews and messaging.

“He became the point person on that case

Montgomery’s national platform came from an odd murder case in Detroit. Scott Amedure, a 32-year-old Lake Orion gay man, appeared on the television tabloid talk show “The Jenny Jones Show,” on March 6, 1995.

and the expert on the gay panic defense,” Renna said by phone.

That admiration Renna had for Montgomery led her to call him on what she refers to as the “most high profile anti-gay hate crime” in American history – the brutal robbery and murder of Matthew Shepard in October 1998. Shepard was lured from a Laramie, Wyoming bar in October 1998 by Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson. The two men then robbed him at gun point, tied him to a fence

INFO

Memorial Services

At presstime a memorial service was being planned for Sept. 17 on Wayne State Campus. Watch for more details.()

on a desolate hill outside of town and pistol whipped him. He died Oct. 12 of injuries sustained in the attack.

Henderson, Renna recalls, entered into a plea deal; but McKinney was planning for trial. He had, Renna said, set up a “gay panic defense,” during interviews with detectives and was planning to use that defense in the trial.

“We saw what was looming with the trial of Aaron McKinney,” she said. “We needed an expert and I called Jeff and asked him to come to Laramie.”

Montgomery did just that. Renna said his presence and media skills “definitely influenced the media,” by educating them about the double standard a gay panic defense represented. She credits that media work, in part, with turning the tide away from support for McKinney’s claims and in the judge overseeing the case ultimately refusing to allow the defense.

Renna said Montgomery was “fearless,” which aided in his capacity to be a good strategic thinker for the movement.

“He wasn’t afraid to take on anyone,” she said. “He wasn’t afraid to take on anything.”

Ricci Levy, executive director of the Woodhull Freedom Foundation – a group that advocates for sexual freedom – recalled a debate over marriage equality Montgomery participated in. During the debate, the opponent – Levy could not recall who it was – accused the LGBTQ movement of preparing the way for marriages with horses.

“I guess if that happened, it means I was in a stable relationship,” she said Montgomery quipped.

Renna said behind the limelight persona, the leading voice on LGBTQ issues was a “renaissance thinker.”

“He had a quest for knowledge,” she said.

Colette Seguin Beighley, who worked for Triangle Foundation on the west side of Michigan, said his thirst for knowledge was evident even in his living conditions.

“He didn’t cook,” she said by Facebook chat. “So his kitchen cabinets were filled

See next page

with books.”

While Montgomery was finding success on the national stage and shaping LGBTQ message frames, he was also struggling with an addiction to alcohol. He was also a heavy smoker and constantly drinking black coffee.

“I met him for breakfast at the – the IHOP or whatever it was there in Laramie at the time – and he regaled me with the tales of his sexual exploits from cruising the night before,” she said. “It was amazing, here he was in Laramie for this [hate crime] murder and he was cruising. He chain smoked and drank black coffee and told me all about it while he ate eggs sunnyside up – nearly raw really.”

Renna said he was not just talking when he reminded the movement that the LGBTQ movement was about more than hate crimes laws, marriage and nondiscrimination. He reminded many that the work was rooted in the quest for sexual liberation.

“He was someone who understood this was about sexual liberation for everyone,” she said. “We don’t see enough of that in the movement.”

Others who worked with him – Sean Kosofsky, who was policy director at Triangle and now runs the Tyler Clementi Foundation in New York, and Gregory Varnum, another former staffer at the organization – spoke of his mentorship.

“Last night, the LGBT movement, progressive movement, and indeed the world lost a living legend – and I lost a friend I have come to think of as family,” Varnum wrote, in part, on his Facebook page.

Levy, from Woodhull Freedom Foundation where Montgomery served as a public relations consultant, as well as a board member, recalled he was always available for consultation.

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—MAHATMA GANDHI

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Cleveland Mayor Signs Transgender Rights Bill

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS

Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson on Friday signed a bill that expands his city's nondiscrimination law.

Jackson signed Ordinance 1466-13, which amends Cleveland's anti-LGBT discrimination law to prohibit businesses from banning their employees and customers to use restrooms that are consistent with their gender identity, during a ceremony at Cleveland City Hall. Equality Ohio Executive Director Alana Jochum and Jacob Nash, a trans man who co-chaired the campaign in support of the proposal, were among those who joined the mayor on stage.

"Cleveland is a place where we want to be welcoming to everyone and that everyone is the same and everyone is someone that has equity," said Jackson before he signed Ordinance 1466-13.

Nash said Ordinance 1466-13 makes Cleveland "a more welcoming city for every individual."

"It doesn't matter if you are gay or straight, cisgender or transgender, racial or white," he said. "Cleveland has come together today to say we are ready for all people, we welcome all people and we would love for you to visit our city because our city is one of the greatest cities in the country."

The signing ceremony caps off an effort to expand Cleveland's nondiscrimination law that began three years ago.

The Cleveland City Council earlier this month unanimously approved Ordinance 1466-13. Jackson signed it less than a day after Donald Trump formally accepted his party's presidential nomination at the Republican National Convention that took place in the city's Quicken Loans Arena.

"It is a good day," City Councilwoman Phyllis Cleveland told the Washington Blade after the signing ceremony.

Nash noted Ordinance 1466-13 passed against the continued outrage over a North Carolina law that prohibits trans people from using public restrooms consistent with their gender identity and bans local municipalities from enacting LGBT-inclusive nondiscrimination ordinances. A Virginia school district last week petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to prevent a trans high school student from using the boys restroom until it decides whether to hear his lawsuit.

"We are seeing so much visceral responses to transgender people in restrooms," Nash told the Blade after the signing ceremony. "We have Cleveland that's saying no, we want transgender individuals to be able to use the restroom that aligns with their gender identity."

Thanks to our National Gay Media Association partner the Washington Blade www.washblade.com for this coverage from Cleveland.



Over 600 LGBT delegates are in attendance at the DNC in Philadelphia this week. HRC Executive Director Chad Griffin, center, was on the stage Monday night and scheduled to speak on closing night. Washington Blade Photo: Michael Keys

► Dem Platform

Continued from p. 7

Mara Keisling, a D.C.-based transgender advocate and member of the platform committee, called the platform "the most progressive platform on LGBT and trans rights in the history of the United States."

"It says we're welcome, it says we're going to make life better to make lots of different marginalized people whether it's supporting the people of Puerto Rico, people with disabilities or people facing environment racism or LGBT people," Keisling said. "We're going to work together and we're going to make things better for everybody."

Although Keisling acknowledged the platform is "symbolic," she said that symbolism can be a "big thing" to leverage change.

"It's just symbolic, but it gives us a hook, it again starts getting more and more people thinking about transgender and LGBT people and thinking about do they support or do they not support us, and it gets some of our issues in front of people who maybe wouldn't have seen it before," Keisling said.

In 2012, the platform for the first time endorsed marriage equality in addition to other language rejecting the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act and endorsing a trans-inclusive Employment Non-

Discrimination Act, but the 2016 document exceeds those milestones.

Marveling at the Democratic Party's progression on LGBT inclusion in its platforms was Diego Sanchez, a D.C.-based transgender advocate in attendance at the convention and in 2008 the first openly transgender member of the platform committee. He wasn't a member in 2016.

"The progress has been tremendous," Sanchez said. "In 2008, we didn't have the word marriage by design. We were responsible for three things: Bringing in the definition of same-sex couples as families, to have gender identity included in non-discrimination and to include HIV as a domestic policy priority. We've come so far from that place of using language that is cautious to where we can boldly be inclusive of the entire community."

But one proposed change that didn't make it into the Democratic platform was changing the LGBT acronym throughout the document to LGBTQ to explicitly include people who identify as queer.

During the platform committee meeting, David Braun, a Sanders appointee from Oakland, California, sought the change, which platform committee chair and former Connecticut Gov. Dan Malloy said he would take as a request for a technical change to the document. It wasn't immediately clear

why the change wasn't made.

Vincent Harding, a 28-year-old delegate from Austin, Texas, pledged to Clinton and chair of the Democratic Party in Travis County, said advanced LGBT-inclusive language is important because "we need to make sure we treat everyone equally."

"The ability to love who we want to love is fundamental to all of us, so it is essential that it is part of the platform," he said. "I don't know what took so long, but I think things are changing and we have seen Republicans move a little bit, we're going to keep pushing them a little bit and hopefully we won't have the situation like we saw in Kentucky where people don't want to grant gay marriages. Hopefully, that'll be universal around the country and we'll continue to move forward together."

Chuck Rocha, a 47-year-old D.C. delegate pledged to Sanders, said the LGBT-inclusive language is "hugely important" to him because of his opposition to discrimination in all forms.

"I'm one of the only Latino delegates in the nation, the only one from D.C.," Rocha said. "Discrimination doesn't know a sex or a color, we shouldn't discriminate for no reason, and everybody, no matter who they love, should be able to get married and live their lives the way they want to."

