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**Clinton Seeks Broad Coalition
in Historic Acceptance Speech**

**Sarah McBride Takes
Convention Stage as 'Proud
Transgender American'**

**Austin, Ahmed Partner to
Rebuild Michigan Public
Education System**

A photograph of Mariah Carey performing on stage. She has long, wavy blonde hair and is wearing a black, sequined, lace-trimmed dress. She is smiling and holding a gold microphone to her mouth. The background is dark with purple and blue stage lights and a bokeh effect of small lights.

MARIAH THE INTERVIEW

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NEWS

OUTfest Marks National Coming Out Day

BY BTL STAFF

The Jim Toy Community Center will host OUTfest, their 22nd annual pride celebration of the LGBTQ community and its accomplishments, Aug. 5-7 in Ann Arbor's Kerrytown District and Braun Court.

This three-day event honors National Coming Out Day on Oct. 11 when people literally come out into a community that already supports and affirms who they are.

Coming out still matters. Every person who speaks up changes more hearts and minds, and creates new advocates for equality, according to the Human Rights Campaign.

JTCC will offer an array of activities spread out over Friday, Saturday and Sunday for the LGBTQ and allied communities. The celebration includes music, dancing, entertainers, food (vendors and Braun Court restaurants), a beer tent, the Grassroots stage with local musicians, speakers, a children's play area, raffles and a NECTO-sponsored Dance Pavilion with DJ's Jace and Mark. The weekend will conclude with the annual Washtenaw County Pride Picnic at Wheeler Park from 12-4 p.m.

During one of the most important elections of our time, representatives of political campaigns, including U.S. Rep. Debbie Dingell and her husband, former U.S. Rep. John Dingell, State Reps. Adam Zemke (D-Ann Arbor) and Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor), will be in attendance in support of the LGBTQ community. Attorney Eli Savit from the Citizen Education Law Clinic will speak about Civil Rights and Equal Protection with a nonexclusive focus on LGBTQ identities on Aug. 6 at 4 p.m. at The Bar on 327 Court St.

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

For information about the weekend events visit www.a2outfest.com.

Trans Activist Creates 'Clothing Swap' Program for Trans Community

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

When Jaimie Wilson first began transitioning from female to male, shopping for clothes was an uncomfortable experience.

"It was really intimidating for me to go shopping for clothes that I felt comfortable in," Wilson said. "Sometimes you go shopping in the men's or women's section, and if you don't look the part people from the store make you feel awkward or bad about it. So I definitely wanted to create a safe space for people to go where it was welcoming instead of intimidating."

That "space" is actually an online store called Trans Exchange.

"What we have put together is a website where we sell new and gently used clothing," said Wilson. "Almost all the clothes/accessories are donated from brothers and sisters who no longer have a need for their pre-transition clothes/accessories or just extra clothes that they don't want anymore. We sell the clothes at super affordable prices. This way FTM, MTF, and non-binary people can buy body positive clothing and accessories for a great price in a safe way."

Trans Exchange is not for profit, however, and Wilson makes no money off of the

venture. Instead, all of the proceeds go into a pool. At the end of the calendar year, Wilson will choose a transitioning applicant and give them the money to help toward their transition expenses.

"We are currently accepting applications from individuals interested in being our very first sponsored party," Wilson said. "All the money accumulated from 2016 will go towards the winner's transition expenses, including surgery, hormones/doctor visits, name/gender change costs, etc." So the monies made off of everything the Trans Exchange sells – including clothes, sunglasses, wallets, packers, binders, bras, Pride flags, etc. – will go to a trans individual in need.

For now, the store is online only, but Wilson said the day may come when they actually move into a physical retail space. "I think it would be cool if it grows that much to be able to do a retail space," he said. "I live in Ann Arbor and I know it's a very LGBT-friendly space, so that would be good. Right now online is definitely the easiest because it can reach the most people."

To shop the Trans Exchange, visit www.transxcompany.com. Information can also be found there on how to donate clothes and how to apply to be the program's first awardee.

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Austin, Ahmed Partner to Rebuild Michigan Public Education System

Campaign Platform Embraces and Celebrates Diversity in Schools

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Education and inclusion are the most important challenges facing Michigan today, according to State Board of Education President John Austin (D-Ann Arbor) and his running mate Ismael “Ish” Ahmed.

“Nothing is more important to our people and our state’s economic future than getting everybody a great, and a higher education, which they must have, all of our people, today,” Austin said about where they want to take this state.

That’s the message they delivered during a July 27 joint diversity forum to outline their 2016 education agenda and formally announce Ahmed’s candidacy for the state board.

“We chose to make this announcement among friends and family, among people who are actively working for change in this society, who are the guardians of our culture, our community and our forward movement,” Ahmed said.

The discussion brought together a diverse group of community leaders at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit for a roundtable discussion.

Some of the attendees were Wayne County Community College Diversity Officer Furquan Ahmed, University of Michigan Regent Mark Bernstein, Equality Michigan’s Deputy Director Michael Gipson, Detroit Police Commissioner Willie Burton, Detroit Attorney Linda Bernard and Director of the National Network for Arab American Communities Nadia Tordova.

The focus was how to make education in Michigan work for all students; whatever zip code they live in, whatever their race, color, creed, country of origin, gender identity or sexual orientation.

“Rather than send messages of fear, hate and division that repels people, which we’re

hearing a lot about this election year,” Austin said.

This is important, he said, during a time when state governments are trying to limit the rights of their LGBT citizens and spew hatred of minority groups.

On the right side of history, Austin is actively supporting a proposal to adopt guidelines for dealing with LGBT students’ issues in public schools to include professional training on how to handle LGBT students’ needs to bathroom and locker room etiquette.

A list of proposed recommendations for Michigan school districts was up for debate in Lansing in May. The state reported that it will consider all comments – more than 13,000, by some estimates – before deciding what to do about the proposal in September at the earliest, as they need additional time to discuss privacy issues among students and educational staff.

Meanwhile, conservatives, such as Sen. Tom Casperson (R-Escanaba), would like bathrooms to be reserved for students of their biological sex at Michigan schools under legislation he introduced in May. A bill, which Austin said made North Carolina “a laughing stock and national pariah,” when House Bill 2 passed in March. The lengthy battle over HB2 began earlier this week. U.S. District Court

Judge Thomas Schroeder did not immediately rule after Monday’s hearing for an injunction as more time is needed to collect and consider the facts. A decision is therefore not likely until next week.

Austin told *The Michigan Daily* in June that the bill could violate federal civil rights and further isolate transgender students who are already at risk for suicide, depression and bullying.

“He is courageous. His stance on LGBTQ issues have been something to admire. To see him out there that strongly - and sometimes alone - people respect that and him for it,” Sugar Law Center board member and Michigan State Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Detroit) said.

Austin was elected in 2000 and re-elected in 2008 to continue leading the charge to put Michigan back among the top 10 performing states. He and Ahmed can do so by fighting against discriminatory policy, a lack of funding and politics-driven decisions that Austin said chases people away and turns Michigan into a “backwater” state in the 21st century economy.

Together, they want to make this election a referendum on what kind of state we want to be.

“John is probably the most powerful candidate that there is going to be. He doesn’t need to run in tandem with me, but he chose to do that because we believe in the same things,” Ahmed said. “I came to him and said I’m an Arab Muslim. That won’t help you. He said that’s exactly what I want on the ticket.”

Ahmed

Ahmed is the co-founder of the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS), Arab American National Museum and former director of Michigan Department of Health under Gov. Jennifer Granholm. When Ahmed left government in 2011, he joined the University of Michigan-Dearborn as an associate provost for integrated learning and community partnerships. That’s where he persuaded the university before his retirement in 2015, to help sponsor Public Allies, a young leadership program, he said, that will triple in size this year.

“If there’s a gentleman who knows people from grassroots organizations to the top, it’s Ish,” ACCESS Emeritus Board of Director Gerald Smith said.

“He is the embodiment of what a social justice advocate is all about. Ish has done many great things with respect involving young people and families,” Smith said. “He gets it from an economic standpoint, he gets it from a people standpoint, and he gets it from a family standpoint.”

Married to his wife, Margaret King, for more than 30 years with five children and six grandchildren, it’s no surprise Ahmed gets it.

“Family comes first. It’s a big thing, not a little thing,” he said. It’s “tough to be a parent,” he said, and launching more system-wide parenting programs will be a part of their agenda. In addition, Ahmed and Austin will work together to provide early education for everyone in a system that honors and supports its teachers, push back against the unfettered expansion of poor quality charter and virtual schools for-profit companies, and knock down barriers to lift LGBT youth and minorities.

Ahmed is blunt. This is a dark time, he said, about those who would like to take us back or isolate us or leave us with no opportunity.

“There are people today saying that there’s no place in this country for immigrants and it’s a country built on immigrants. We think that’s



The July 27 discussion brought together a diverse group of community leaders at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit for a roundtable discussion. Some of the attendees were Wayne County Community College Diversity Officer Furquan Ahmed, University of Michigan Regent Mark Bernstein, Equality Michigan’s Deputy Director Michael Gipson, Detroit Police Commissioner Willie Burton, Detroit Attorney Linda Bernard and Director of the National Network for Arab American Communities Nadia Tordova.



Ismael "Ish" Ahmed and his running mate State Board of Education President John Austin (D-Ann Arbor).

“ There are people today saying that there’s no place in this country for immigrants and it’s a country built on immigrants. We think that’s wrong. They want to tell people who they can and cannot love, who they can and cannot work with, who can use a bathroom and who can’t. Oh my God, that’s just wrong and we need to stand up against that. ”

- Ismael "Ish" Ahmed, candidate for State Board of Education.

wrong. They want to tell people who they can and cannot love, who they can and cannot work with, who can use a bathroom and who can't. Oh my God, that's just wrong and we need to stand up against that," he said. "They use these things to disrupt us, to break us apart and make sure we do not work together because when we work together, things change."

Arab American Civil Rights League Board Chairman Nassar Beydoun has been in the trenches with Ahmed for 17 years. "I've seen what he can do. He is loyal to his friends and the people who know him. He instills loyalty in others," Beydoun said.

Many people recognize Ahmed for his courageous leadership, which CEO of New Detroit, Inc. Shirley Stancato, said we don't have enough of.

"The big issue is making sure all voices are at the table, listening to what folks have to say. You two do and I commend you for that. I'm excited to be in the presence of the example that you are setting," she declared.

If elected, Ahmed would be the only Arab American on the state board. The current board is 6-2 Democratic with one African-American woman, one Latina woman, four white women, and two white men, none of which are openly

LGBT.

Two seats are on the ballot that two Democrats, two Republicans and other third-party candidates will run for in November's election.

"If Republicans win both seats then the board is split...can't make decisions," Austin said. "The stakes of this campaign could not be higher. Michigan's public and higher education systems are under assault from destructive Legislative leaders and their right-wing backers."

In addition to voting for two Democrats, Ahmed suggests how to solve this problem.

"There are too many entities, at the state and federal level, who know almost nothing about education telling us how to run our schools. Parents, communities and their elected officials are being locked out of the decision making, boards of education are being thrown out by policy makers. This has got to stop," he said. "We have to control our schools. These are our children. We need to be involved in the decisions that are made. Our view is that we must put the public back into public schools."

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Clinton Seeks Broad Coalition in Acceptance Speech

2016 Hopeful Accepts Distinction as First Woman Presidential Nominee of Major Party

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

PHILADELPHIA - On the final night of the Democratic National Convention, Hillary Clinton in her acceptance speech for Democratic presidential nomination late July 28 sought a broad coalition to take on Donald Trump.

“We have to heal the divides in our country,” Clinton said. “Not just on guns, but on race, immigration and more. That starts with listening to each other, hearing each other, trying, as best we can, to walk in each other’s shoes.”

The speech marked the first time a woman took the stage at a major U.S. party convention to accept a presidential nomination, which Clinton recognized during her remarks as a “milestone.”

“Standing here as my mother’s daughter, and my daughter’s mother, I’m so happy this day has come,” Clinton said. “Happy for grandmothers and little girls and everyone in between. Happy for boys and men, too -- because when any barrier falls in America, for anyone, it clears the way for everyone. When there are no ceilings, the sky’s the limit.”

Calling for a unified America, Clinton delivered a speech characterized by outreach to just about every segment of society.

“In this campaign, I’ve met so many people who motivate me to keep fighting for change,” Clinton said. “And, with your help, I will carry all of your voices and stories with me to the White House. I will be a president for Democrats, Republicans, and Independents, for the struggling, the striving and the successful, for those who vote for me and those who don’t.”

For supporters of Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Clinton said “our economy isn’t working the way it should because our democracy isn’t working the way it should,” and called for overturning the U.S. Supreme Court decision of Citizens United. For national security hawks, Clinton laid out her strategy for defeating the Islamic State, declaring, “Make no mistake -- we will prevail.” For disaffected Americans allured by Trump, Clinton acknowledged “an awful lot of people feel there is less and less respect for the work they do, and less respect for them, period.”

“So I want to tell you tonight how we will empower Americans to live better lives,” Clinton said. “My primary mission as president will be to create more opportunity and more good jobs with rising wages right



The DNC was electric July 28 as Hillary Clinton accepted the nomination for president. Photo: Michael Keys, Washington Blade.

here in the United States, from my first day in office to my last, especially in places that for too long have been left out and left behind.”