Stark DNC/RNC Platform Differences for LGBT Community, GOP Would Reverse Marriage Equality

BY AJ TRAGER

PHILADELPHIA – There are stark differences between the 2016 Democratic and Republican platforms. The GOP platform has been described by Log Cabin Republican President Gregory Angelo to have the most anti-LGBT language in history. Meanwhile, former candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders described the Democratic platform as “the most progressive platform in the history of the Democratic Party.”

When comparing and contrasting the two, the evidence is clear - the Democrats are more concerned with LGBT lives than the GOP.

The GOP platform, ratified July 18, has no mention of “LGBT” and mentions the terms “gender identity,” “sexual orientation” or “equality” three times. The Democratic platform, ratified July 25, has 24 mentions of those same terms and dedicates an entire section to addressing the concerns of the LGBT community.

This year there are well over 600 Democrat LGBT delegates compared to just 6 out Republican delegates.

Dem Platform

“We believe in protecting civil liberties and guaranteeing civil rights and voting rights, women’s rights and workers’ rights, LGBT rights, and rights for people with disabilities. We believe America is still, as Robert Kennedy said, “a great country, an unselfish country, and a compassionate country,” the party writes on page two.

First draft of the 2016 Democratic platform mentioned “LGBT” 11 times but went through extensive edits by a committee of hundreds of advocates and policy experts. The final document applauds the marriage equality ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that “recognized that LGBT people – like other Americans—have the right to marry the person they love,” but acknowledged that “there is still much work to be done.”

“Guaranteeing Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Rights,” the entire section dedicated to LGBT lives is found on page 19, where the party outlines all that it wants to accomplish to ensure that LGBT lives are

equal under the law. It talks about hot LGBT topics like LGBT youth being bullied in school, restaurants refusing service to trans men and women and that same-sex couples are at risk of being evicted from their homes.

“That is unacceptable and must change. Democrats will fight for the continued development of sex discrimination law[s] to cover LGBT people,” the platform reads.

“We support a progressive vision of religious freedom that respects pluralism and rejects the misuse of religion to discriminate, the platform continues. “We will combat LGBT youth homelessness and improve school climates. We will support LGBT elders, ensure access to necessary health care, and protect LGBT people from violence – including ending the crisis of violence against transgender Americans.”

The platform addresses the upcoming 2020 Census and promises to equip the Census Bureau with resources to accurately represent LGBT lives as well as those that are persistently undercounted such as communities of color, immigrants, young children and those with disabilities.

The party says it will “end the school-to-prison pipeline by opposing discipline policies which disproportionately affect African Americans and Latinos, Native Americans and Alaska Natives, students with disabilities and youth who identify as LGBT.”

It states that the party is proud of the repeal of “don’t ask, don’t tell” and commits to “insuring fair treatment for LGBT veterans, including by proactively reviewing and upgrading discharge records for veterans who were discharged because of their sexual orientation.”

Furthermore the party believes that LGBT rights are human rights and should be reflected in American foreign policy. “We will continue to stand with LGBT people around the world, including fighting efforts by any nation to infringe on LGBT rights or ignore abuse,” reads page 46.

GOP Platform

The GOP platform, however, despite efforts

See Platform Comparison, page 18

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► Platform Comparison

Continued from p. 17

from pro-LGBT GOP members to remove opposition to same-sex marriage, seeks to reverse the 2015 marriage equality SCOTUS ruling through judicial reconsideration or a constitutional amendment returning the issue to the states.

In addition, the GOP platform also objects the use of federal law to ensure trans people can use the bathroom consistent with their identity, indicates support for widely discredited “ex-gay” conversion therapy and endorses the First Amendment Defense Act, a “religious freedom” bill that critics say enables anti-LGBT discrimination.

That platform also discusses LGBT youth and access to safe schools claiming that “[Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972] is now being used by bureaucrats – and by the current President of the United States – to impose a social and cultural revolution upon the American people by wrongly redefining sex discrimination to include sexual orientation or other categories.”

Families are also a target in the GOP platform, as it stands firm on “traditional values” and states that “Traditional marriage and family, based on marriage between one man and one woman, is the foundation for a free society and has for millennia been entrusted with rearing children and instilling cultural values.”

Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney, D-New York, co-chair of the Congressional LGBT Caucus, told the South Florida Gay News that he thinks LGBT issues are something the Democratic party is proud of and acknowledges the party’s shift in focus.

“It’s not like the Democratic Party was

Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney, D-New York, co-chair of the Congressional LGBT Caucus with his husband Randy Florke.



Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney, D-New York, co-chair of the Congressional LGBT Caucus with his husband Randy Florke. Maloney became the second member of Congress to legally marry his same-sex partner while in office when Florke and he married on June 21, 2014. Together they have three adopted children. Photo: Michael Key

always great on LGBT stuff, but the party and its leaders have traveled a long way toward equality and we now have a platform that contains all the major goals of the LGBT movement. Democrats should be proud of that. It’s a big, big difference between us and the other guys. I don’t think there’s ever been a presidential election where there’s a bigger difference between the Democratic and

Republican nominees on LGBT issues. For the first time ever, one party fully supports LGBT rights and equality, and the other side is still living in the Dark Ages,” he said.

Maloney is at the convention with his husband Randy Florke. They met in 1992 when Maloney was working in New York City, helping to plan the Democratic National Convention. Maloney became the second

member of Congress to legally marry his same-sex partner while in office when Florke and he married on June 21, 2014. Together they have three adopted children.

The DNC runs from July 25 to July 28. Hilary Clinton will address the delegation and accept her nomination on the final day of the convention.

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Khaos Reigns at HTJ

Internet Sensation to Host Live Show at Palmer Park Picnic July 30

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

His name is Ka’Juan D. Hill. But you may also know him as Khaos. He is one man with two names and two purposes.

By day, Hill is the creator and host of the “Let’s Talk About It” show, an original program found on YouTube. By night, Khaos is a party host known for hyping up the crowds at his gigs around town.

Hill, 23, grew up in Hamtramck and graduated from Highland Park Community High School. A dancer, he became known in the ballroom scene for his voguing ability. Throughout his ballroom career with the House of Mizrahi, he won six \$1,000 prizes for his dancing.

“My spins were so fast that every time I hit the floor it was chaos,” Hill recalled. “That’s how I got my name. But now I want to venture from the ballroom scene and become a leader in the community to give people a voice that don’t have one. I choose to use my popularity and platform for positive purposes.”

To that end, Hill created “Let’s Talk About It.”

“I made a video about HIV and how you need to be tested and I received a very positive reaction,” Hill said of his show’s beginnings. “So I decided I wanted to give people a perspective and an outlook on different types of people in the world. I want to inspire and motivate people, and I found that I loved talking to people.”

The show quickly took off and Hill continued to delve into deep topics.

“All the feedback that I got, it made me want to do it more,” Hill explained. “It felt so good to know that I had helped someone and inspired somebody. Whatever challenge that I go through, I talk about it. Things in my life and my family’s lives, friends ... I talk about it to express to people that they’re not going through it alone and they’re going to get through it. So many people face issues and they think that they’re alone and that’s when they lose hope. And you always need to hold onto hope.”

“Another reason why I started my show is because I felt that there were a lot of things that people swept under the rug,” Hill continued.

“There were a lot of things that needed to be talked about. If we keep sweeping things under the rug how can we fix them? That’s why the show is called ‘Let’s Talk About It.’”

To date, the show that was hardest for Hill to do was on police brutality.

“I went to downtown Detroit and I had to talk to every ethnicity that I could – men, women and children – and I had to actually walk up to them and approach them and ask them what they felt about police brutality. It was hard to approach people because a lot of people didn’t want to talk about it. Just walking up to people on the street I had to come out of my comfort zone. I wanted to get the message out there that we needed to come together as a people. And to tell certain people that was difficult because they didn’t want to hear it. That was definitely difficult. But it was a challenge I’m glad I took on.”

As the show began attracting attention, Hill got offers to branch out and began hosting parties at various clubs. For this, he brought back the name Khaos.

“Once my show started getting popular I started getting booked in different states,” Hill said. “People come to the club to forget what they’re going through in life. So if I’m the host I feel it’s my job to make sure they have an extraordinary, turnt up time.”

One might think that may be a challenge. But Hill doesn’t see it that way.

“ *Everywhere he goes he has a good vibe, He can relate to the whole crowd – the men, the women, the young and the old – everybody likes him. He just has this energy and personality that people vibe with.* **”**

- Detroit DJ, Tone



Ka’Juan D. Hill, aka Khaos, is making a name for himself with his new internet show Let’s Talk About It. BTL photo: Jason A. Michael

“The way my personality is set up I’m going to have a good time,” he said. “So everyone else is going to have a good time, too. Whether it’s three people or three hundred, we’re going to turn up. So if you come to a party that I’m hosting, be ready to have a good time.”