At one point during her speech in which she listed various groups she would protect, Clinton also briefly enumerated her support for the LGBT community.

“We will defend all our rights -- civil rights, human rights and voting rights, women’s rights and workers’ rights, LGBT rights and the rights of people with disabilities,” Clinton

said. “And we will stand up against mean and divisive rhetoric wherever it comes from.”

Anthony Woods, a gay Bowie, Md.-area delegate pledged to Clinton and former service member discharged under “don’t ask, don’t tell,” said the candidate’s speech was “really, really inspiring.”

“I’m just incredibly excited about an overly qualified person who can do this and really excited about the fact that we’ve got a woman who can inspire women around the world

in this country to dream incredible things,” Woods said.

In terms of policy, Clinton proposed building a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, raising the minimum wage, reaching a consensus to pass gun safety legislation, expanding the Affordable Care Act and Social Security and alleviating student debt.

“In America, if you can dream it, you should be able to build it,” Clinton said. “We’re going to help you balance family and work. And you know what, if fighting for affordable child care and paid family leave is playing the ‘woman card,’ then deal me in.”

Clinton also laid into Trump directly for seeking to build a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border as well as derogatory comments he expressed against Latinos, immigrants, Muslims and just about every minority group.

“It was just too hard to fathom -- that someone who wants to lead our nation could say those things, could be like that,” Clinton said. “But here’s the sad truth: There is no other Donald Trump. This is it. And in the end, it comes down to what Donald Trump doesn’t get, that America is great because America is good.”

Clinton landed a well-received hit on Trump when she said, “Imagine him in the Oval Office facing a real crisis. A man you can bait with a tweet is not a man we can trust with nuclear weapons.”

Sarah McBride, a transgender advocate and spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign, hailed Clinton for the speech, which took place hours after McBride’s own address before the Democratic National Convention, and similarly criticized Trump.

“I think it was a comprehensive, inclusive vision for this country,” McBride said. “I think it stood in contrast to Donald Trump’s messages of negativity, division and discrimination. As she said, she offered plans for move our country forward while Donald Trump just talked about all the problems he sees and offered absolutely no path forward for our country.”

McBride predicted during the general election in November voters will choose “an optimistic, forward-thinking vision, not a message of hate and fear.”

Those attending Clinton’s speech within the Wells Fargo Arena carried tall, narrow signs inscribed with “Hillary” and several waived large American flags to express support for the

See next page

Sarah McBride Takes Convention Stage as 'Proud Transgender American'

In first, openly transgender person at major U.S. party convention

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

PHILADELPHIA - History was made July 28 when an openly transgender person spoke for the first time ever at a major U.S. party convention and declared she was a "proud transgender American."

Sarah McBride, a transgender activist now affiliated with the Human Rights Campaign, enjoyed the historic distinction on the final day of the Democratic National Convention.

"My name is Sarah McBride, and I am a proud transgender American," she said, eliciting an eruption of applause from attendees within the Wells Fargo Arena.

Within the audience, attendees held up at least two large banners resembling the rainbow Pride flag and another two bearing the Human Rights Campaign icon. One woman wearing a Clinton campaign shirt and wearing a rainbow scarf waved it in celebration.

"Four years ago, I came out as transgender while serving as student body president in college," McBride continued. "At the time, I was scared. I worried that my dreams and my



Sarah McBride speaking to the DNC July 28. Photo: Michael Keys, Washington Blade.

identity were mutually exclusive. Since then though, I have seen that change is possible."

At age 25, McBride has had a hand in moving forward with transgender rights across the country, including the enactment of a law in her home state of Delaware prohibiting discrimination against transgender people. Since that time, she has taken on roles as a White House intern as well as work on LGBT rights at the Center for American Progress and the Human Rights Campaign.

"But despite our progress, so much work remains," McBride said. "Will

we be a nation where there's only one way to love, one way to look, one way to live? Or will we be a nation where everyone has the freedom to live openly and equally? A nation that's stronger together? That is the question in this election."

McBride invoked the memory of her late spouse and fellow transgender activist Andrew Cray, who died in 2014 at age 28 after a battle with cancer. Among Cray's accomplishments were LGBT outreach for the Affordable Care Act and working to ensure states

See Sarah McBride, page 10

daughter, Chelsea Clinton who talked about raising her two children Mark and Aiden and the candidate as a mother and grandmother.

"My earliest memory is my mom picking me up after I had fallen down, giving me a big hug, and reading me 'Goodnight Moon,'" Chelsea Clinton said. "From that moment to this one -- every single memory I have of my mom is that regardless of what was happening in her life, she was always there for me."

Elizabeth Birch, a lesbian Clinton supporter in attendance for the speech and former head of the Human Rights Campaign, said Clinton's speech was "deep and detailed" in contrast to Trump's proposals.

"She covered every part of her vision from local and community action, and what we have to do door-to-door-to-door up to the state level, federal and global," Birch said. "And I think the primary

point she made is that she will sweat the details and always has. Diplomacy is not about sarcasm, or about empty words, or rash words. She thinks hard and is enormously intelligent, and I think she brought that to the speech."

Rallying attendees toward the end of her speech, Clinton invoked the hit musical "Hamilton," which has a song that includes the line "we may not live to see the glory, let us gladly join the fight," as well as the memory of the Founders in 1776 signing the Declaration of Independence just miles from the convention site.

"They were drawn together by love of country, and the selfless passion to build something better for all who follow," Clinton said. "That is the story of America. And we begin a new chapter tonight. Yes, the world is watching what we do. Yes, America's destiny is ours to choose. So let's be stronger together."

Day 1: Rocky Start for Democratic convention

Tensions ran high during the first day of the Democratic National Convention as Bernie Sanders supporters booed Hillary Clinton at an event designed to promote her candidacy.

The rocky start to the convention followed controversy in which

Democratic National Committee chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz announced her resignation as a result of an email dump on WikiLeaks revealing the organization favored Clinton in the primary as opposed to staying neutral.

Wasserman Schultz announced she would have a limited role at the convention and gavel in the event, but even that was eliminated as the day progressed. Her role at the convention was completely cut and the convention gavelled in without her.

Speaking at an event earlier in the day, Sanders himself was booed when he told supporters to vote for Clinton, even though he admonished them with the message, "This is the real world that we live in."



Day 2: Bill Praises Hillary as Dems Anoint Her with Nomination

The second night of the Democratic National Convention was a high-point in terms of both speakers and historic nature after delegates made Hillary Clinton the first woman presidential nominee of a major U.S. political party.

Former President Bill Clinton delivered the keynote address on day two of the convention. Essentially auditioning for the role of first gentleman, he recalled meeting Hillary Clinton and the early years of their marriage, followed by her work seeking to improve the U.S. as a lawyer, first lady, a U.S. senator and secretary of state.

On the same day, delegates at the convention anointed Hillary Clinton as the Democratic presidential nominee following a roll-call vote among the delegations from all the states and jurisdictions at the convention.

Day 3: Obama Leads Heavy Hitters in Speeches Praising Clinton

On the third night of the Democratic National Convention, President Obama led a series of heavy hitters who delivered speeches praising Hillary Clinton as the right candidate to lead the country.

"Tonight, I ask you to do for Hillary Clinton what you did for me," Obama said. "I ask you to carry her the same way you carried me. Because you're who I was talking about twelve years ago, when I talked about hope - it's been you who've fueled my dogged faith in our future, even when the odds are great; even when the road is long. Hope in the face of difficulty; hope in the face of uncertainty; the audacity of hope."

As for Trump, Obama contrasted the Republican candidate and proposed policies to Clinton. In one standout line referencing Trump's plan to build a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border, Obama said, "The American Dream is something no wall will ever contain."

Find extensive coverage of the DNC online >> www.PrideSource.com

► Clinton Coalition

Continued from p. 8

candidate. On the other hand, numerous times during the address protesters in the arena sought to interrupt her, but they were drowned out by overwhelming chants of "Hil-lar-y! Hil-lar-y!"

Kimberly Saylor, a lesbian delegate from Indiana pledged to Sanders who turned 40 years old on the day of speech, said Clinton hit the right notes.

"I appreciated the fact that she and President Obama acknowledged all the hard work we have done, and I appreciated the fact that she said that our issues are now her issues," Saylor said.

Despite her support for Sanders in the primary, Saylor said she plans to vote for Clinton in the general election and "would never, ever vote for Trump."

Introducing Clinton on stage was her

Mayors Against Discrimination Formed in Response to Anti-LGBT Laws

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS

PHILADELPHIA – D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser on July 27 promoted the nation's capital as an "open city" during a forum that coincided with the Democratic National Convention

"We are very proud of our level of inclusiveness," she said during the event at Philadelphia City Hall that featured pro-LGBT mayors from across the country.

Bowser pointed out the D.C. Human Rights Act bans discrimination against LGBT Washingtonians. She also noted that same-sex couples have been able to legally marry in the nation's capital since 2010.

"We wanted to be sure that that wasn't the end of discussion for making sure that everybody was treated fairly and not discriminated against," said Bowser.

Bowser acknowledged that a "good portion of homeless youth" in D.C. are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. She also conceded that economic disparities persist among LGBT Washingtonians.

Bowser noted that trans people continue to "face outrageous discrimination and have significant levels of unemployment in our city." Her comments come two weeks after Deeniqua Dodds, a trans woman of color who was shot in the neck on July 4 in Northeast Washington, died.

"I remain very concerned about violence in our community," said Bowser.

Bowser did not mention her gay brother during the forum.

Charlotte mayor seeks federal action against HB 2

Mayors Against Discrimination formed earlier this year after North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory signed House Bill 2, which prohibits trans people from using public bathrooms that are consistent with their gender identity and bans local municipalities from enacting LGBT-inclusive nondiscrimination measures. The coalition also criticized House Bill 1523, the controversial religious freedom law that Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant signed in April.

The statute was to have taken effect on July 1, but a federal judge issued a last-minute injunction against it. Bryant appealed the ruling to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans after Mississippi Attorney General Jim Hood declined to do so.

San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee noted during the forum that he banned city-funded travel to Indiana and other states that had enacted anti-LGBT laws. Bowser rescinded a similar prohibition after Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, who is Donald Trump's running mate, modified his state's religious freedom law.

INFO

Call Your Local Officials

The Mayors Against Discrimination coalition group urges members of the LGBT community and its allies to contact your local mayor and urge them to take concrete action in protest of states with discriminatory laws. For more information, visit www.mayorsagainstdiscrimination.org

"With that action, we were able to turn that state around," said Lee, referring to the Indiana law. "Now our focus is on states like North Carolina and Mississippi."

Chirlane McCray, wife of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, discussed the executive order her husband issued in May that says trans New Yorkers can use bathrooms and other sex-segregated facilities that correspond with their gender identity.

"Access to bathrooms and other single-sex facilities is a fundamental human right that should not be restricted or denied to anyone," said McCray.

Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton said that pro-LGBT laws and policies are "good for business."

Gay West Sacramento (Calif.) Mayor Christopher Cabaldon noted the U.S. Conference of Mayors held their annual

meeting in Indianapolis last month. Greg Ballard, the city's Republican mayor, was among those who led the opposition to the religious freedom law that Pence signed.

"It was mayors that were leading the opposition," said Cabaldon.

Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney and gay Rhode Island Congressman David Cicilline, who introduced the Equality Act that would amend federal civil rights law to include sexual orientation and gender identity, also sat on the panel. Charlotte (N.C.) Mayor Jennifer Roberts was among those who attended the forum that took place less than a week after the National Basketball Association announced its 2017 All-Star Game would no longer take place in her city.

McCrory signed HB 2 into law after the Charlotte City Council approved a measure that added sexual orientation and gender identity to the city's nondiscrimination ordinance.

"We need federal action," said Roberts at the end of the forum. "Our state has made it very clear they will not budge until forced to by the courts."

The Justice Department in May sued North Carolina over HB 2. A federal judge is scheduled to consider lawsuits for and against the law on Nov. 14.

► Sarah McBride

Continued from p. 9

prohibit anti-trans discrimination in health care.

"Knowing Andy left me profoundly changed," McBride said. "More than anything, his passing taught me that every day matters when it comes to building a world where every person can live their life to the fullest."

The work in transgender advocacy to which both she and her late spouse were committed is the reason, McBride said, she's committed to seeing Hillary Clinton elected as president.

"Hillary Clinton understands the urgency of our fight," McBride said. "She will work with us to pass the Equality Act, to combat violence against transgender women of color, and to end the HIV and AIDS epidemic once and for all."

Winnie Stachelberg, vice president of external affairs at the Center for American Progress, was in attendance at the convention and said McBride's remarks were "historic."

"As the first transgender [person] to speak at a convention, I think it sends a signal to this

country that Hillary Clinton as president will be for fairness and equality for all people -- all LGBT people -- but all people," Stachelberg said.

Recalling McBride's time at the Center for American Progress, Stachelberg said McBride "spoke from heart," and is an "incredible advocate."

"The significance, I think, can't be overstated, but is also, I think, a signal of the kind of the progress that the LGBTQ movement has achieved," Stachelberg said.

Sharing the stage with McBride was Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (D-N.Y.), a gay lawmaker in the U.S. House representing at convention the LGBT Equality Caucus and referenced the U.S. Supreme Court decision in favor of same-sex marriage.