Popular Detroit DJ, Tone, agreed.

“Everywhere he goes he has a good vibe,” Tone said. “He can relate to the whole crowd – the men, the women, the young and the old – everybody likes him. He just has this energy and personality that people vibe with.”

Tone was so impressed with Hill that the two took on a father-son type relationship.

“At first I was hesitant,” Tone said. “But just seeing things about his personality and how he reminded me so much of me ... his energy was always so good every time I was around him. So I decided to go ahead and take on the responsibility.”

Tone said he is quite proud of his son and his efforts with the “Let’s Talk About It” show.

“I think it’s an amazing thing,” he said. “I’m a little jealous ‘cause it’s something that I would love to do if I had the balls and the personality. I love it. I think it’s something that somebody his age should be doing – talking about all these topics.”

Hill is excited about filming his show live from the Hotter Than July picnic in Palmer Park on Saturday.

“The show will be about the leaders within the LGBT community,” Hill said. “I will be interviewing people that give so much to the world. They’ll be shining through my show. I’m going to find out who they are and why they do what they do.”

HTJ Spotlight: Kai Edwards

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Rapper and Flint native Kai Edwards prides himself on having a unique style and sound.

"I really don't sound like nobody but myself," Edwards said. "That's pretty much it. My music basically just describes me and tells my story."

Edwards, a transgender male, said he won't rap about something if he can't personally relate to it.

"I rap about everything that I've been through as far as real life situations," he said. "I really don't rap about anything else except my story, my life and how I deal with life and problems that I've been through; and how I got out of it and goals that I see myself accomplishing in the next few years."

Now 25, Edwards wrote his first rap when he was 17.

"The first rap I ever wrote was called 'I'm Too Fly,'" he said. "It was basically about being fly, the way I dress, where I shop at, spending money, stuff like that."

Though he's been rapping for years, Edwards said he only recently began to concentrate on it as a profession.

"I'm finally in a position to take it serious," Edwards said. "I'm working on my first project. I just got done with finishing my EP and I'm working on my mix tape."

Eventually, Edwards hopes to move from rapping to artist management.

"I don't just want to be a rapper," he said. "I do want to venture into managing and I'd like to open a youth center one day. Ultimately, I want to do artist management and own my own record label."

Being transgender, Edwards said, gives him a unique musical perspective.

"I look at a lot of things differently because I know what I had to go through and overcome dealing with this situation," he said.

In addition to rapping, Edwards is a member of Detroit's ballroom community and is currently the father of the House of Herrera.

"It's a different life," Edwards said of the ballroom scene. "It's an escape. If you don't have any family or anything to look forward to it can actually be the best thing to happen to you. You have a platform to be who you want to be and express yourself and your own art. You

can just really be yourself."

Through the House, Edwards has become something of a leader in his community.

"I don't really follow nobody," he said. "I'm in a different light now and I have a lot of young kids in the community who look to me to show them the way. It's just my job to try to show people a different route and it's the reason I say I love leadership. When I get around young guys or the youth, period, I try to do the best that I can to guide them in the right direction so they don't end up in jail or dead somewhere."

This year, Edwards is producing the annual mini-ball at this year's Hotter Than July picnic in Palmer Park.

"I put it together all by myself," Edwards said. "The title of the mini-ball is Freedom because that's the theme of this this year's HTJ. They don't have to bring it like anything specific. They can just come as themselves. I have all cash categories. They are open to all."

"The experience of putting together the ball was fun," Edwards continued. "It was kind of hard but I got the job done way before the deadline so I'm kind of proud of myself."



BTL photo: Jason A. Michael



BTL photo: Jason A. Michael

HTJ Spotlight: Charlie B. Keyz

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Singer and gifted musician Charlie B. Keyz does not remember his life without music in it.

"I've always been interested in music," Keyz, now 25, recalled. "The first toy I ever received was a piano. So my mother kind of figured out my interest and started taking me to piano lessons. Then, probably a year later, I was learning to play violin because my piano teacher also played violin."

Keyz took lessons on and off until he was about 15, by which time he was attending the prestigious Detroit High School for the Fine and Performing Arts. He had also added guitar to the

list of instruments he played by the time he entered the school.

"My dad got me a guitar, probably when I was 11 or 12," Keyz recalled. "I had a few friends who played the guitar so I just kind of learned from them."

Somewhere along the line, Keyz realized he had a voice and began singing, as well as writing his own songs.

"The first song I ever wrote was called 'You Weren't The One,'" said Keyz. "I never actually recorded it. I'm actually working with somebody now who is also performing at Pride and hopefully she'll be singing the song. It was basically about somebody being in a relationship that was kind of one sided. So they realized that and basically had to put themselves in a sad situation, but the best situation for them at the time."

Keyz is not afraid to say he has learned how to do things the right way from the mistakes he has made.

After high school, Keyz went on to study music composition and theory at Florida State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree. All the while, Keyz continued developing his gifts. He cites musical influences Coldplay, Lalah Hathaway and Labrinth as helping him develop his own unique sound.

"As far as my genre, I guess I'm kind of like R&B, pop," Keyz said. "For the most part the music that I write is kind of like alternative rock. But I have a very soulful influence, especially around Detroit. That's all you get around here. So I kind of infuse it with that also."

In addition to singing, playing and writing, Keyz has created the Natural Muse Agency Talent Services.

"Basically I help other artists,"

See HTJ: Keyz, page 22

► HTJ: Keyz

Continued from p. 21

where you start working with people and things don't go the way you've planned."

Keyz is not afraid to say he has learned how to do things the right way from the mistakes he has made.

"I had a situation where I was working with a production company and assisting a few artists," explained Keyz. "I ended up singing on a track and after singing on it I found out that the song didn't belong to them and there were some rights issues concerned. If I had known what I know now that would have never happened."

But now Keyz does know better and he's helping others know better, too. He says he picked up a great deal of knowledge while interning for mainstream record labels like Sony and Atlantic.

"I learned how to market myself, just understanding that if I ever decide to be a part of a mainstream industry, they look for people to be independent," he said. "They look for people who want to do a lot of the work themselves. A lot of people don't know that they're looking for you to do the work yourself. They stopped doing artist development contracts. They want somebody already made.

"Even if they give you an image, and a lot of times they will do that, you kind of have to put forth the effort to make that

image work for you," Keyz continued. "So that's what I learned. I did marketing. I assisted with marketing and development. I also did some vocal training while I was there. That's what they taught me, to be independent and do everything myself and be able to understand what's going on in the industry."

Keyz is using the skills he acquired to take his career to the next level.

"I'm actually right now trying to finish my album," Keyz said. "That should be done by January of next year. I put a single out in March. That single is going to be on the album. The album is called 'Portrait.' I've been working really, really hard to get it done."

Playing gigs all around metro Detroit, and with some cruise ship work and dates in Vegas lined up, Keyz says he is living his dream.

"I think the biggest part of being an artist is having something to say and showing yourself through your music," he said. "The way that I speak and communicate with people is through my music. So it's powerful being able to relay my thoughts. I enjoy that so much. It's great to have people say they enjoy my music or enjoy listening to me. I appreciate that a lot."

Charlie B. Keyz will be performing at the Hotter Than July picnic in Palmer Park on Saturday, July 30.

Detroit's Black Gay Pride is here!

The 2016 Hotter Than July celebration features nearly a week of activities for the LGBT community now through July 31.

The week began with a candlelight vigil at the Blue Spruce Memorial Tree in Palmer Park where longtime community activist Ron Doe remembered those we have lost to HIV/AIDS, cancer, and other illnesses. This set the tone for the entire week.

On July 28, the play "Before It Hits Home," written by playwright Cheryl West is featured. The performance will take place at the Virgil Carr Center at 311 E. Grand River Ave. where the Poor Man's Art Collective is currently exhibiting.

HTJ continues with an annual gathering on LGBT issues beginning at 8 a.m. July 29 at the Ecumenical Theological Seminary at 2930 Woodward Ave. This year's event features 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?" Roland Stringfellow, senior minister and teacher for Metropolitan Community Church-Detroit, will give the keynote address. Admittance is free following registration.



The pinnacle event of the festival, the Palmer Park Picnic, will kick off the weekend at 10 a.m. July 30. The picnic receives over 20,000 guests who gather to celebrate culture, self-empowerment and identity. Sunday services include a 10 a.m. worship service at Whosoever Ministry located at 2930 Woodward Ave. The festival will close with a Sunday brunch hosted by Imagine This Productions beginning at 12 p.m. at the Charlevoix Gallery at 14505 Charlevoix in Detroit. Advance tickets are required.

Check www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/ for updates and for information on other HTJ events.

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A Conversation with Rhonda Ross

Legendary Singer's Daughter is a Star in Her Own Right

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

She is the daughter of two musical luminaries - legendary singer Diana Ross and Motown Records founder and music mogul Berry Gordy - and yet she has forged an identity and found a voice all her own as a singer and recording artist. Rhonda Ross will open for her mother at Chene Park July 30, and entertain with her own special brand of "social music."

"I've been singing all my life," Ross said. "All the way through my childhood - elementary school, high school, college - and then at the end of my college years I became a professional singer."

Finding her own voice, Ross said, was not as challenging as many might imagine.

"I don't think it was challenging and I don't think it was difficult but I do think it was necessary," Ross said. "My mother raised me to believe that my spirit, as each human spirit is, is unique. And my perspective is unique and my experience is unique and that any art that comes out of me is unique. It doesn't have to live in her shadow. It doesn't have to be cowed by her shadow no matter how big of a shadow she casts - and she casts a really big shadow."

Ross said her mother made sure that each of her five children had their own individual identities.

"She gave that to each of her children, so I knew that all of my life," Ross recalled. "I never felt hidden by her. And I don't know how she did it, truthfully, because she is so magnificent and she is so huge. Not just in her legacy and her history but in her personality, who she is. It's just so huge. I can't find a better word for it. So I don't know how it was that she allowed her children to have our own in the midst of that but she did."

When Ross first started singing, music industry bigwigs approached her, eager to turn her into Diana Ross, Jr.

PERFORMING

Rhonda Ross, Chene Park, July 30
Opening for her mother, Diana Ross

"Producers were coming to me excited that I could carry a tune and be Diana Ross's daughter at the same time," Ross said with a laugh. "They were wanting to try to find some kind of pop persona for me. But I resisted that because I knew that whatever I did artistically - though I didn't know at that time what that was going to necessarily be - it had to be authentic to me. It had to be something that I was willing to work at and practice for the rest of my life, organically and truthfully and honestly."

"I'm not out here trying to be the next Diana Ross," Ross continued. "There is no next Diana Ross. She has done it fairly well. Nobody's going to be the next Diana Ross after her. No one's going to be a better Diana Ross than she is. But no one else can be Rhonda Ross, and no one else can be a better Rhonda Ross than me."

After college, Ross initially began performing with a jazz trio and sang mostly standards. That is until she met her husband, pianist Rodney Kendrick, who was at the time musical director for jazz great Abbey Lincoln.

"He and Abbey said to me, 'you are truly a storyteller and your perspective is interesting and you have an interesting voice and you should focus more on your creation of songs as opposed to interpretation of songs,' which was also something that I loved. So that's what I started to do around the mid-90s. I started really focusing on my writing and I did that for about 20 years, mostly with my husband. The two of us made a lot of music that I'm very, very proud of."

At age 38, Ross took time off to start a family.

"Then, by the time I turned 40 I just felt as if my perspective and my way of expressing myself had expanded," Ross said. "Instead of being more traditional jazz, I was doing music that could work in smaller, more intimate venues. I started to explore other genres. Funk entered into the picture; rock entered into the picture; and gospel entered into the picture and all of a sudden the music changed. And when my mother started to hear the change



“No one's going to be a better Diana Ross than she is. But no one else can be Rhonda Ross, and no one else can be a better Rhonda Ross than me.”

- Rhonda Ross

of music she thought it might be a nice complement to what she does. She thought it might be nice to incorporate it into her show. It's a different music than what she brings but it is complementary. My lyrics tend to be more social than what hers are."

A rare artist in today's musical landscape, Ross uses her music to examine the society she lives in - from racism to sexism to homophobia to the need for self-

love and spirituality.

"I speak to those things in my music but I also speak to the personal journey of transcending despair and transcending hatred if and when possible," Ross explained. "So my music tends to be social in that way. Hers doesn't tend to be social in that way. My mother's being is social, just who she is and who she has been has a social component. Her music has always been uplifting and inspirational and encouraging and

mine is also that. So there is a nice correspondence between the two."

Ross calls what she does having a conversation with the audience.

"I like seeing their eyes and their expressions and we have a conversation," she said. "We have a conversation about these shootings and killings that are happening. We have a conversation about Orlando. We have a conversation about equal rights and all the ways we're looking for them. We have a conversation about spirituality, about aligning with our source and what are the pitfalls on the way to that and what are the benefits to doing that. We have a conversation musically speaking. And I can see their eyes and I can see when we are connected on the same plane or when I've lost them."

Recent events, Ross said, have given her a great deal to talk about.

"Yesterday, we were in Livermore, California, an audience of about 2,000 and in one of my songs I mentioned Alton Sterling and Philando Castile, and some of the other names," she said. "I mentioned them in one of my songs called 'Drumbeat of Life' ... We had this conversation about what on earth is happening. I added a piece of Marvin Gaye's 'What's Going On' into the song and it was powerful, truthfully."

"After the show when I was at the merchandise desk, people came to me - white and black - and looked me in my eye," Ross continued. "They said, 'Thank you for what you said tonight because it needed to be said. And we needed it. We wanted some acknowledgement of the despicableness that is happening in this country, the war that feels like it's breaking out. We don't know what to do, how to digest it, how to feel through it. And we're all looking for those touchstones and that was a moment for that.'"

Rhonda Ross just released a new album titled "In Case You Didn't Know." The album is available on Amazon and iTunes and will be for sale at the Chene Park show. For more information, visit www.rhondarosskendrick.com.



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FRIDAY AUGUST 5	CRUSH PARTY REVIVAL SOCIAL LOUNGE, 300 OUELLETTE	10:00PM
SATURDAY AUGUST 6	MARKETPLACE RIVERFRONT FESTIVAL PLAZA, WINDSOR	11:00AM
SATURDAY AUGUST 6	REVIVAL PARTY RIVERFRONT FESTIVAL PLAZA	8:00PM
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Through the 'Looking' Glass



For Creator Michael Lannan and the Series' Cast, Is This Just the Beginning?

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

It was goodbye for now as the cast and crew of HBO's modern-queer dramedy, "Looking," stood in the rising San Francisco sun tearfully hugging. Just like in the film's final scene, "we broke night," Daniel Franzese, who plays Eddie, reminisces.

Of course they did. "Looking" was, after all, extraordinarily ordinary, a time capsule of contemporary queerness revolving around a chummy, could-be-your-own friend group navigating love and life in the Mission-Castro district.

That final diner scene wasn't just *our* last time with Patrick and Dom and Agustin, along

with the others, like Eddie, who became part of our own lives during these last few years – for the actors, it was, provisionally, their last time too. "It was like the last two of weeks of high school, like the weekend after everyone graduates from college," Franzese muses.

Premiering in 2014 to critical praise and a modest following (at its peak, the series reached 519,000 viewers six episodes into its first season, up 50 percent from the premiere episode, according to *Variety*), "Looking" was divisive from the get-go, with viewers either drawn to its languid style of storytelling or vehemently against it. Was it too gay? Not gay enough? You know, everyone's a critic. So when Doris, the group's longtime straight

girlfriend, comments on a squabble between main-gay Patrick and his ex's new boyfriend during the film, you might say she's onto something. "Ohh, I love it when gays argue with other gays about being gay," she cracks, as if addressing the show's very opinionated audience.

Still, there's no arguing "Looking" broke ground merely by existing. Beyond that, however, creator Michael Lannan and director Andrew Haigh, who helmed the beautifully rendered gay love story "Weekend" in 2011, spent the last several years tapping into the LGBT zeitgeist, past and present. The result was special, relevant and sincere.

Out actor Jonathan Groff, who portrayed

neurotic boy-next-door video game designer Patrick, shared that sentiment even before Season 1 premiered, telling me, "I feel so excited to be a part of a show that could potentially be a great moment for the gay community, because it's crazy how few shows there are where there are a lot of central gay characters. I feel really lucky to be a part of this specific show because I believe in it so much as a television show."

So did Lannan. The screenwriter never believed his idea for "Looking" could be more than the images swirling around in his mind, and even when they did land on the screen, and

See *Looking*, page 26

► Looking

Continued from p. 25

Season 1 aired, and then the show got HBO's go for a second season, "I don't think I ever thought it was really happening."

Before "Looking," Lannan had been living in New York for many years. There, his own friend group and their stories became the catalyst for the short-lived dramedy, which he initially wrote as an indie film script before HBO expressed interest in the concept. They envisioned his idea as a scripted show.

"I always thought it should be a show," says Lannan, whose 2011 short film, "Lorimer," was the seed for the series. "I think one of the reasons HBO wanted to do the show and we all wanted to do the show was because the world has changed so quickly in the past 10 years and this isn't the 'Queer as Folk' world – it's a different world – and we wanted to do a show about people just living their lives in a time of great change."