"It's a beautiful thing when your country catches up to you, and when your basic rights and your very family are on the line, it matters what happens what happens in those beautiful buildings with marble columns, it matters who's leading the country and it matters if they care," Maloney said.

Maloney sought to draw a distinction

between himself and Peter Thiel, the openly gay speaker at the Republican National Convention last week, criticizing him for apparently being dismissive of LGBT rights efforts.

"Last week, a speaker at the Republican National Convention called equality, quote, a 'distraction,'" Maloney said. "'Who cares?' he asked. Well, I care. My husband Randy and our three children care. These LGBT leaders standing with me and throughout this whole of the country care. The authors of our nation's Declaration of Independence, signed right here in Philadelphia, they care. Americans at Seneca Falls, Selma and Stonewall, they care. And Hillary Clinton cares, too."

Chad Griffin, president of the Human Rights Campaign, also spoke Thursday during an earlier time slot at the Democratic convention, rebuking Trump for anti-LGBT positions the candidate has taken in contrast with Clinton's views.

"Long before Donald Trump struggled to read the letters 'LGBTQ' off a teleprompter last week, Hillary Clinton stood before the United Nations and boldly declared that gay

rights are human rights and human rights are gay rights," Griffin said.

Griffin drew attention to Trump selecting running mate notoriously anti-LGBT Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, whom Griffin said "tried to divert HIV funding in order to finance the abusive practice of 'conversion therapy.'"

"Hillary Clinton, on the other hand, is committed to stopping the spread of HIV, banning conversion therapy for minors, and ending the hate and violence our community still faces," Griffin said.

Invoking Clinton's campaign theme "Stronger Together," McBride concluded her remarks by saying the election of Hillary Clinton would help advance the lives of LGBT people and all Americans.

"Today in America, LGBTQ people are targeted by hate that lives in both laws and hearts," McBride said. "Many still struggle just to get by. But I believe tomorrow can be different. Tomorrow, we can be respected and protected. Especially if Hillary Clinton is our president. And that's why I'm proud to stand here and say that I'm with her."

Detroit Discusses LGBT Workplace Equality at Out and Equal Event

BY AJ TRAGER

DETROIT – Five Detroit professionals discussed workplace diversity to an audience of roughly 100 online and in-house viewers July 27 in the premiere discussion in the Detroit Out and Equal Midwest Learning Series, co-presented by the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce.

Panelists were asked an array of questions about workplace inequality and what it takes to build an inclusive workplace where LGBT and ally professionals can grow and succeed at a time in American history where LGBT lives are a hot topic for businesses and politics.

Marriage equality is just over a year old. For many LGBT men and women that means navigating the ups and downs of married life. However, marriage equality was just one step in the path toward LGBT equality. Some policies and practices still prevent the state from true LGBT inclusion. For instance, here in Michigan, an LGBT couple can be married on Sunday but fired from their jobs on Monday if a business is against their LGBT status.

The five-part learning series brings together hundreds of LGBT professionals, business leaders and allies to share best practices and strategies to enhance workplace inclusion, visibility and diversity.

Panelists Bill Huffaker, Ph.D, global director of talent acquisition for General Motors; Marlin Page, chief diversity and inclusion officer at FCA-US; Amanda Shelton, attorney; Amy Hunter, project coordinator for the ACLU of Michigan's Transgender Advocacy Project and Nikki Pardo, owner of Global Alliance Solutions, LLC, represented Michigan's inclusive and diversity efforts.

Americans and employers are increasing their knowledge about who trans people are, listening to their stories and they're realizing that the trans community holds the same types of jobs, Hunter explained. Trans workers are coders, construction workers, first responders, salespeople or designers, for example.

"The transgender community is an untapped resource. Some of the smartest and thoughtful people that I know on the face of the planet are transgender, and



Bill Huffaker, Amanda Shelton, Kevin Heard, Marlin Page, Nikki Pardo and Amy Hunter presenting at the opening presentation for the Out and Equal Midwest Learning Series. BTL Photo: AJ Trager

there's kind of a reason for that. So, a company would be really, really wise to go into actively recruiting trans people," Hunter said.

More and more companies are hiring trans men and women in conjunction with the rise of trans visibility; however, trans employees remain the class of individuals with the highest rates of employment discrimination and unemployment under the LGBT umbrella.

"There is a talent pool of folks that major corporations and small businesses can tap that I think would really benefit everybody as well as solve one of the most pressing problems for the trans community," Hunter explained.

Employees exist at the intersections of race, gender, ethnicity, national origin, trans-ness, sexuality and privilege. LGBT people may be protected under Title IX of the Employment Discrimination Act and Title VII the Civil Rights Act of 1964; however, lawmakers in Michigan have yet to pass any legislation granting the same protections.

Pardo worked for the Michigan Department of Civil Rights and described filing LGBT discrimination cases under "sex" instead of sexuality or gender due to this legislative setback. Such hurdles harm not just statistical data but lives of everyday LGBT men and women. Pardo called for a change in Michigan policy to amend the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, adding protections for sexual

orientation and gender identity and expression.

As an ally she believes it is important for allies to be visible in the workplace so that their LGBT coworkers can know who to come to for help or an understanding ear.

Huffaker agreed. He said that allies within the workplace hold extreme power at the corporate level and can play a big part in international and national change.

Witeck Communications, a communications firm that has been monitoring the spending power of the LGBT community, estimates that the LGBT community in 2014 had an estimated \$884 billion in spending power.

"Companies need to be careful of their brands. I think it would be advantageous to create a very LGBT friendly environment, especially with the ripple effect and with social media. One tweet, blog or post could devastate a company's brand. I think it comes from both sides. The internal and the external," Pardo said.

The Human Rights Campaign has been publishing its Corporate Equality Index since 2002. The report is a tool used to rate businesses on their treatment of LGBT employees as well as health care opportunities for LGBT employees and their spouses.

Huffaker was critical of the index

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Candlelight Vigil Opens 21st Annual Detroit Black Gay Pride Celebration

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

DETROIT – The 21st installment of Hotter Than July, Detroit’s Black Gay Pride celebration, began July 26 with the annual candlelight vigil in Palmer Park. Nearly 75 people attended the service, which took place near the blue spruce memorial tree. The tree was planted in 1999 to commemorate those in the community lost to HIV/AIDS and other illnesses.

Longtime community activist Ron Doe was the featured speaker for the ceremony. He recalled leading a support group for Men of Color Motivational Group when the idea to plant the tree came about.

“One day my support group, as a group, said, ‘let’s do something special,’” said Doe. “We’d had so many of our brothers die of HIV ... so we wanted to do something. So we decided we were going to plant that tree, right here in Palmer Park.”

The group got MOC Executive Director Cornelius Wilson on board and he reached out



to the late Maryann Mahaffey.

“She was city council president,” Doe remembered. “She said, ‘that’s a good idea’ and she paved the way. We got a permit to plant the tree.”

Doe was clearly touched that the tree is still standing brave and tall.

“Look how it has grown,” he said. “All of those branches are all of our brothers and sisters. But not only the fallen. Don’t ever think that when you see that tree it’s only about the dying. That tree is for the living so

that when we come out here we can see that we’re still here. Twenty-five years of [living with HIV] and I didn’t think that I would still be here. But I am.”

Rev. Jeffrey Seals of One Church Detroit led the traditional pouring of libations following Doe’s speech. Seals and those gathered called out the names of friends and loved ones gone on and followed each with the word Ashe.

“Ashe means ‘be with us,’” Seals explained. “How many have people who have passed on and your ancestors that you want to be with us? How many have people you remember and every time you walk this park you think about them? Or every time you go to the Woodward you think about them? Or every time you wake up in the morning you think about them?”

“People may die here on Earth but they live on forever in the spirit,” Seals continued. “They never die. That’s why I like this tree. It was a seed that was planted that continues to grow. See, you’re a long way from where you used to be because there was a seed that

was planted.”

The service also included prayers, a drumming session and two songs by local singer/songwriter Charlie B. Keyz, including an original called “Breathe.” Also speaking was Rev. Dr. Selma Massey, founder and senior minister of Whosoever Ministry.

“Someone asked me today, they said there’s the Zika virus, there’s this threat of war in the political arena, what should we do?” said Massey. “My answer is still the same. We have to pray. And some people wonder, ‘well how do you pray? I’m not so sure how to pray.’ Just talk to God like you would talk to me. Like I would talk to you. ... Sometimes I tell people just pray behind other people’s back. They’ll look up and they’ll be changed and they won’t know what hit them.”



The staff from Horizons Project manning their table by the pond.

Spirits at HTJ picnic dampened by rain

Attendance for the 21st annual Hotter Than July Palmer Park Picnic was extremely low this year. This is likely the result of the scattered showers that sprinkled rain upon the small crowd from time to time throughout the day. Despite the weather, the day was still filled with the sounds of DJ Romeo as well as live performances, a drag show and a mini-ball. BTL photos: Jason A. Michael



Mike and Phil have been together for 45 years and legally wed last year.

HTJ Conference Talks Black Lives Matter

DETROIT - Rev. Roland Stringfellow, senior minister and teacher at Metropolitan Community Church - Detroit, spoke at the annual Hotter Than July Gathering on LGBT issues. The title of his talk was Black Lives Matter at the Intersection of LGBT Issues. About 40 people were in attendance for the talk, which was followed by breakout workshops later in the day. BTL photo: Jason A. Michael



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► Out and Equal

Continued from p. 11

score. He believes that while the score is a good indicator of initial workplace inclusion the entire company culture needs to be reflective of inclusion at every level.

“At General Motors and I think across the world, corporations, public policy, corporate communications, global human resources, we’re all sort of struggling with [answering] what is the role of a corporation in driving social change and is it appropriate or not. The tides are turning very rapidly,” Huffaker said.

Michigan, like many states without LGBT-inclusive legislation is experiencing an LGBT brain drain where potential employees are leaving post graduation for more progressive states. Similarly, some may not take a job in the state due to the same factors. Huffaker was not sure if, had he known before taking the job at GM that Michigan wasn’t inclusive to LGBT, that he would have moved him and his partner from a life in San Francisco.

“Folks aren’t going to come to Michigan if they’re not sure if their second parent adoption is going to hold up here, if they’re worried that their spouse won’t be treated well, worry about benefits or worry about any of the other things that could come along living in a state that has a reputation for not being open and welcoming. It really comes down to dollars and cents,” Shelton explained.

When asked if it was difficult to find diverse graduates in the STEM fields, (science, technology, engineering and math) both Huffaker and Page said no. If those seeking to employ graduates are only pooling from top-tier universities it may be more difficult to fit the diversity positions that many companies are tasked with filling.

So how do you find the talent?

“My thing is, I’m the talent, I’m here and I am not alone on an island by myself. It’s about how you go to find that talent. It’s about your unconscious bias, your stereotypes. A lot of this is about access and exposure. There’s a huge racial and gender gap in technology but I believe that it stems from the lack of exposure and understanding of what this whole thing really is,” Page explained.

Through her work at the Trans Advocacy Project, Hunter works with companies on cultural competency to get them to a place where the workplace environment is to a place where a trans man or woman would feel comfortable working there but she is concerned about tokenization.

She said that an employer cannot can’t expect trans people to populate trans people.

Everyone has biases and opinions that they bring to work. They also have life experiences that cannot be severed from their daily experience. To move beyond marginalization, discrimination and exclusion the workplace has to become a more open and honest environment.

Huffaker says that in order to do that the workplace must get beyond division and pitting the sexes against one another. The change in the world needs to start from within, he explained, “we are all wired to have biases. But we need to do the work ourselves.”

Pardo believes the change is going to manifest most strongly from the executive management level down the chain of command.

“Diversity without inclusion means nothing,” she stated. “Inclusion needs to be a part of everyday work.”

Learn more at www.outandequal.org/events/midwestseries.



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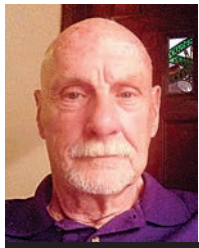
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Remembering Jeff (2 of 3)

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

I waited 'til the last Christmas carol was sung, the last bit of New year's confetti was thrown, and the last champagne cork was popped before seeing "The Return of the King," part three of the 1949 J.R.R. Tolkien literary masterpiece.

The complete Middle Earth odyssey was four years in the making and filmed for \$97 million, with a myriad of mind-boggling special effects. To date "The Return" has grossed \$312 million, of which sum I dutifully contributed my pittance – \$6.50 to be exact, senior discount rate.

I saw the 220-minute saga (plus 15 minutes of PG previews, and 10 minutes of screen credits that included a roster of over 800 names) with part-time hobbits Jeff Montgomery, Triangle Foundation CEO, and Rick Robinson, anthropologist and political bon vivant.

We broke bread beforehand at Bob Evan's. And not wanting to be interrupted in my marathon viewing by an untoward call of nature, I drank one diet Coke, nibbled a tuna salad, and ate no fudge-embossed desert. Just to be safe I went to the men's room twice as we stood in line at John R Star. (Or, was it three times?)

Jeff's an authority on orcs, elves, changelings, and – no big surprise – fairies, and Rick knows a thing or two about princes, princesses, kings and, to a limited extent, queens (of all political persuasions.)