Now, he says, in the wake of its final-for-now chapter, it also feels "bittersweet." "Looking: The Movie" is a thoughtful and heartfelt send-off, as Patrick, currently living in Denver, returns to San Francisco for a wedding and thereby meets up with his closest friends: BFFs Agustin (Frankie J. Alvarez) and Dom (Murray Bartlett), Doris (Lauren Weedman), Franzese's Eddie, as well as his two former flames, Kevin (Russell Tovey) and Richie (Raúl Castillo).

"We wanted to find some midpoint between resolving their stories and sending them off on their way for new adventures and leaving that door open," Lannan explains. "It's tricky to do both of those things."

Lannan confirms that they'd already been plotting a third season just as HBO announced the show's cancellation, optioning, instead, to tie up loose ends with a feature film (and to finally offer closure to Patrick's ongoing romantic drama). And so, though "we were heartbroken," Lannan and the writers were forced to condense "stockpiled" storylines into an 86-minute movie.

"We just went back to the heart of the show, which is Patrick, and we let him drive the story," Lannan says. "I think everyone's lives are really reflecting on Patrick, and his on theirs. At its heart the show was really as much about friendship and the family of friends as it was about anything else."

Eddie, one of the show's popular periphery characters, plays a pivotal role in Patrick's life in the film. It almost wasn't supposed



Top: (From left) Lauren Weedman, Jonathan Groff and Murray Bartlett. Left: Creator Michael Lannan. Photos: HBO

to happen that way – initially, Franzese, of "Mean Girls" fame, was only booked for a few episodes. That changed once showrunners witnessed his natural chemistry

with Alvarez during Season 2's premiere episode, "Looking for the Promised Land," Franzese's introduction to the series.

Even though Franzese's HIV-positive bear character may not have had as much screen-time as his co-stars, the actor and his watershed role left an indelible mark on the show and the people who watched it. And for many reasons. Eddie was the first character with HIV in six years to be on scripted television, since a story arc on "ER," according to GLAAD. Furthermore, his character represented what it means to be HIV-positive in 2016 and introduced PrEP to the TV landscape as he pursued a relationship with Agustin, who's HIV-negative.

"Andrew told me, 'Eddie will never get sick, that's not what this is about,'" Franzese recalls. "Knowing that, I just kind of put it to the side and didn't really think about the impact it might have. I was more happy and excited to be a larger guy, a man of stature, on a television show and shown in a sexual light and not as castrated comic relief."

Because it was "just shown," the feedback from viewers has been rich, which demonstrated to him that, "Representation matters, and education matters."

Bears continue to reach out to him on Instagram expressing their admiration for a character on TV they can finally identify with. But "most moving," he professes, was meeting a "magnetic" couple – one HIV-positive, the

other negative – when Franzese made an appearance during Dallas Bears' Texas Bear Round-Up.

"(The HIV-positive partner) said to me, 'You know, I hope that I'm with my partner forever, but if I'm ever not and somebody wants to date me I'm going to show them Season 2 of 'Looking' and say, 'If you can get through this, then you can date me.'"

Franzese leaves "Looking" with a fondness for his influential character, the show and also the cast. Inside jokes, that already-established vibe, the camaraderie – sometimes, he says, speaking from experience, joining a show after it's already launched feels like a "fleeting relationship." But "Looking" was different. "When I'm a regular on a show and I have a guest star coming in, I will treat them with the same grace and respect and friendship that I learned on this set."

Franzese was only recently out when the show premiered. Now newly engaged, the 38-year-old acknowledges that "Looking" was "profound for me in a lot of ways."

"I had just come out and this was my first job after that," he recalls. "To not only be accepted for being gay but to be celebrated and to have it not be a big deal – like, it was cooler to be gay on that set – was so freeing and reaffirming."

And not just for Franzese. "Looking"'s greatest legacy could be, perhaps, how it rendered the gay experience as simply the human experience. It wasn't about coming out. It wasn't about gay people dying of AIDS. The narrative felt fresh because finally gay people could just... be.

Before Season 2, Tovey told me, "It's such a true voice for gay people," adding, "This is, right now, where it's like to be a gay man who can get married and adopt."

As the show's creator, Lannan has been forced to contemplate the show's legacy, and if anything, he says, he wants it to represent a

moment in time – and also the passage of time.

"We wanted to see what happened when Patrick grew up," he says about the finale, "and I think it's exciting to see Patrick in command of his sexuality in a different way. He certainly hasn't solved all of his problems, sexual or otherwise, but he has grown throughout the seasons and throughout the movie and I love seeing that."

"Patrick was always a character who had one foot in the past as a gay man. He grew up with the shadow of AIDS in the background, yet he wasn't a part of that generation, so he had one foot in the past and one in the future. I hope that's part of the legacy of the show, that it spanned a transitional period for gay men like Patrick."

As advances for the queer community continue to evolve, could "Looking" become an ongoing TV narrative where we check in with these characters every now and again? What will Patrick be like in 2026? What will we all be like then?

The thought has crossed Lannan's mind. "We've definitely talked about it," he reveals, "and I think if the stars aligned we'd all love to do it again in the future. I think it depends on a lot of things, but I would say, none of us would count it out." He says that "one of our spirit-animal shows while we were making 'Looking' was 'The Comeback'" – the Lisa Kudrow cult sitcom was renewed for a second season after a nearly decade-long hiatus – "so maybe we'll do sort of a 'Comeback' thing and check in again in the future."

Franzese still has plans for Eddie and for the lives of the young transgender characters Eddie looked after at a homeless shelter for LGBT teens.

"(To know more about those characters) would've been such a beautiful thing," he says. "That would've unfolded in Season 3. I would really look forward to that in the future."

And so the end maybe isn't the end after all. Maybe the sun hasn't fully set on "Looking" just yet.

"Who knows – later on down the line I'd love to revisit these characters again," Franzese says. "Knowing the people I worked with, I can't even think of a production assistant who would say they wouldn't want to be back on that set again. But I think this movie is a beautiful next step in the story, and if we all love each other and we love these characters, and I think if Andrew and Michael are inspired with some story, why not?"

Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service. He's also the proud recipient of an "I adore you, daaaahhling!" from Mariah Carey. Reach him via his website at www.chris-azzopardi.com and on Twitter (@chrisazzopardi).

LAST CALL

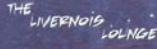
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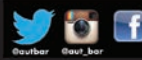
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Transgender Pride in the Park Commemorates Compton's Cafeteria Riots

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Transgender Michigan Co-Founder Rachel Crandall recalls the first time that transgender people rose up and said, "You will not treat us that way."

It was during the Compton's Cafeteria riot in August 1966 – what historians describe as the beginning of the modern transgender movement. This incident was one of the first recorded transgender riots in U.S. history, preceding the more famous 1969 Stonewall Riots in New York City.

There were few places in San Francisco where transgender women, drag queens and gay hustlers could congregate publicly in the city during the 1960s. Police were known for mistreatment of transgender people who could be arrested for "female impersonation," considered to be a crime then.

Compton's was a 24-hour hot spot in the Tenderloin district where the gals could take a load off after a night of performing in the club or walking the streets. Restaurant workers would frequently call the police to clear the place out. Management was concerned police would use the presence of illegal "crossdressers" in the bar as a pretext for making a raid and closing their establishment.

One transgender woman had enough and when a police officer attempted to arrest her,



Susan Crocker and Rachel Crandall co-founded Transgender Michigan in 1997.

she threw her coffee in his face and the riot began. Tired of being harassed and wanting their rights, the transgender community fought back. In response to police arrests a picket was launched becoming a pivotal point in

transgender liberation.

"We see it ourselves as continuing that work," Crandall said about the 50th anniversary of Compton's Cafeteria riots. "One reason our event is in August is to celebrate and remember." This year the event will be held on Aug. 13.

Transgender Michigan has been celebrating Pride in the Park since 1997 when the organization was established by Crandall and her partner Susan Cocker. Last year, the couple hosted their wedding reception during the event.

"We are being attacked all over, in the bathrooms, everywhere. We need to remember our strength together. That's why it's as important now as it ever was to commemorate. This can be the rekindling of power," Crandall said.

Transgender Michigan has evolved into an organization that provides a multitude of services and programs including founding the Transgender Day of Visibility and the local 24/7 Trans hotline. They have also orchestrated local events for Transgender Day of Remembrance, transgender health fairs, Give Out Day and Pride events around the state.

This event continues to grow each year, attracting more than 200 people to the park. "It is by far the premier transgender event in Michigan. We get people from all over. We once had a person attend who said he planned his vacation around our event, and he was from Texas," Crandall said.

"If you've been waiting all year to come to an event, this is it," she said. "We often get people who only come out once a year so they will not be alone and we are there to welcome them."

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Pride In The Park

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>> www.transgendermichigan.org



That includes Ferndale Mayor Dave Coulter.

"At a time when the transgender community is under attack by conservative politicians, it's even more important for their allies to stand up and proclaim, 'We've got your back.' Threats to trans people are a threat to all people, and I salute those who refuse to hide or be silenced in the face of such dangerous bigotry and I'm proud to stand with them," Coulter said.

Transgender Pride in the Park is free to attend. Participants are encouraged to join in the potluck by bringing a dish to share with hundreds of friends.

"We have a lot of allies out there and I think our allies may not know what actions they can take," Crandall said. "I think coming to this event and supporting and welcoming the whole community is that action they've been waiting for."

Participating vendors include Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Michigan, PFLAG Detroit, Rosemary A. Jozwiak, PC and Associates, Support the T, FtM Detroit, Adult Well-Being Services, Transgender Connect Flint, Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit and Health Emergency Lifeline Programs.

Donald Red Geary Park is located at 1000-1198 Earle Blvd in Ferndale. Visit the event Facebook page at www.facebook.com/events/1452730258376283.

Visit the Transgender Michigan website to keep up to date on issues and happenings in Michigan at www.transgendermichigan.org.

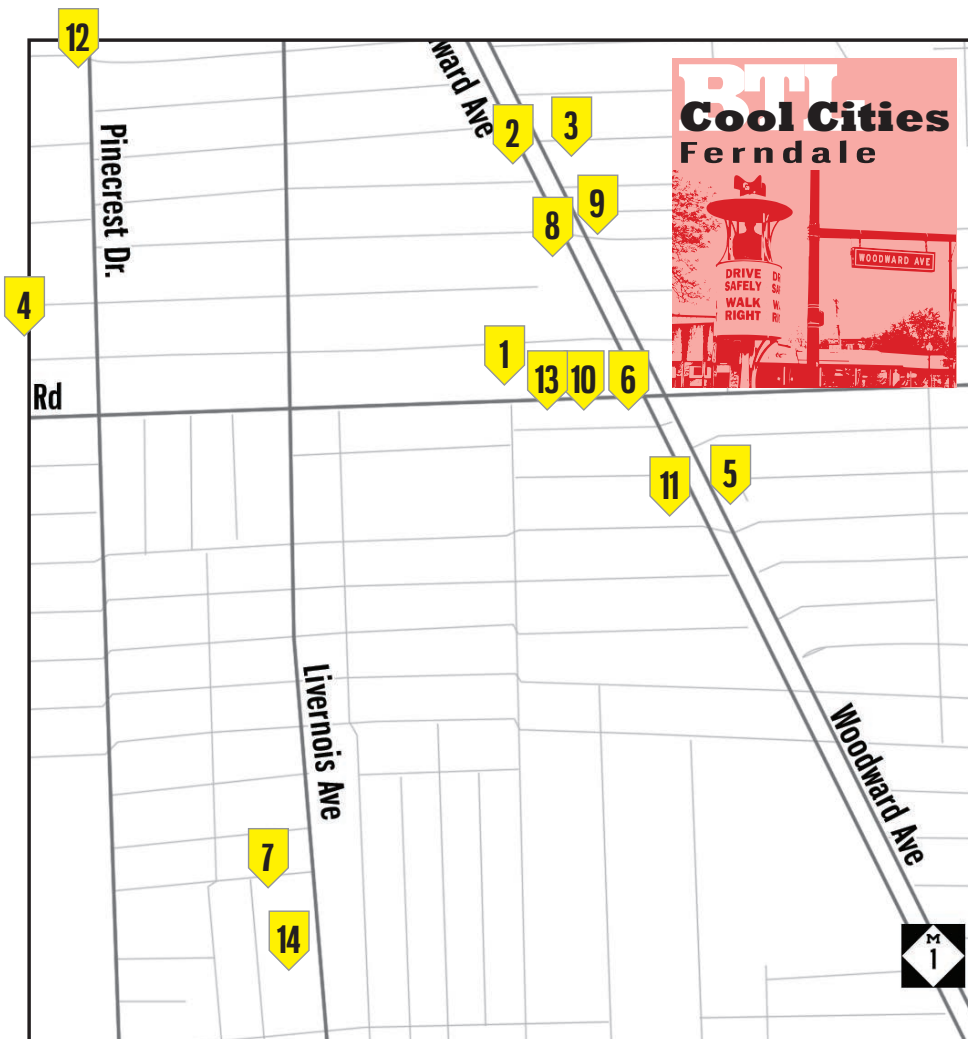
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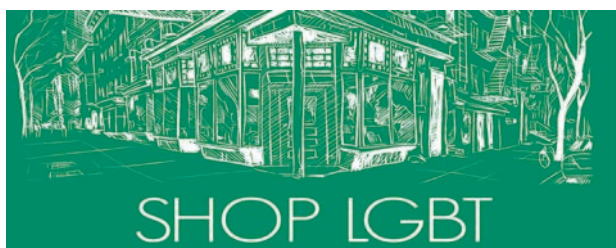
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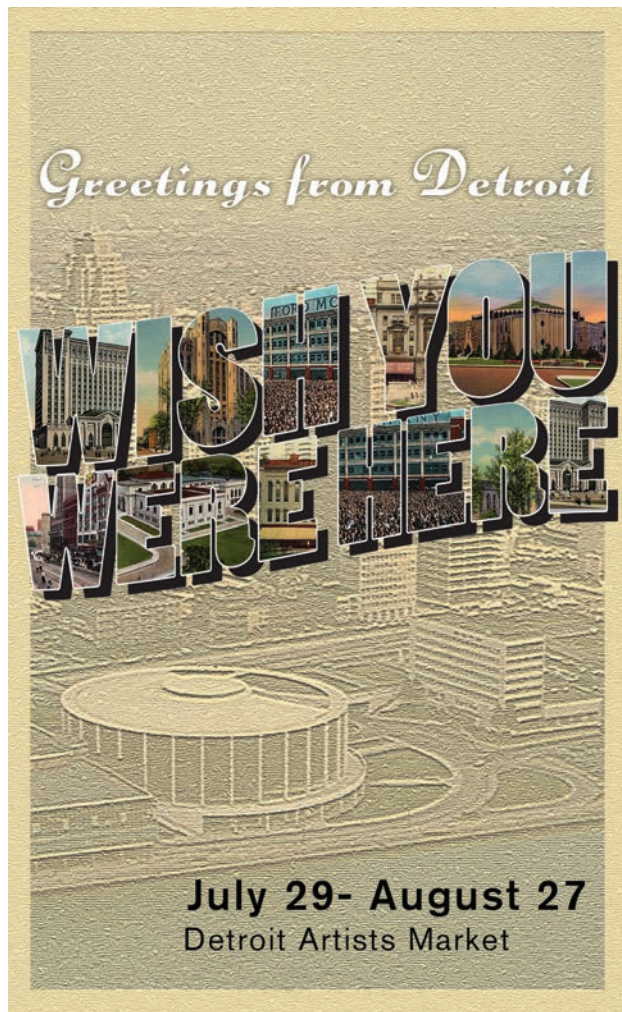
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Editor's Pick

OUTINGS

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Play: Before It Hits Home by Cheryl L. West 7 p.m. Admission is free. Hotter Than July, 311 E. Grand River, **Detroit**. www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/

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 http://onevoicechorus.net

Friday, July 29

Annual Gathering on LGBTQ Issues 8 a.m. Admission is free. Hotter Than July, 2930 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/

The Sound of Summer 9 p.m. The Sound of Summer features House Diva Nikki-O, God Mother of House Stacey HOTWAXX Hale, Parliament Funkadelic Drummer Producer Gabe Gonzales and Producer J. Garrett. The event is hosted by film director Shane Tucker and Henna specialist Ki-Ki Love. Tickets: \$10. Octavia Brown Records, 8850 Jos Campau, **Hamtramck**. 2487668332. nicolefreemanmanagement@gmail.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 www.hotworks.org/orchardlakefineartshow/index.php

Palmer Park Picnic 10 a.m. Free. Hotter Than July, **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. www.Hotterthanjuly.org

Movie Night: Ghostbusters 7 p.m. Get out and see this new comedy with the gals. Movie time subject to change. Ypsi/A2 Lesbians, Carpenter Road, **Ypsilanti**. www.meetup.com

Retro Fevre 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@reddoorclub.com http://www.reddoorclub.com/events/

Sunday, July 31

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**. sapphis@yahoo.com

Summer Intensive: 7-Day Workshop Plus Performance 9 a.m. Take classes in ballet, contemporary, jazz, and improv with a performance showcase on July 31 at 3:30 p.m. Artlab J, 2120 Russell St., **Detroit**. education@artlabj.com



Where else can avid art lovers see 150 juried artists, many of which are not seen at other Michigan art fairs? Only at the Hot Works' 14th annual Orchard Lake Fine Art Show in West Bloomfield where the focus is visual arts, diversity, community enrichment and fostering art education among youth.