My own interest – other than giving my nates a triathlon workout – was keeping a wary eye out for "my precious, my precious" Gollum. (I can't get it out of my mind that this poor creature looks like one of our perennial neighborhood family values pests, whom Christian charity prevents me from button holing by name.)

I've been to movies enough times with Jeff to notice a marked transformation as he sits illuminated in the surround-sound twilight. He gets mesmerized by the action and edges closer to the screen, ready, I'm sure, at any moment to jump in and take charge.

You'd swear you were sitting next to your 13-year-old (gay) nephew. It happened again during "The Return of the King." Jeff was indeed transformed.

When Jeff's hero Legolas acrobatically leapt onto a trumpeting, three-story woolly mammal Mumak – bow and arrows in his forthright hand, sculptured muscles a-flex, and not a braid of his golden locks out of place – Jeff uttered an audible sigh. (It went well beyond the decorous limits of cinematic in-house good taste.)

When Legolas felled that poor, shaggy beast, Jeff became quite, quite animated with joy, and actually cheered. Startled, I spilled my popcorn on Rick.

On the ride home it occurred to me that the special effects of epics like "The Return of the King" are so flawlessly executed and realistic that fancy magically becomes fact, and make believe transposes into gospel truth.

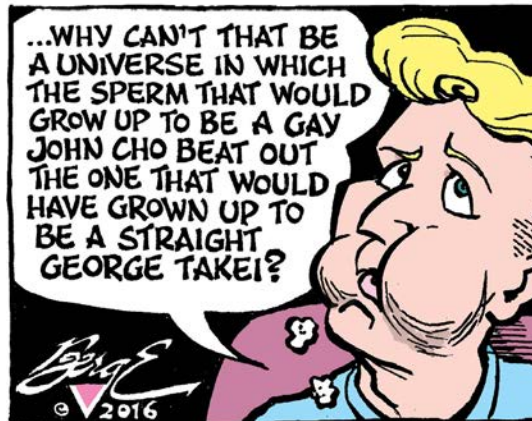
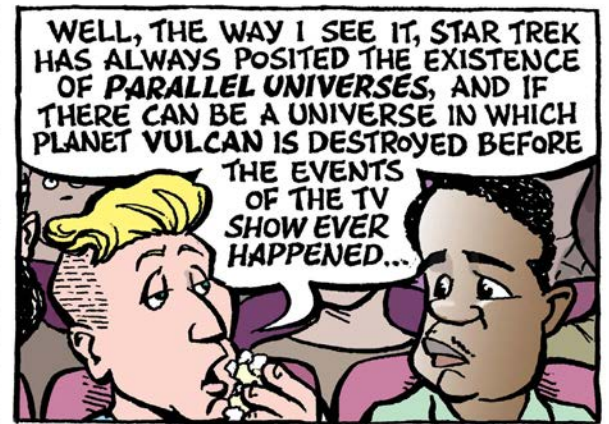
The John R Stars, Royal Oak Mains, the neighborhood Cineplexes across America become cathedrals of pagan myth, gnostic theology, and occult mystery. Movie attendance goes up. Church attendance goes down. Movie stars become our saints du jour.

Unfortunately, movies are getting too expansive for my comfort zone. Three hours of viewer yoga is a bit much. After six hours of the "Cremaster" series at the Detroit Film Theater last season, I said that's it. I've had it. No more marathons. I spoke too soon.

My Reel Pride Director's Pass, courtesy of Jeff, entitles me to see 40 LGBT films this week, attend 20 film-related events, and sit reasonably spellbound (and proud) for 2,031 minutes.

If you sit by Jeff, take copious notes. (By the way: my cremaster's fine. Thanks for asking.)

Charles@pridesource.com



BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

Breaking Conventions

It was one of those rare moments of kismet. I had just come downstairs and turned on the television. On it was an attractive young woman with brown hair curled away from her face, and a sleeveless, purple dress. She smiled and spoke.

"My name is Sarah McBride, and I am a proud transgender American."

With that, she became a part of history as the first out transgender person to speak at a presidential convention.

Her brief speech was a powerful one, centering on the loss of her husband, Andy, who succumbed to cancer just days after their marriage. She spoke about her coming out, her time interning at the White House, and her hand in getting Delaware to pass transgender protections.

She also spoke about upcoming struggles, including the need to pass the Equality Act, which would amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to include sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity. McBride also spoke about the need to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic and halting the overwhelming violence against transwomen of color.

I first discovered that there were other transgender people in the world when I was a pre-teen, but it wasn't until the late 1990s at college that I discovered there was a transgender community. Well, the beginnings of a community, at best. I learned about a meeting being held monthly out of the back of a Holiday Inn about an hour or so from home. In-between those monthly meetings, sometimes we'd visit each other's homes, or go to a "friendly" bar or eatery and sit somewhere in the back.

The conventions of the time, however, suggested it was best we did not meet at all. The notion was that the more of us in any one given place, the more likely we'd all be outed and face danger. At the time, too, being a transgender person was still very much a shameful secret to have for many, and this notion of living in safe isolation only fed into out guilt.

For many who were aiming for surgical intervention, too, it was considered part of the process to divorce from one's past life entirely, creating a new identity and "go stealth." Some therapists at the time also pushed their transgender patients to also not develop friendships

We now live in a time when an out transwoman can take the stage at a national convention – and be broadcast around the country – and discover that she is not jeered off stage. Sarah McBride, as groundbreaking as her speech was, may end up a footnote from a convention that brought a lot of firepower to the microphone. For that matter, it was another speaker that night, Khizr Khan, who will likely end up noted even more for his speech and the fallout in the wake of it. This is an okay thing. As important as McBride's speech, let it too serve as a point along a much longer path.

► Breaking Conventions

Continued from p. 14

with other transgender people, and would threaten the loss of their care to ensure it.

Once the Internet came along, all this changed. Transgender people could, at last, meet and share with each other, and even associate with non-transgender people within what we then called “cyberspace.” Nevertheless, this remained a pursuit largely behind one's closed doors. The nascent transgender community was small in visible number and in spirit, and the notion of being out and visible was extremely uncommon.

The cost of being out in any sort of public sense was simply too high for most. The notion of being out and in politics then was something largely in the realm of pure fantasy.

A lot has changed in twenty years. Now, I can turn on my television and see a transwoman proudly speaking at the Democratic National Convention. I can be proud for her, I can be proud for me, and I can be proud for my community.

It has been an amazing ride getting to this point. From those early days of backroom meetings, to the work of radical groups like TS Menace and more politically cautious groups like NCTE, to the time we live in now, past the so-called “tipping point” of transgender people in popular culture. We now live in a time when an out transwoman can take the stage at a national convention – and be broadcast around the country – and discover that she is not jeered off stage.

McBride, as groundbreaking as her speech was, may end up a footnote from a convention that brought a lot of firepower to the microphone. For that matter, it was another speaker that night, Khizr Khan, who will likely end up noted even more for his speech and the fallout in the wake of it. This is an okay thing.

As important as McBride's speech, let it too serve as a point along a much longer path.

At the Democratic National Convention, in addition to McBride, were a total of 27 out transgender delegates. This is, as you could imagine, the highest number of trans delegates ever at a political convention.

Among those delegates, Marisa Richmond was the official timekeeper for the convention. Richmond is the first transgender woman to be appointed to a local government board in her home state of Tennessee.

Next time the Democratic National Convention rolls around, we may see more transgender delegates. We may see another transgender woman filling Richmond's shoes. We may even see more speakers like McBride.

Yet, at some point, we're going to go beyond being merely delegates, timekeepers, and speakers. Eventually we will be there because of the political offices we have gained in our home districts, serving in local and state positions. Yes, we may eventually see us in congress, or vying for the Presidency itself.

There were transgender people for centuries before me. We began to flourish in the first half of the 20th century, leading to Christine Jorgensen pushing the A-Bomb off the front of newspapers nationwide. We continued to grow, taking a mere twenty years to go from that nascent community hidden in bars and hotels to addressing one of the biggest political events in the country.

What can we accomplish in the next twenty? What might the rest of this century hold for the transgender community? We've not only grown, but we shall continue to grow.

Gwen Smith hopes to see the day. You'll find her at www.gwensmith.com.

Creep of the Week

Scott Lively

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Full disclosure: I did not watch the Republican National Convention. I just don't hate myself enough. But I have watched clips online. And my belief that Donald Trump is a brainless sociopath has only been strengthened.

The RNC this year was a clusterfuck battle over who could come across as the most



Scott Lively

paranoid and hateful. But one speaker stood out for a different reason: Peter Thiel, the first openly gay man to address the RNC. Oh,

he's also the billionaire cofounder of PayPal. So, totally average American gay.

He claimed that the economy and the government were broken and that Donald Trump could fix those things. Never mind that the income inequality he cited and the gridlock in our government can largely be attributed to Republican-supported policies and Republican obstructionism.

He also said he didn't agree with every plank in his party's platform – which makes sense since the platform literally says that he shouldn't exist and if he insists on being a homo he shouldn't have any rights.

And after dismissing the “bathroom wars” as a distraction he 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.”

And guess what? He got a standing ovation! From so many white people!

And Scott Lively, professional homophobe, is SO PISSED!

“It was with disappointment but not surprise that I read the news about the standing ovation that openly homosexual Silicon Valley billionaire Peter Thiel received at the Republican national convention,” he wrote in a July 28 blog post. “There's a serious problem of moral compromise on the homosexual issue in the GOP and we need to face it for what it is.”

First of all I'd like to point out that he says he “read the news,” which means even he didn't watch the convention. It was a terrible shit show for all!

He then writes, and I am not making this up, “Ronald Reagan was not a perfect man.”

WHAT? Isn't that considered blasphemy in conservative circles? But don't worry, he goes on to praise the shit out of Reagan for being the godfather of conservatism.

Lively claims that the force of Reagan's

anti-gayness laid the groundwork for decades of an anti-LGBT GOP. And that things are changing and that change is BAD.

“Ronald Reagan would never have allowed Peter Thiel to use the GOP stage to legitimize homosexuality,” Lively writes, “nor would the populist conservatives of the Reagan Revolution have ever applauded it.”

If only Lively could reanimate Reagan's corpse so that they could link arms and shout, “Down with the gays!”

“Reagan knew that true conservatism is absolutely incompatible with the ‘gay’ agenda. The two are as contradictory in principle and practice as marital fidelity and adultery,” Lively writes.

In other words, you can't be gay and conservative. You have to pick. Never mind

The “cancer of sexual degeneracy,” huh? If that sounds extreme, remember that this is coming from the same man who claims that Nazis were gays and that's why they were so vicious. He's also praised the horrific anti-gay laws in Russia and had a hand in creating Uganda's “kill the gays” bill.

that there are some gay people who are voting for Trump and consider themselves conservatives. Mind you, I don't agree with them and think that Trump is a very bad choice, but I don't deny that they exist.

“Like the truth of the Bible, true conservatism doesn't ‘change with the times.’ If it abandons its ... resolve to protect civilization from the cancer of sexual degeneracy, then it loses all moral authority,” he writes.

Woah. The “cancer of sexual degeneracy,” huh? If that sounds extreme, remember that this is coming from the same man who claims that Nazis were gays and that's why they were so vicious. He's also praised the horrific anti-gay laws in Russia and had a hand in creating Uganda's “kill the gays” bill. In other words: he's the total package when it comes to moral authority.

Something tells me that despite the RNC recognizing Thiel's existence, Lively will still find it in his oh-so-moral heart to vote for Trump.

Leader in Adolescent Sexual Health Honored for Helping Build GSAs

BY BTL STAFF

The Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health, the statewide leaders on adolescent sexual health, was honored at the 2016 Lake Effect Pride event for their work in building Gay Straight Alliances.

On July 29 MOASH received the Communities That Care Award by the OutCenter of Benton Harbor for the work with the federally-funded Building a Movement for Michigan Gay Straight Alliances program in the region.

GSAs are youth organizations that provide safe space for LGBTQ young people and improve school climate for all students.

“MOASH is so pleased our work to make schools safer for LGBTQ youth is making a difference. We thank the OutCenter and Lake Effect Pride for recognizing our efforts and for the significant work they are doing in the Benton Harbor area,” said Shelly Hoffman, MOASH Executive Director. Alex Cicalese, the west side GSA Organizational Development Specialist who collaborates with the OutCenter’s Teen Pride group said, “I have been consistently impressed with the zeal and passion displayed by the dedicated OutCenter staff and the teen executive board. They are truly a group focused on education, development, youth leadership and improving the climate for LGBTQ youth beyond the safe spaces in their building and into the schools and communities where these youth spend a majority of their time.”

According to the OutCenter’s website, the organization “sets aside a night like most LGBT+ communities do across the country to honor the spark that lit the fire for LGBT+ equality.” The Lake Effect Pride celebration “...calls the LGBT+ community and our allies together every year to remember and to rekindle the move forward.” The purpose of the event is to honor, educate, and celebrate.

Through the BMM GSAs project, MOASH has connected with more than 30 GSAs in Michigan - with over a third of those on the west side of the state - including those in the Benton Harbor area.

According to GLSEN’s 2013 Climate Report, Michigan LGBTQ youth report being victimized, excluded, as well as sexually, verbally, and physically harassed at dramatically higher rates than youth who do not identify as LGBTQ.

“Experts in the field know that the presence of a GSA in a school can reduce incidences of bullying and improve health outcomes for all students,” MOASH’s Board President, SooJi Min said. “Our work, building the number and capacity of GSAs across the state, will have a significant impact.”

BMM GSAs is funded by the Mobilization for Health: National Prevention Partnership Awards from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health.

The award is an important acknowledgment of the collaborative work being done to support the social, mental, physical, and emotional health of LGBTQ youth, and all youth, statewide.

Keeping the Closet Door Closed 20 Years Later

Sports reporter’s murder brought the Lansing LGBTQ community together and helped push through a comprehensive human rights ordinance

BY TODD HEYWOOD

The name Bob Gross has meaning in the greater Lansing community. For some it was his stellar career as a high school sports reporter for the Lansing State Journal. For the LGBT community it is his violent death that calls us to remember his name.

Gross was the victim of a brutal anti-gay murder in June of 1996. He met Robert Durfee at a local bar in Lansing. The two went back to Gross’ downtown apartment, where Durfee strangled and repeatedly stabbed Gross. He then doused Gross’ body with gasoline and set it on fire.

Durfee would claim he witnessed the murder, but did not participate – despite detectives finding blood on his clothing. He claimed, according to a 1997 Associated Press story, that two men he had arranged to have sex with Gross had committed the murder.

Prosecutors charged Durfee with first degree murder and argued that he had killed the sports writer because he was gay. Durfee was convicted.

The anti-gay motive was revealed during a preliminary hearing in Lansing’s 54-A District Court only days after the murder. But the LSJ, then as now, didn’t report that fact. In truth the anti-gay bias of his murder was not fully reported by the LSJ until months later, the day the trial was slated to start in Ingham County Circuit Court.

Gross’ murder brought the Lansing LGBTQ community together and helped push through a comprehensive human rights ordinance.

But if you, like many of LSJ’s readers did this morning, read about Gross’ induction into the Greater Lansing Area Sports Hall of Fame scheduled for Thursday night, you wouldn’t know any of this history.

Let’s be clear – Gross absolutely deserves the induction – the reason the LSJ wrote about him in the first place; but the deliberate glossing over the facts surrounding his murder and the continued closeting of his existence does a disservice to both his memory and to the legacy he left in Lansing. You also wouldn’t know this history from

the bio provided by the organization.

“Bob Gross - Longtime sportswriter for the Lansing State Journal.” That’s all the group writes about Gross on its website announcing the biographies of the 2016 inductees.

Bob Every, chairman of the group, said he didn’t want to “tarnish [Gross] reputation,” by acknowledging how he died. He said the group was honoring Gross’ sports writing contributions and support for prep sports. A career tragically cut short by a homophobe in a barbaric act of violence.

Don’t tell Every that, though.

“I know this,” he said when asked about the concerns that Gross’s tragic murder was being glossed over. “I am going to honor Bob Gross for what he did. I have no idea, nor can I wrap my mind around how he died. I could care less.”

LSJ’s failure to note this factual information is also a violation of basic journalistic obligations. But don’t take my word for it.

“They certainly have an obligation to report the context, otherwise the reader fills it in with whatever they think fits,” Kelly McBride, an ethicist with the Poynter Institute in Florida told me Thursday morning. Poynter is one of the nation’s top education programs for journalists.

LSJ officials did not respond to a request for comment for this editorial.

Sure I could chalk this up to institutional issues at the LSJ specifically and Gannett more generally. The writer, Brian Calloway, was not at the LSJ in 1996 and 1997 when this story was headlines. And the LSJ staff has complained – as have many of us who rely on their previous reporting – about the lack of online archival resources.

Maybe this glaring error would not be such a gaping wound if it didn’t continue a pattern that has spanned 20 years.

Cheryl VanDeKerkhove is a longtime activist in the Lansing area. When Gross was murdered, she was head of the Lansing Association for Human Rights and owner of the LGBTQ bookstore the Real World Emporium. The bookstore served as a de facto community center

in Old Town in Lansing.

She and others fought hard to get the LSJ to report the facts about Gross’ murder. We both recall a meeting with top brass from the LSJ with the LGBTQ community and their explanations as to why they had not yet reported the facts surrounding the motive of his murder.

Gross had been mostly closeted, they argued, and they wanted to respect their colleague’s privacy.

The second reason they gave activists and community members that day over lunch, was a concern about the impact of potentially prejudiced reactions from parents that a gay man had been in their children’s locker rooms. During that period, gay men – as transgender people are today – were painted as child sex predators.

It became a balancing act, she told me.

“I honestly felt that they were trying their best to be fair to the story, the LGBT community and the memory of Bob Gross,” she told me by Facebook this morning. “The extreme prejudice of the time introduced considerations that shouldn’t have had to come into play and that unnecessarily caused those interests to be at odds with one another.”

But I also know that I sat in the sweltering heat of the 54-A District Court in Lansing all those years ago and I was next to the reporter assigned to the case. When he was asked if he was going to report on the anti-gay bias motive, he said he had been told by editors not to.

But it’s 20 years later. That extreme prejudice, while still with us in relation to members of the lesbian, gay and bisexual communities, has been dampened. That vitriol is mostly reserved for the transgender community now. There is no excuse not to talk about Bob as the full, complex man he was. A brilliant sports writer, an amiable spirit, a closeted gay man brutally murdered because he was gay – all are true, and all informed the man who is to be honored this evening.

By not acknowledging these realities, his memory is being tarnished. And his brutalized, burnt corpse is being shoved into the closet of history.

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LGBT Vietnam Vet Advocates for Gun Control

Mike Felker Makes It His Life's Mission to Organize for Peace

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

During Mike Felker's appearance on the PBS series, *Veterans Coming Home*, he made it clear it's "not easy being a crazed, queer, pacifist, Vietnam vet."

And that, he said, sums up what it's been for the past 66 years.

Felker opposed the war, but he enlisted in the Navy in 1968 to avoid being drafted into the Marine infantry. As a hospital corpsman, he followed platoons out in the field on patrols and night ambushes.

All the while hiding his true self, as many other gay men in the military did, to avoid ridicule and perhaps an "undesirable" discharge from service.

Felker said he returned home from the war at the age of 20 "overwhelmed" by his memories.

The antiwar sentiment was so intense in 1970s San Francisco that revealing he was gay was easier than revealing he was a veteran. But keeping details of his duty in the closet for fear of discrimination was not an option.

Deeply affected by the patients he treated and the casualties he witnessed Felker said, "I felt like I had to take what I had been through and do something positive with it."

Felker got a job at San Francisco State University coordinating veteran's tuition benefits through the GI bill. He met other veterans interested in peace through a newsletter called "Stars and Gripes," and in 1979 they started organizing for peace.

The first time he called the gay pride parade to find out if any veteran groups would be marching, he was told "no and that half the pride committee thinks veterans should be tried as war criminals."

So Felker said he marched with a group of lesbian mothers instead.

Today, Veterans for Peace is an international organization made up of military veterans, military family members and allies. They accept veteran members from all branches of service. The organization is dedicated to building a culture of peace, exposing the true costs of war, and healing the wounds of war. Their networks are made up of more than 120 chapters across the U.S. and abroad.

Felker said he is still overwhelmed 45 years after returning home from the war. The LGBT veteran activist lives in Philadelphia with his partner, Steve, since 1990. He works as a Graduate Coordinator at the University of Pennsylvania.



Mike Felker marches in Philly Pride Parade. Inset of Felker during his military service in Vietnam. His story is part of a PBS series airing this summer, *Veterans Coming Home*.

are moving forward. On a very basic level, I hope we could have more sensible gun laws."

In response, Felker drafted an email letter, "A Vietnam Veteran's Plea for Sensible Gun Legislation," to members of Congress.

The original letter stated, "This is what happened to victims of the shootings at Newtown, Ft. Hood, Charleston, Roseburg, and now Orlando." In July, Felker said he had to update it to "This is what happened to victims of the shootings at Newtown, Ft. Hood, Charleston, Roseburg, Orlando, and now Dallas."

"How many more 'updates' will I have to make before I finish?" he said. "Despite the vigils, demonstrations, Democrat's action, Congress seems so in awe of the National Rifle Association that any progress is impossible. I feel very much at a loss."

LGBT Efforts Emerge to Take On Gun Control

A new political action committee, PRIDE Fund to End Gun Violence was organized for the purpose of raising and spending money to elect and defeat political candidates at the national level who support sensible gun reforms and LGBT equality.

Gays Against Guns, a direct action group formed post-Orlando, has already attracted hundreds of supporters in the fight for stronger gun control. The group plans to reach out to other gun control groups in an effort to form coalitions.

The Pink Pistols, which under the slogan, "Pick on Someone Your Own Caliber," urges gay people in the 31 states that allow concealed carry permits to arm themselves and learn to use firearms safely. Some opponents of this group caution against calling on LGBT people to arm themselves stressing that adding more guns into the mix cannot be part of the solution.

Veering from its normal set of priorities, the Human Rights Campaign announced that it would begin pushing for tighter control of guns. The nation's largest LGBT advocacy group agreed to support limiting access to assault weapons, expanding background checks and limiting the ability of those on terror watch lists or with a history of domestic violence to obtain guns.

Public Media Supporting Veterans

As roughly 2.5 million service members transition out of the military, readjusting to civilian life can present significant stress.

The Kindling Group and Wisconsin Public Television, in partnership with PBS Stories of Service, created *Veterans Coming Home*, a ten-part Digital-First series that aims to help veterans and communities understand the opportunities and challenges faced during the transition to civilian life and bridge the military-civilian divide.

For many veterans, the transition is filled with complicated and confusing challenges. Some feel isolated and alone. Some struggle to find or hold a job. Many say they feel like they just don't fit in. Finding and connecting with the right support and services can be overwhelming.

Throughout the spring of 2016, a team of photographers, writers and filmmakers – both veteran and civilian – provided inspiration and support to veterans, such as Felker, who have a story to tell. They crisscrossed the country, creating digital shorts, videos, and other compelling content exploring issues of service, citizenship, and veteran's lives.

Orlando

This was the sixth year Veterans for Peace has marched in the Philly Pride Parade.

"It's to let the gay community know and the veteran's community know that there is support on both sides," he said, adding that the concept of a veteran working for peace is not something many Americans can wrap their head around.

The *Veterans Coming Home* episode captures Felker and his comrades hearing the news about recent events in Orlando.

"It's hard to comprehend. I can't fathom how we can go on like we're doing," he said.

When asked how we can recover from the damage done by multiple mass shootings Felker said, "I don't know. I don't feel like we

Tony Clemente, Early Pastor of MCC Detroit, Dies at 82

BY TIM RETZLOFF

Anthony Clemente, the first formally installed minister for the Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit and a longtime substance abuse counselor in the metro area, died July 19, 2016 at his home in Ventura, Calif. His husband Allen Gary Jeroy, his life partner of more than 43 years, announced the passing in a Facebook post. Clemente had been battling leukemia for several years.



Tony Clemente

By that time, he had realized he was gay, but hoped that a life of religious devotion would subsume his sexual feelings.

He subsequently taught high school and in the early 1960s landed a job back in Michigan at Cranbrook preparatory school in Bloomfield Hills. In a 2004 Detroit Free Press article about his long relationship with Jeroy, Clemente told a reporter that he left the order in 1967 after 16 years when he could no longer reconcile his sexual orientation with a faith that rejected him.

In the early 1970s, while participating in a workshop on "Homosexuality and the Church" held in Birmingham, Clemente encountered John Kavanaugh, a friend he knew from his years with the Brothers. At the

time, Kavanaugh was a lay leader with MCC Detroit, which had been granted the status of Mission Church after its earlier beginnings as the Christian Caucus of the Detroit Gay Liberation Front.

Kavanaugh invited Clemente to join him for an MCC Detroit service. The small congregation was then meeting in the basement of the home of Joe Aubit, a local postal worker. The Rev. Robert Cullinan, a Lutheran minister, led the weekly worship. Clemente began to attend regularly. Soon thereafter, the congregation moved to Trinity United Methodist Church in Highland Park.

Given Clemente's religious training, Cullinan asked him to represent the young congregation at a world assembly of the fellowship in September 1972 at the Mother Church in Los Angeles. There, MCC founder Troy Perry informed him that the members of MCC Detroit had asked that Clemente be named as their minister. Before he left LA, he was credentialed as MCC clergy. "I went there as a parishioner and came back as a pastor," remembered Clemente in an oral history interview in 2010.

Affectionately known to congregants as Pastor Tony, Clemente headed MCC Detroit from 1972 to 1975. While pastor of MCC Detroit, he officiated in more than two dozen commitment ceremonies and led a special memorial service in Detroit to raise funds to help bury victims of a devastating arson attack on a New Orleans gay bar in 1973 that took the lives of thirty-two people.

Pastor Tony became a public voice for the Detroit gay community in local media, although he did not use his last name. He appeared on the WDET radio show "Gayly Speaking" in early 1974 to discuss gays and religion. He was also featured in the Detroit News, along with Brian McNaught, shortly after McNaught helped found Dignity/Detroit.

As a consequence of his visible leadership role with MCC Detroit, Clemente lost his day

job as a substance abuse educator and crisis center counselor for the suburb of Garden City when town officials learned that he was gay.

Because MCC Detroit was a small church, Clemente needed outside employment in order to make ends meet. Financial constraints eventually forced him to leave the helm of MCC Detroit in late 1975.