The art show is produced by Executive Director Patty Narozny, who has been a resident of Oakland County for more than 27 years. "Hot Works has gained a reputation for quality, not quantity," Narozny said. "We're grateful to bring so much economic impact into the area, and a wonderful event to the community."

This year features the new Detroit Institute of Arts' Family Area where patrons can create mosaic tile art activities. Around \$2,500 will be distributed in the form of professional artist awards and ribbons. Kroger's Youth Artist Competition for grades K-8 or ages 5-12 will award \$250 to youth artists.

Great food and beverage from local restaurants such as Prime29 Steakhouse and Get Juiced, Yardbirds, Jamaica Jamaica and Detroit Ice Cream Co., For the Love of Cheesecake, and Gourmet Kettle Corn will be offered. Entertainment will be provided by One Love Reggae Band, Sheila Landis Trio, Don Thomas Music, Vladimir Gorodkin and Ken Mazur.

www.artlabj.com

Worship Service 10 a.m. Free. Hotter Than July, 2930 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. www.Hotterthanjuly.org

Sunday Brunch 12 p.m. Visit website for details. Hotter Than July, 14505 Charlevoix, **Detroit**. www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/

BITE: A Pucking Queer Cabaret 5 p.m. Tickets: \$25 for Monday and Thursday performances; \$30 for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday performances. Purchase tickets at www.pridefilmsandplays.com. Pride Films and Plays, 5400 N. Clark, **Chicago**. 800-737-0984. www.hamburgermarys.com/chicago/attic/

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 www.autbar.com

Tuesday, Aug. 2

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

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.campusmartialspark.org/events

Foster Care and Adoption Orientation

6 p.m. Orchards Children's Services is seeking adults to create smiles in a child's life. Orchards 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 regarding orientation dates, 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 www.orchards.org

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

Thursday, Aug. 4

Mix & Mingle 5:30 p.m. Socialize and relax with iHeartMedia's Boji at this weekly downtown happy hour featuring delicious food and drink specialties from The Fountain Detroit. Channel 955, 800 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. www.campusmartialspark.org/events

Healthy Moves: Strength & Cardio Boot Camp

6:30 p.m. Join the Bedrock Wellness Center to work up a sweat and build muscle. Quicken Loans, 662 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. www.campusmartialspark.org/events

Men's film and discussion group

6:30 p.m. An ongoing film night where we show a different movie every Thursday followed by social discussion. We show both gay themed and regular themed movies. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile, **Ferndale**. 248-398-

7105. mensgroup6@gmail.com
GoAffirmations.org

Men's Film Group 6:30 p.m. Men's Film Group, for men ages 18 and up, features a variety of films followed by discussion. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. mensgroup6@gmail.com www.goaffirmations.org

Friday, Aug. 5

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@reddoorclub.com www.reddoorclub.com

Saturday, Aug. 6

East Lansing Roller Derby vs. Black and Blue Grass Roller Girls 6 a.m. Get in on the action as the East Lansing Roller Derby takes on Black and Bluegrass Roller Girls from Kentucky. Tickets: \$12-\$15. East Lansing Roller Derby, 7868 Old M-78, **East Lansing**. marketing@mittenmavens.net mittenmavens.net

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.campusmartialspark.org/events

Monthly Game Night 4 p.m. Details to be announced. Gay Geeks Social Group, 4636 15 Mile Rd., Apt. 106, **Stirling Heights**. www.meetup.com

Cash-O-Rama 6 p.m. Michigan's oldest and largest LGBT bowling tournament. Tickets: \$20 per person to include a free



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slice of pizza. Motown Invitational Classic, 33200 Schoenherr, Sterling Heights. www.mictournament.org

Lesbian Euchre 6 p.m. Please arrive early to register. \$5 donation to Affirmations. Do not need to bring a partner to play. Affirmations is a smoke and alcohol free environment. You are welcome to bring snacks and a beverage. There is a local cafe. This is a fun, social group of women who like to play euchre. This is for beginners (must know the basics of the game) to the experienced. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. lsbndanii@aol.com www.goaffirmations.org

Sunday, Aug. 7

OUTFest Jim Toy Community Center, Ann Arbor. www.jimtoycommunitycenter.org

Washtenaw Pride Picnic 1 a.m. Jim Toy Community Center, Pauline and Fifth, Ann Arbor. www.jimtoycenter.org

Pride Parade 11 a.m. This year's festival focuses on bringing all different segments and groups together to celebrate the accomplishments we have made in the Windsor-Essex region and Canada as a whole. Windsor-Essex Pride Fest, 1 Riverfront Festival Plaza, Windsor. 226-348-3378. info@wepridefest.com www.Wepridefest.com

Blossoms: Midtown Store Opening 1 p.m. Check out this secret garden of fresh flowers and plants, and luxurious fragrances. The new midtown store in Detroit is where they company started their event business, Silk and Morgan, in 1977, nearly 40 years ago. Blossoms Full-Service Florist, 4152 Third St., Detroit. www.blossombirmingham.com

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

MUSIC & MORE

Comedy

AEG Live "Comedian Jim Breuer" Tickets: \$25. 18 and over welcome. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 8 p.m. Aug. 6. 248-399-2980. www.royaloakmusictheatre.com

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 "Plot Twist" Features Sheevani Desai, Chris Fortin, Brad Hicks, Erik Heilner, 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, 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 "The Powerful Pills" Special guest Dead Ahead Ohio performs. Tickets: \$8-\$10. 18 and over welcome. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9 p.m. Aug. 6. 734-996-8555. www.blindpigmusic.com

Blind Pig "Pajamas" Tickets: \$7, under 21 \$10. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9 p.m. July 28. 734-996-8555. www.blindpigmusic.com

Live Nation "Rickey Smiley and Friends" Tickets: \$44.50-\$79.50. The Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Aug. 6. www.thefillmoredetroit.com

Live Nation "Bush with The Dead Deads" Tickets: \$29.50-\$45. The Orbit Room, 2525 Lake Eastbrook Blvd. SE, Grand Rapids. 7 p.m. July 31. www.livenation.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

Olympia Entertainment "Bryan Ferry" Tickets: \$30-\$125. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 4. 313-471-6611. www.olympiaentertainment.com

Olympia Entertainment "Louis C.K." Tickets: \$25-\$65. Joe Louis Arena, 19 Steve Yzerman Drive, Detroit. 8 p.m. Aug. 5. 313-396-7000. www.olympiaentertainment.com

Royal Oak Commission for the Arts "2016 Summer Concert Series" Center Street, Royal Oak. 6 p.m. July 28. 248-246-3201. http://romi.gov/arts

Static Network "The Detroit All-Star Garage Rock Punk Revue" Tickets: \$10. PJs Lager House, 1254 Michigan Avenue, Detroit. 9 p.m. Aug. 6. 313-961-4668. www.facebook.com/events/1031176843642665/

Summer Carillon Concert Series "Mathieu Daniel Polak" Concert is free to the public. Elliott Tower at Oakland University, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. 6 p.m. Aug. 5. www.oakland.edu/elliott-tower

The Ark "Fair Lane Folk Festival" Tickets:

\$30-\$75. Henry Ford Estate, 1 Fair Lane Drive, Dearborn. Aug. 1 - July 30. www.fairlanefolkfest.org

The Ark "Jimmy Webb" Tickets: \$25. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. July 29. 734-761-1800. www.theark.org

THEATER

Civic/Community Theater

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. Through July 30. 734-404-6886. www.justgobarefoot.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

The Phantom Tollbooth Tickets: \$7 adults, \$5 children under age 13. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. July 28 - July 31. www.riverwalktheatre.com

Xanadu Tickets: \$10. Pre-show picnics are encouraged for audience members. The group will sell water and concessions at the park prior to the show. 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

Professional

Ernie - The Play Tickets: \$20-\$25. Olympia Entertainment, City Theatre,

2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. July 28 - Aug. 14. 313-471-6611. www.olympiaentertainment.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



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ENTERTAINMENT 10AM - 9PM

PRO-DRAG REVIEW 8PM - 9PM

BEER GARDEN 4PM - 12AM

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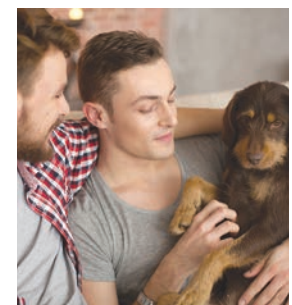


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6 Tricks to Throwing the Gayest Pool Party Ever

The Frivolist

BY MIKEY ROX

Sit on your throne as the reigning prince of homemade homo pool parties with these tips on how to throw the dippiest, drippiest Sunday Funday this side of Fire Island.