When the Rev. Nancy Wilson and the Rev. Heather Anderson were hired to replace him, Clemente chose to step away from the church to allow the new co-pastors to lead without a former pastor in the midst. Four decades later, MCC Detroit continues to hold weekly services in Ferndale.

Clemente and Jeroy met at the Town Pump, then a popular gay go-go bar, in late 1972 and began dating just as Clemente's ministry with MCC Detroit was getting underway. The two built a life together in the years that followed.

After leaving MCC Detroit, Clemente was employed as a social worker for the City of Detroit. He later opened his own clinic, offering a methadone program that served the Oakland and Macomb area and providing therapy to the local gay community.

Clemente and Jeroy moved to Ventura in 2009. They became the first same-sex couple to be legally married in their county in 2013 after the U.S. Supreme Court ruling overturning California's ban, known as Prop 8, made marriage equality legal in the state.

The Saturday before Clemente's passing, he and Jeroy were married again by their friend, Father Manny Edgar-Beltran, who came to their home to conduct the ceremony. "He wanted to get married in front of the eyes of God," Jeroy told the Ventura County Star.

In addition to Jeroy, Clemente is survived by his niece Carol DiDidia and nephews Robert DiDidia and Joseph DiDidia. Plans for services in Michigan are pending. Those wishing to do so may make a donations in memory of Anthony Clemente to an animal rescue mission of their choice.

Owners Say They'll Reopen Pulse Nightclub as Memorial

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) -} The owners of Pulse nightclub in Florida say it will reopen as a memorial to the 49 people who died there.

The announcement was posted Sunday on One Pulse Foundation's social media accounts. The foundation was set up by the nightclub's owners to "provide financial assistance to the victims" and to "contribute to the creation of a permanent memorial."

Details about when the site will reopen as a memorial haven't been released.

Gunman Omar Mateen opened fire at the gay nightclub in Orlando on June 12, killing 49 patrons and injuring 53 others. He was killed in a shootout with police.

Navy Ship Named for Late Gay Rights Leader Harvey Milk

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - The late gay rights leader Harvey Milk already has schools, streets and parks named in his honor. Soon, a U.S. Navy ship will join the list.

A Navy official said July 29 that Navy Secretary Ray Mabus notified Congress July 14 that a new fleet of replenishment oilers being built in San Diego will be named for Milk and five other civil and human rights icons.

The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because a public announcement is expected in the near future.

More than two decades before he became one of the first openly gay candidates elected to public office, Milk spent four years in the Navy, first as an enlisted man and then as an officer in San Diego.

He was serving on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors when a former political colleague assassinated him and Mayor George Moscone at City Hall in 1978.

The GLBT Historic Task Force of San Diego County and former U.S. Rep. Bob Filner wrote Mabus in 2012 to suggest Milk as a fitting subject for a ship name tribute.

The news that Mabus had granted the request first was reported July 28 by U.S. Naval Institute News.



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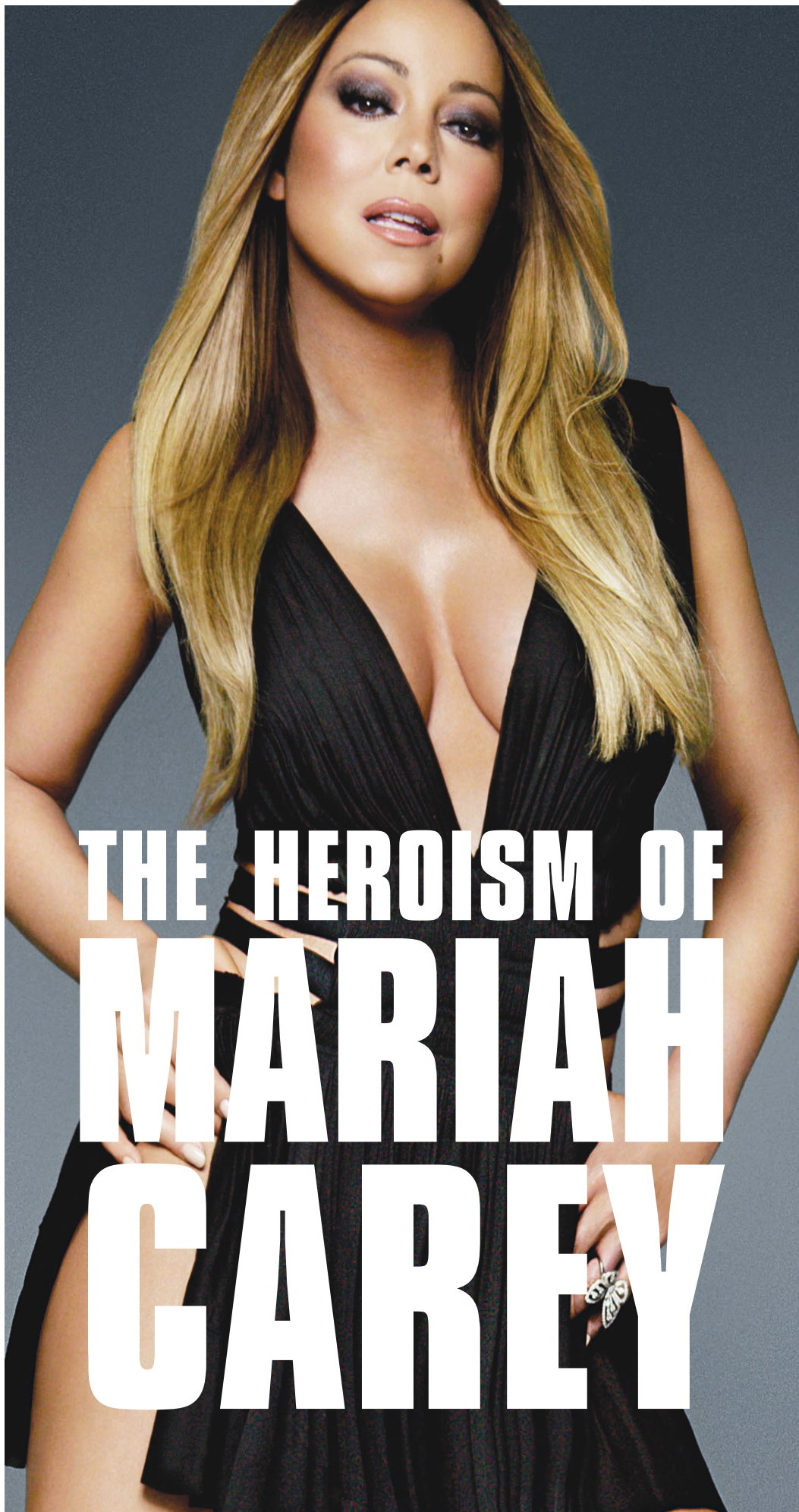
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THE HEROISM OF MARIAH CAREY

Photo: Denise Truscello

Visions of Love, Bravery and Bad Hair Through the Lens of a Longtime ‘Lamb’

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

I told my mom I interviewed Mariah Carey and she cried. “I know how much this means to you,” she said, verklempt.

She knows Mariah saved my life. I was 10 and confused and gay when I first heard her voice. It was one of those meant-to-be moments: A friend eagerly, and thankfully, played me the cassette single of “Emotions.” That voice, all seven octaves, captivated me, changed me. Years later, when I heard the curly-haired, hand-wavy songstress singing pick-me-ups like “Hero,” “Make It Happen” and “Can’t Take That Away (Mariah’s Theme),” I was lifted beyond those signature high notes.

In 1997, I was 15 and still confused, on the brink of self-discovery, without a role model. The parallel wasn’t lost on me – Mariah was coming into her authentic self, channeling the artist she never could be on the triumphant confessional “Butterfly,” a metaphorical nod to the newfound freedom she was feeling after years of professional and personal captivity. The album, which turns 20 next year, ended on a deeply intimate note with “Outside,” where she referenced the inferior feelings she harbored as a biracial child.

As a gay adolescent internalizing the “feeling there’s no one completely the same,” as the song goes, my already-strong bond to the chart-topper, the diva, the survivor – my musical salvation, my “it gets better” – was strengthened. It was more than music. It is and has always been a palpable affinity to Mariah’s courageous and encouraging life story.

The story of an emancipated 27-year-old woman asserting independence. The story of a broken-winged 31-year-old woman who, a decade into her illustrious career, hit rock bottom, entered rehab for “exhaustion” and more than made it through the rain – four years later, in 2005, “We Belong Together,” the second single off “The Emancipation of Mimi,” held the No. 1 spot on the Billboard Hot 100 for 14 weeks. For Mariah’s ever-faithful “lamb” who, too, have experienced or are still experiencing the outside, it’s her inspirational narrative they’ve clung to with undying devotion.

Nearly 25 years after first hearing her voice on cassette, my phone rings. It’s Mariah Carey, the sales-crushing icon with a whopping 18 No. 1 singles, the five-time Grammy winner, my childhood lifeline, *our* ally. As we speak, I’d be remiss not to acknowledge the roots of

our connection, so I do. We also, of course, talk about Vegas, where she’s headlining The Colosseum at Caesars Palace with her hits show, “Mariah #1 to Infinity,” now armed with more “confidence,” she says, to go on vocal “tangents.” Naturally, her lingerie collection comes up. Furthermore, Mariah elaborates on the “unconditional love” she’s experienced from the LGBT community, which she emphasized when GLAAD recently recognized her with an Ally Award for *all* the lives she’s changed. An honor she received, in part, and most admirably, by changing her own.

You can’t see me right now but I’m bowing down.

Awww! I’m bowing down right back.

I’m going to start with the GLAAD Media Awards because what a big moment for me, too, as a gay man to finally see you honored for being an ally. You acknowledged the “unconditional love” from the LGBTQ community, and it’s true: I’ve never had anything less than that for you. To be completely honest, you and your music were why I followed my dream of being a writer who one day wanted to interview you. And here we are. Anyway, Lamb 4 Life right here; not even kidding.

Oh, wow; that’s amazing! L4L! Seriously – that’s such a great thing to hear; thank you for telling me that.

What did you mean when you said you haven’t experienced much unconditional love outside of the gay community? And why do you think the gay community in particular has stuck by you through thick and thin?

What I was trying to express – and it was all so fast and it wasn’t the world’s greatest speech ’cause I just wanted to try and speak from my heart and, you know, sometimes there’s so much going on and it’s not the best representation of what I really wanted to say, which would’ve been simpler. Which is basically: Some of the songs that I have written, like I have a song called “Outside” that a lot of people from the gay community have always said they grew up listening to and were like, “That helped me come out to my family.” Different things.

And so, as a songwriter, I wrote that song about me feeling like an outsider, about being biracial and a lot of other things in my life. I like to leave it open so people can relate it to their own lives, and

a lot of my fans tell me, “This song helped me get through having to talk about being gay with my family and with my friends,” and stuff like that. There are other songs, too, because I kind of come from that place of feeling different or not accepted, and so that’s what I meant.

For me, as a teenager, “Outside” really resonated. Those lyrics – “ambiguous, without a sense of belonging to touch” – are ingrained in my head, and they had a big influence on my own life. “Looking In” as well. When were you first aware that you were kindred spirits with the gay community?

The whole thing in terms of me feeling really comfortable around all different types of people, including different races, religions, gay, straight, whatever, started as a kid. Most kids that I grew up around had never even met anyone gay, but my mom was always very theatrical and she had a lot of gay friends, so I grew up with her two best friends who were uncles before people knew what that was.



Writer Chris Azzopardi and his mother, Lori, in 2003, with his “Fanbracelet,” a collection of letters from MC fans that he collected and gave to Mariah after her Cleveland show during the “Charmbracelet World Tour.”

And yeah, they were great to me. They really treated me well as a little girl. Obviously gay marriage wasn’t, you know, like it is now – it wasn’t legal – so they weren’t married. But they lived together and they were my example of a really great couple. They stayed together for as long as I knew them, and so to me, that was just normal. I wasn’t like, “Oh, wow, this is weird; my mom’s friend is gay.”

I guess I was just always comfortable because they were kind to me, and cool. And so then when I grew up I would always naturally gravitate toward the fun gay guy in school, you know what I mean? You know! It’s just like different moments. Even a friend of mine when I was growing up, her mom was in a relationship with another woman and they lived together and the whole thing, but she didn’t know – she didn’t understand it. But because I had such an open-minded mother who explained that kind of stuff to me, I wasn’t gonna out her mother to

her. I was just like, “OK, fine.”

You’ve been a lifeline for many of your LGBT fans, including myself, because you’ve showed us that even an outsider can find his or her place. When was the first time in your life you were exactly the person you wanted to be?

Wow. The first time I can think of, and this is a great thing that actually incorporated work and fun and being free and music, was when I made the video for “Honey” (in 1997), and I went swimming in the shoes. It was just... I always wanted to have the freedom to be myself and I wasn’t in a situation where that was OK; I wasn’t allowed to because of that, uhh, first relationship (to ex-husband and then-Sony Music head Tommy Mottola). I had to overcome a lot to get through that, but that video – prior to that, I always had to settle for less than I wanted to be, and I wasn’t allowed to be who I was. And it really took a lot of courage. It wasn’t just like, “I’m gonna make a video.” It was, “I am moving on with my

life, and I have to for my own self because I’m trapped in a situation.”

I know what you’re saying – I’ve been there. I mean, I’ve not made a music video...

(Laughs) Treat the music video as “I had a great time somewhere!” But it included me doing work and making a video, which for me, that’s not really work if it’s fun. And then also just all the elements that I love: the beach, the water, the freedom, the whole narrative of the thing. But yeah, it took a while to get there.

You’re doing some of your earliest songs during your Vegas residency. How has your voice and your approach to singing these songs, some of which are over 20 years old, changed?

You know what, certain days I’m like, “Oh, this is a really good day for me; I had a lot of

See Mariah Carey, page 24



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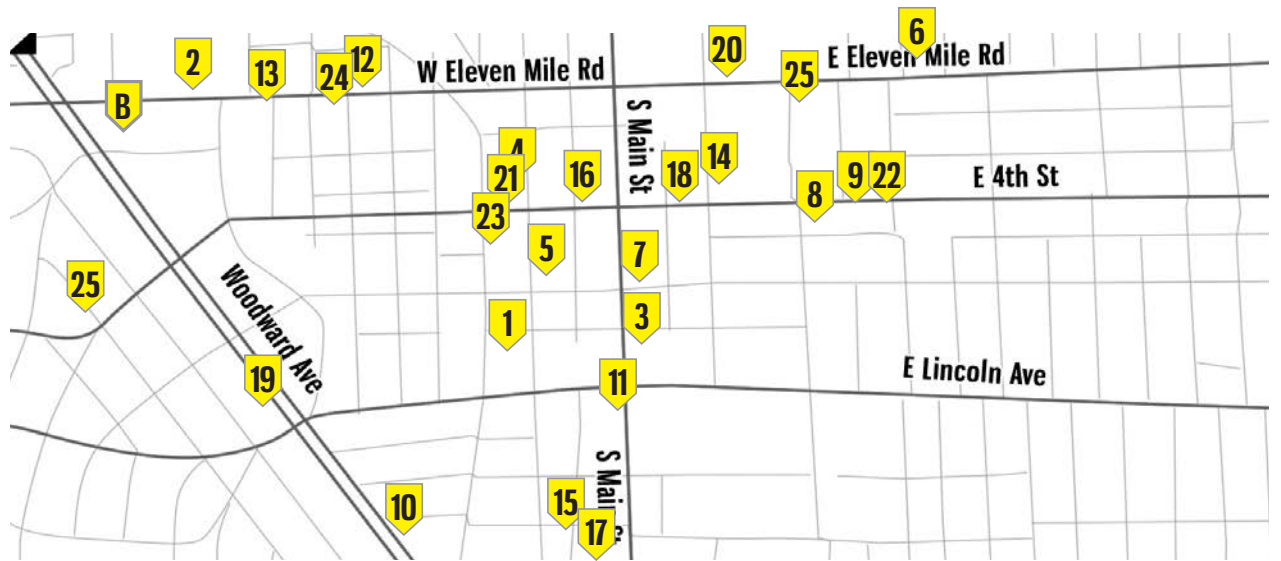
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► Mariah Carey

Continued from p. 21

vocal rest today and blah, blah, blah,” and some days for me I have to be a little bit more experimental and play around on stage because maybe it’s not as strong for that minute. Really, I just think I’ve become more confident and more experimental in a good way, if you know what I mean, in using different parts of my voice and things. I always did it, but I was more “stick to the script” and “don’t go off on a tangent.” You know, I think that people kind of like the tangents that I have! (Laughs) Singing tangents. Breaking a high heel on stage tangents; whatever the case may be.

You in your lingerie making pizza tangents – all of it.

(Laughs uproariously) It was real! That’s what I walk around in! I barely own any clothes! All I have is friggin’ lingerie.

How have you made yourself feel at home in Vegas?

I just bought a lot of lingerie! (Laughs)

What do you think 1990 Mariah would

think of 2016 Mariah?

(Ponders; tongue sputters) Ah, I don’t *knooooow!* I was such a kid, just in over my head, but I knew that I was gonna do this for my life and soooo: I probably would’ve been like, “Who does your hair and makeup?” (Laughs) ‘Cause they had me with some people who didn’t know what they were doing and I knew it wasn’t really good and I’d just be like, “Who does your lighting, hair and makeup?” is what I’d ask her.

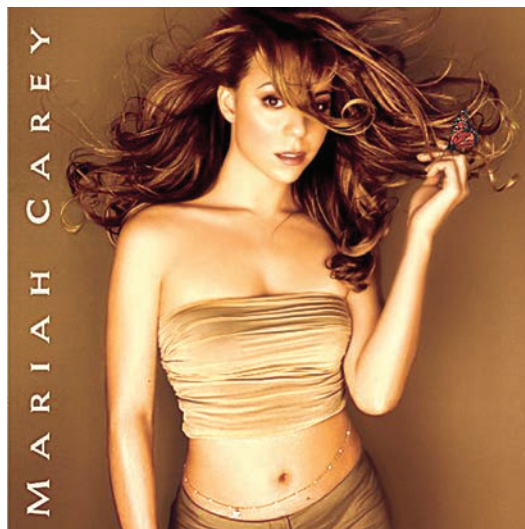
They liked to put you in a lot of black.

They *diiiiid*. It was just like, ahhh, such a long story. You don’t even wanna know.

We’ve seen a lot of greats pass away in the last several years: Prince, Whitney and David Bowie. In what ways do their untimely deaths have you reflecting on your own legacy and what you want that to be?

It’s really interesting: I loved Prince and I still do. I love his music, and I’ll always have it, and I grew up listening to Prince, ya know what I mean? I was lucky enough to get

to know him, but before I knew him I was listening to his music as an adolescent, as a kid, so his passing



Mariah says gay fans relate to songs from her “Butterfly” album.

was very... I really felt like he was one of those people who would be around for a really long time because he just was kind of ageless in a lot of ways.

But in terms of me reflecting on my legacy? I’m not at that place right now. I’m still very much doing fun, creative things that, you know, I don’t want to go into a long, drawn

out thing about, but a lot of different projects. Some movie things. I’m getting ready to go back in the studio really soon, and obviously I’m doing this residency in Vegas. It’s really fun, but I’m not trapped there. I can do other things. We just got back from the European tour, which was amazing audiences, and then we went to Africa, so it’s like, all that stuff is great.

But what do I think my legacy will be? It’s really hard for me to answer that. I just hope the fans who’ve been so supportive of me throughout my whole career will have my music and it’ll make a difference in people’s lives as you told me it did for you, which is amazing, because not everyone knows songs like “Outside” or “Looking In” or “Close My Eyes.”

“I was a wayward child”... trust me, I know those words by heart.

Trust me, I do too. “...with the weight of the world that I held deep inside.”

Is the weight lifted?

You know what – is the weight lifted?

Ahhh, I think that it’s different now. It’s just different. ... I don’t want that to be misinterpreted; I don’t want you to misinterpret that. I just mean like, in a lot of ways there are other things that are the “weight of the world” to me. Like my life now, I have other responsibilities. I was really writing that about the child version of me; I really did have the weight of the world on my shoulders as a kid, that’s how deep it felt for me.

Thanks for clarifying so nobody takes that out of context.

(Groans dramatically) I *knooooow*.

Mariah, I so deeply appreciate this moment and it means more than you’ll ever know. I hope our paths will cross again at some point soon.

I really thank you so much. I thank you for talking about the music. Really – I appreciate that. I adore you, daaahhhling!

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

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Happenings

Editor's Pick

Voulez-vous coucher avec moi?

While it's not the Moulin Rouge, the Blind Pig in Ann Arbor will open its doors to the nationally touring Luxotica Lounge Cabaret, a lush burlesque show featuring stunning striptease talent... with a twist. Enjoy a little circus and a lot of seduction, set to exotic original tunes performed live, that turns classic cabaret on its head and features the internationally touring Whirlwind with the Crimson Grin, Vivacious Miss Audacious, bump and grind bombshell Gurl Haggard of the Rocket Doll Revue, along with local guest star Gala Delicious. The swinging four-piece band is led by knife juggling, saxophone wunderkind Dr. Rocktagon.

As vibrant as your favorite technicolor tiki cocktail, Luxotica treats you to an evening of gals, games and high-energy hip swinging replete with tassel twirling, hoop dance, fire eating, acrobatics and just enough



audience participation to get you hooked.

The sassy show starts at 10 p.m. on Aug. 13. Doors open at 9:30 p.m. at 208 S. 1st St. Tickets are \$10. Peek-a-boo at www.luxoticaloungecabaret.com.

OUTINGS

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.campusmartiuspark.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.campusmartiuspark.org/events

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

An Evening with the Artist: Bruce Harkness 7 p.m. Cass Corridor Revisited, 1976-1984. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. 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

Bowling For Peace Benefit 11 a.m. Event Chairman and Author of "Writing My Wrongs," Shaka Senghor. Tickets: \$10 to include two hours of bowling and shoes. Mothers of Murdered Children, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 313-833-9700. www.majesticdetroit.com

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

Monthly Game Night 4 p.m. Details to be announced. Gay Geeks Social Group, 4636 15 Mile Rd., Apt. 106, **Sterling 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 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. lsbdanii@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@wepriedefest.com www.wepriedefest.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

Monday, Aug. 8

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

Tuesday, Aug. 9

Show Your Support for MIC Every Tuesday, Juliano's will donate 15 of the bill to MIC, just tell them you're "here for MIC." Motown Invitational Classic, 27380 VanDyke, **Warren**. www.julianosrestaurant.net

Quicken Loans Sports Zone 9 a.m. Features four outdoor basketball courts and a sand volleyball area open to the public daily. Quicken Loans, 662 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. www.campusmartiuspark.org/events

Naked Men's Yoga 6:30 p.m. Naked Men's Yoga, **Ann Arbor**. message4@aol.com http://groups.yahoo.com/group/michigan_naked_mens_clothing_optional_yoga

Wednesday, Aug. 10

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

Thursday, Aug. 11

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>

Saturday, Aug. 13

Transgender Pride in the Park 12 p.m. All Trans-people and Allies Welcome. Free food, free fun, great friends. Transgender Michigan, Pinecrest Ave & Earl Blvd., **Ferndale**. 855-345-TGMI. info@transgendermichigan.org www.transgendermichigan.org/events/pride.html

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, Aug. 14

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

Say I Do! LGBT Wedding Expo 1 p.m. Say I Do! Wedding Expo celebrates six years. Tickets: \$15-\$45. Use the code SAYIDO16 for \$5 off your ticket price. Pink Dot Concepts & Eclectic Fete, 2015 Massachusetts Ave. NW, **Washington**. 2025056026. sayido@eclecticfete.com www.sayidoexpo.com

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/

Miss Michigan Gay Pride Pageant 8 p.m. Kyle Allen Clark and Delicious Jackson are bringing back Miss Michigan Gay Pride after six years. Join us as we crown a new Miss Michigan Gay Pride. The reigning title

holder, Jamie Ashby, will join host Karma Vuitton. 18 and over welcome. Cover is \$5. Dan Henry Distributing, 1247 Center St., Lansing. 517-371-3221. info@spiraldancebar.com www.spiraldancebar.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 "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

The Detroit Improv Festival "The Detroit Improv Festival" Headlined by Paul F. Tompkins, the 313, Mama's Boy, and more than 50 improv troupes from across the U.S. and Canada. Tickets: \$5-\$25. Visit the festival website for a complete workshop schedule also. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. Aug. 10 - Aug. 13. www.detroitimprovfestival.org

The Detroit Improv Festival "The Detroit Improv Festival" Headlined by Paul F. Tompkins, the 313, Mama's Boy, and more than 50 improv troupes from across the U.S. and Canada. Tickets: \$5-\$25. Visit the festival website for a complete workshop schedule also. The Boll Family YMCA, 1401 Broadway St., Detroit. Aug. 10 - Aug. 10. www.detroitimprovfestival.org

Concerts

AEG Live "Todrick Hall Presents: Straight Outta Oz" Tickets: \$25-\$100. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 7 p.m. Aug. 10. 248-399-2980. www.royaloakmusictheatre.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

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

Majestic Cafe "Broncho with Billy Changer" Double Vanity Tour 2016. Tickets: \$12. Majestic Cafe, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Aug. 10. 313-833-9700. www.majesticdetroit.com

Olympia Entertainment "Shawn Mendes" Tickets: \$40. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 10. 313-471-6611. www.olympiaentertainment.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" Pre-Show with The Detroit School of Rock and Pop Music followed by the Killer Flamigos. Center Street between Third and Fourth Streets, Center Street, Royal Oak. 6 p.m. Aug. 4. 2482463201. 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 "John Berry" Tickets: \$25. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 6. 734-761-1800. www.theark.org

The Ark "Elizabeth Cook with Derek Hoke" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 5. 734-761-1800. www.theark.org

The Ark "The Paperboys" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 4. 734-761-1800. www.theark.org

The Ark with Ann Arbor's 107one "Owen Danoff with Ken Yates" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 7. 734-761-1800. www.theark.org

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

Dance

Motor City Tap Festival "Motor City Tap Festival" Four days of masterclasses with leading tap artists in the industry, the Motor City Soles all-star faculty show, young choreographers competition and tap jam. Wayne State University, Old Main Building, Detroit. Aug. 10 - Aug. 13. 917-687-4811. www.motorcitytapfest.com