1 Build a thoughtful yet hard-bodied guest list

If you and your friends are often mistaken for CrossFit poster boys, that's awesome – you win at life. The rest of us, however – well, we're rather ordinary with ordinary-looking friends, and if we're to host a pool party of legendary proportions we have to bring in the big guns. Invite your besties, of course, but also extend invitations to all the eye candy you know better in your dreams than you do in person. Enlist your pals to invite their network of gym bunnies and bubble butts, and don't be afraid to make a few new friends by asking some of your strictly social media acquaintances to pop by and say hi – shirtless.

2 Establish a barely-there dress code

A great way to dictate a dress code (so nobody shows up wearing cut-off jorts like your Uncle Rick and his mooseknuckle are prone to do) is to establish a pool-wear theme. Board shorts alone could be the order of the day – if you're into that unimaginative bro-on-the-beach kinda vibe (and who isn't!?) – but you can get infinitely more creative. Try a fruits-and-foodie theme, for instance, where your guests are asked to don edibles-inspired gear, like the hospitable pineapple-print trunks from Jack O'Neill or the suggestive burgers-and-hotdogs swim briefs by Addicted at Bang+Strike.



Any great gay party – underwater or otherwise – is as much about the ambience as it is the music, and you'd be wise to do your research when creating the ultimate playlist.

3 Put a couple muscle-bound mixologists behind the bar

When I throw parties, I often employ peculiar bartenders to take care of my guests' libationary needs. If I'm to have the kind of time I deserve to have after cooking, cleaning, and crunching my abs to rippled perfection, I don't plan to spend it behind a bar squeezing limes into a lifetime supply of vodka tonics. Maybe you have a hottie friend who's hard up for cash who'd like the gig. I've also found it easy to hop on Craigslist and post an ad in the gigs sections for inexpensive labor that ultimately kicks my fete up a notch.

4 Create a playlist of Pepper MaShay proportions

Any great gay party – underwater or

otherwise – is as much about the ambience as it is the music, and you'd be wise to do your research when creating the ultimate playlist. You'll need throwback summertime staples from the Beach Boys, Don Henley and Bananarama; a few queen-tested-queen-approved anthems like the "Y.M.C.A." and Gaga's "Just Dance"; and samplings of fresh joint's like J Tim's "Can't Stop the Feeling!" and literally anything by Shamir.

5 Throw in a few phallic pool toys

There's a penis pool float with your name on it over at Amazon if you don't mind wading through the – gasp! – bachelorette party section. If you're feeling particularly adventurous, hunt down the skinny-dipper ring toss game that's played exactly how you think it is.

6 Have a plan to transition from day to night

Don't let the party stop when the sun goes down. After dark is the best part of partying with half-clad men who've been day drinking, and you should take full advantage of the opportunity to get to know your guests more intimately by preparing for an all-nighter. Light a few torches, fire up the grill and offer plenty of fresh towels so your guests can stand around in VPL-enhancing terry cloth while they hunt for a late-night Lyft – which is what you've been waiting for all along.

Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and LGBT lifestyle expert whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world. He splits his time between homes in New York City and the Jersey Shore with his dog Jaxon. Connect with Mikey on Twitter @mikeyrox.

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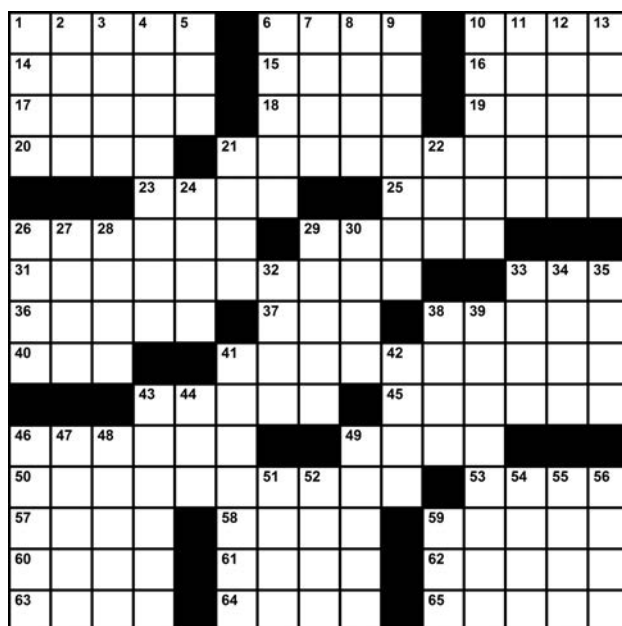
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Q Puzzle



Piscatella's Two Beards

Across

- 1 Where to find bulging pecs
- 6 Shirley MacLaine's Out on a ____
- 10 Cheryl of "Charlie's Angels"
- 14 Man of morals
- 15 About Uranus?
- 16 Gillette razor product
- 17 "Orange is the New ____"

(TV show of this puzzle's quote)

- 18 Michael Buble's "____ Little Tenderness"
- 19 Sow's mate
- 20 Pinto prodder
- 21 Start of Piscatella's description of two beards
- 23 Former Time film critic
- 25 Some like it hot
- 26 Michelangelo's David, e.g.
- 29 Threesome member for Dumas
- 31 More of the description
- 33 LA clock setting
- 36 Rainbow maker
- 37 SEP, e.g.

38 Singing group at Metropolitan Community Church

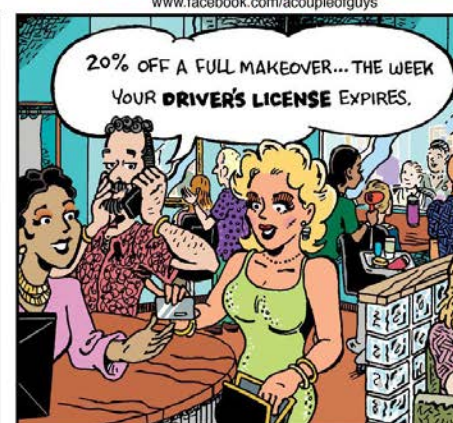
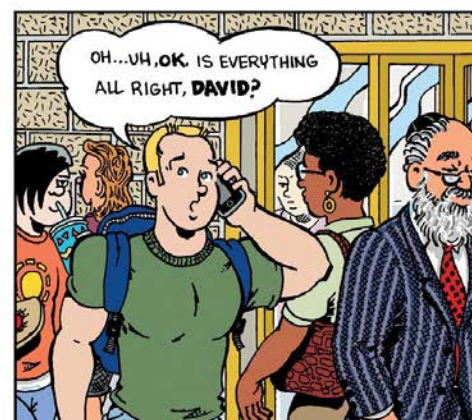
- 40 Dick Cheney, to Mary
- 41 More of the description
- 43 Erection of buffalo skins
- 45 Like Abe
- 46 Amanda of "Married...With Children"
- 49 Debtor's car, maybe
- 50 End of the description
- 53 Cosmetic surgery that sucks
- 57 End note
- 58 Guinness of "The Lavender Hill Mob"
- 59 Piscatella, at the prison
- 60 Circumcision, for one
- 61 Vehicle with a turret
- 62 Uninvited spa guests?
- 63 Kind of beer
- 64 Herbert's "Fortune and Men's ____"
- 65 Channel markers

Down

- 1 Where truckers park their bottoms
- 2 "Can't ____ Lovin' That Man of Mine"
- 3 Genesis man
- 4 Gay old philosopher, perhaps
- 5 Rd. where they toll you so
- 6 Leguin's "The ____ of Heaven"
- 7 About, in memos
- 8 Deli jarful
- 9 Rue's role on "The Golden Girls"
- 10 Hercules' dozen

- 11 Show penitence
- 12 Area of Tennessee?
- 13 Hannah of "Steel Magnolias"
- 21 "Dawson's Creek" type
- 22 Classified letters
- 24 One of the Marianas
- 26 "Milk" force, for short
- 27 Scarlett's plantation
- 28 "Phantom" scar source
- 29 Up ____ (in hot water)
- 30 Language of Bangkok
- 32 Wine's partner
- 33 Prod with a rod
- 34 Is on the bottom?
- 35 Show, with "out"
- 38 Chicken pen
- 39 Place for a good lei
- 41 Emulate Dr. Kildare
- 42 Those, to Gomer
- 43 Comparatively hackneyed
- 44 Ricky Martin's that
- 46 Tennis champ Borg
- 47 Jazzman Blake
- 48 Drag queen Mann
- 49 Stones
- 51 "Three Tall Women," for one
- 52 Surrealist Magritte
- 54 "Otello" villain
- 55 Do oral things on one's knees
- 56 Lines from Lesbos
- 59 Use your tongue

Find solution to this puzzle at www.pridesource.com



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