Film & Video

Detroit Institute of Arts "NUTS!" Recounts the unbelievable but "sort-of-true" story of John Romulus Brinkley, a Kansas doctor who in 1917 claimed that he discovered a cure for impotence by using one of the most surprising surgical procedures of all time. Detroit Film Theatre, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. July 29 - Aug. 7. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

Other

Blind Pig "Brutally Honest Storytelling Open Mic" Shannon Cason, The Moth, RISK!, Snap Judgement, Homemade Stories. Tickets: \$7-\$10. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. Aug. 8. 734-996-8555. www.blindpigmusic.com

THEATER

Civic/Community Theater

A2CT auditions for Othello Ann Arbor Civic Theatre announces auditions for Shakespeare's timeless tragedy, Othello, directed by David Widmayer. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, A2CT Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 7 - Aug. 8. 734-971-2228. www.a2ct.org/audition

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

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

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

, Royal Oak. Through Aug. 7. www.shakespeareroyaloak.com

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

Professional

Ernie - The Play Tickets: \$20-\$25. Olympia Entertainment, City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Through 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. Through Aug. 14. 734-394-5300. www.MichiganShakespeareFestival.com

ART 'N' AROUND

Ann Arbor Art Center "Basics of Colored Pencils" The four-day workshop is an introduction to using colored pencils. Learn a variety of techniques such as layering, hatching and cross-hatching, burnishing and embossing techniques. No experience is necessary. Ages 18 and up are welcome. The fee for this class is \$140. Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 8 - Aug. 11. 734-994-8004. https://apm.activecommunities.com/annarborartcenter/Activity_Search/881

Cranbrook Academy of Art "John Glick: A Legacy in Clay" More than 200 pieces representing all phases of Glick's work, from the early vessels and tableware dating to Glick's time as a student at Cranbrook, to his conceptual ceramic sculptures from the last decades will be on display. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. June 18 - Nov. 30. 877-462-7262. www.cranbrook.edu

Detroit Institute of Arts "Guest of Honor: Gallery of the Louvre" Part of a national tour organized by the Terra Foundation for American Art. The exhibition is free with museum admission and free for residents of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb county. Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. July 8 - Sep. 18. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "The Open Road: Photography and the American Road Trip" Tickets: \$12.50 for adults, \$8 for seniors, and \$6 for youth. Catch the conversation about the exhibition's themes with photographer Justine Kurland, DIA curator of photography Nancy Barr, and exhibition curator Denise Wolff on Thursday, June 16 at 7:30 p.m. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 17 - Sep. 11. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

Integrity Shows "Belle Isle Art Fair" First annual event features 100 juried artists near the James Scott Fountain. Belle Isle Park, Casino Way near the intersection of Grand Blvd. and Jefferson, Detroit. Aug. 6 - Aug. 7. 313-821-9844.

Lawrence Street Gallery "Shel Markel's Solo Show" Shel Markel's artworks are representational but not necessarily realistic. His subjects range from still life, horses, horse racing, and figurative. Line and shape are the principal formal elements and the mediums are one or more of acrylics, gouache, charcoal, inks, and graphite on canvas or paper. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave, Ferndale. Aug. 3 - Aug. 27. 2485440394. www.lawrencestreetgallery.com



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- Saturdays** Turn It \aut\ Club Night with DJ Kevin 10:00pm - 2:00am - No Cover

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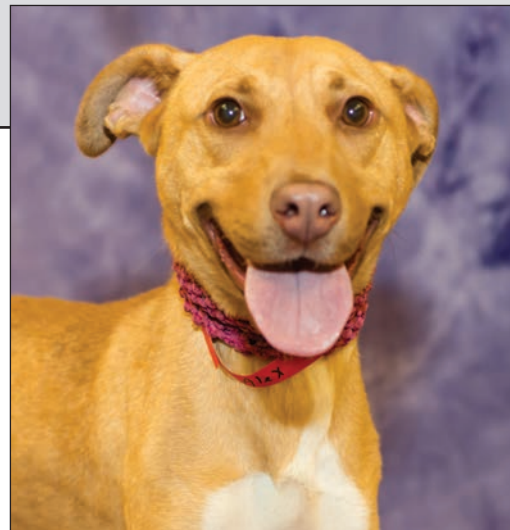
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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Latifah is taking a 'Girls Trip'

If we have one complaint about Queen Latifah's career, it's that everything she does isn't "Set It Off." Not only is it our favorite film featuring her, it's our favorite her: a butch, badass, bank-robbing lesbian. It was a cinematic middle finger to the media construction of '90s "lesbian chic," and if she had chosen never to act again after that movie, we'd revere her swagger for all of film history. And for the Queen's upcoming comedy, "Girls Trip," director Malcolm D. Lee ("Barbershop: The Next Cut," and cousin to Spike) will reunite her with "Set It Off" co-star Jada Pinkett Smith, as well as the hilarious Regina Hall ("Think Like a Man Too"). The plot is a big secret at the moment, and it's not due to hit theaters until summer of 2017, but we're ready for this team-up right now. Note to filmmakers: If the ladies rob a bank or two along the way, we will not complain one bit.



'Southwest of Salem' will make you really angry

You've probably heard of the West Memphis Three, the young men convicted of murdering children in Arkansas in the mid '90s. Their agonizing tale of injustice, one that included bizarre accusations of devil worship, was the subject of more than one documentary film and, ultimately, it brought them the exoneration they sought for so long. Well, now meet the San Antonio Four, four lesbians of color accused of raping two young girls, the case against them based on unreliable testimony, elements of hetero male revenge, racism, "Satanic panic," and the usual homophobia and misogyny. Filmmaker Deborah S. Esquenazi has been following the story and produced the documentary "Southwest of Salem: The Story of The San Antonio Four," and it's been on the film festival circuit for a while, with a theatrical release due in New York and Los Angeles in September. With enough exposure, it could turn into the next "Making a Murderer," and possibly result in the justice they've been denied.

'Rebel In The Rye' catches Salinger's life

Actor Danny Strong might not be a person you know by name unless you're an obsessive "Gilmore Girls" or "Buffy The Vampire Slayer" fan (and come on, aren't you?). In any case, you might know his name from his other career as a successful screenwriter ("The Butler") and for having co-created "Empire" with Lee Daniels. And he has a new project in the works: "Rebel in The Rye," a biopic about the life of reclusive author of "Catcher in The Rye," J.D. Salinger. Strong will direct from his own adaptation of the book, "J.D. Salinger: A Life," by Kenneth Slawenski. The period film will focus on Salinger's rise to fame and subsequent withdrawal from public life, and will star Nicholas Hoult as the author. Supporting cast includes out actors Sarah Paulson and Victor Garber, alongside Kevin Spacey, Zoey Deutch and Hope Davis, and it's all due to hit movie theaters sometime in 2017. If we had to guess we'd say the autumn, which is sweater weather, and therefore the most appropriately preppy time of year to see a film about Salinger.

You're already invited to 'The Office Christmas Party'

Dear Christmas Movie Season, We know you're on the way, even sooner than we think. The year is already more than half over, after all. But we've already decided which holiday-themed film we plan to see when the November onslaught hits: "The Office Christmas Party." It's not because of the premise, which involves a big office party to woo a big client, a client that will save the company from ruin. And it's not because of the filmmakers, Josh Gordon and Will Speck, who were responsible for the very funny "Blades of Glory," but also the not quite funny "The Switch." We are there, we are so there, because of Kate McKinnon. She's been our favorite funny person for a while now, thanks to "SNL," but now the moviegoing population knows that, as the MVP of "Ghostbusters," she can work wonders on the big screen. There are other people in "Office Christmas Party," of course: Jennifer Aniston, Olivia Munn, Jason Bateman, T.J. Miller, Jamie Chung, Randall Park and Rob Corddry, and we like them, too. But all we want for Christmas is Kate, so thank you in advance for this answered wish list item.

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A graphic illustration of the Statue of Liberty in yellow and black, holding a rainbow heart in her right hand. The background is blue with a white border.

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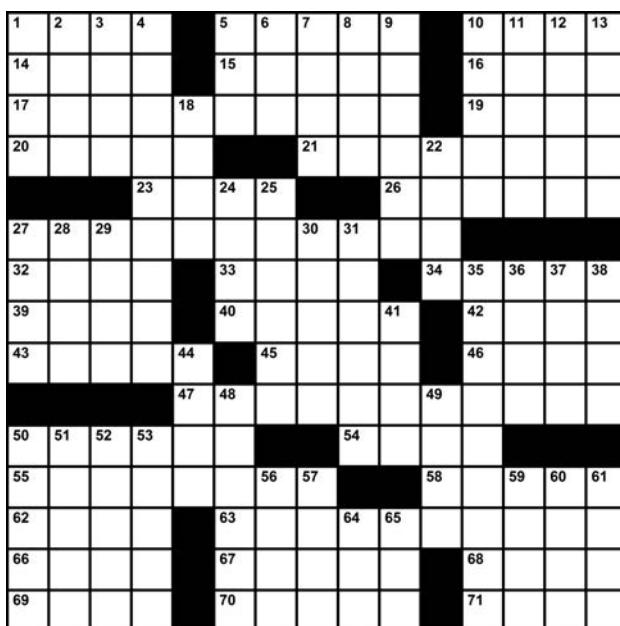
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Q Puzzle



Is Being Gay in Your Genes

Across

- 1 Straight, to mixologists
- 5 Lindsay of "Liz & Dick"
- 10 Cut
- 14 Composer Thomas
- 15 Commandment word about coveting thy neighbor's ass
- 16 Whom Lincoln showed malice toward, in a speech
- 17 Enterprise helmsman

- 19 Cho, who plays 17-Across as a gay character
- 20 Screw-up
- 21 Really sucked
- 23 Invitation to a top?
- 26 Cake parts
- 27 Portrayer of 17-Across on TV and in movies
- 32 Melissa Etheridge's "___ It Heavy"
- 33 Complexion affliction
- 34 Paul of "Hollywood Squares"
- 39 Fruits did this in the orchard
- 40 What the smithy did to a stallion
- 42 On the calm side

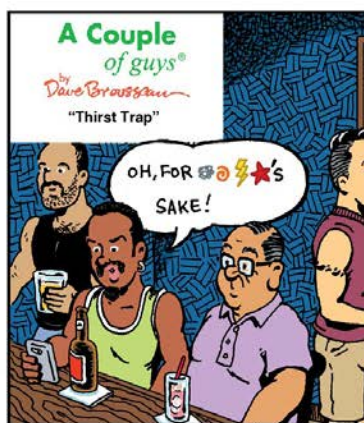
- 43 Greek fabulist
- 45 Cinder suffix
- 46 News columnist Lisa
- 47 Gene, who created the character of 17-Across
- 50 Bewitch
- 54 Cole Porter's "Let's ___"
- 55 3-D Disney movie of 2000
- 58 Cicely of _Fried Green Tomatoes_
- 62 With 63-Across, movie with 17-Across as a gay character
- 63 See 62-Across
- 66 Toledo's lake
- 67 James Baldwin work
- 68 Movie dog
- 69 "L," in box scores
- 70 Debussy contemporary Erik
- 71 Someone who's kind of queer

Down

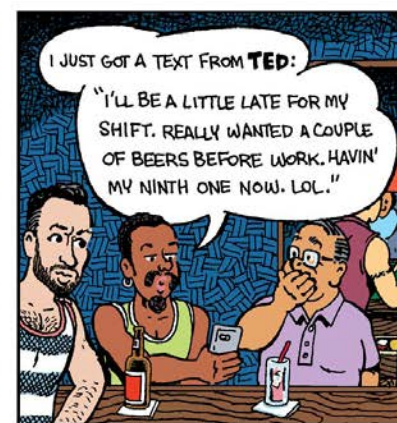
- 1 Slangy refusals
- 2 "Dancing With the Stars" cohost Andrews
- 3 "Diana" singer
- 4 "No, No, Nanette" song
- 5 SEC powerhouse
- 6 Understanding comments
- 7 Dwelling, to the von Trapps
- 8 Weight loss product
- 9 Set with an unknown number of members
- 10 "Have a ball!"
- 11 Lorna of literature
- 12 "___ Shoes" (Toni Collette movie)
- 13 Sees to

- 18 Made a "clang, clang, clang" sound
- 22 Word with Mary
- 24 Angry in., for example
- 25 Emulated Paul Cadmus
- 27 "Do What U Want" Lady
- 28 Land of Emma Donoghue
- 29 They're straight on the Kinsey Scale
- 30 "I'm ___ Cowhand"
- 31 Passed out, with "over"
- 35 "Happy Talk," perhaps
- 36 Glenn Burke, formerly
- 37 Bambi, e.g.
- 38 Start of a counting rhyme
- 41 Paul of "Little Miss Sunshine"
- 44 Sheryl Swoopes and Michael Sam
- 48 Uses a gifted tongue
- 49 Word before "my shorts"
- 50 Ford lemon that was not fruitful
- 51 Big bang cause, briefly
- 52 Lover of Henry and June
- 53 Social customs
- 56 Bear that may be a minor
- 57 Silence for Saint-Saens
- 59 "I've had better..."
- 60 "I'm ___ your tricks!"
- 61 Minn. neighbor
- 64 Word after "Cobra" in "The Karate Kid"
- 65 Tournament exemption for Mauresmo

Find solution to this puzzle at
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