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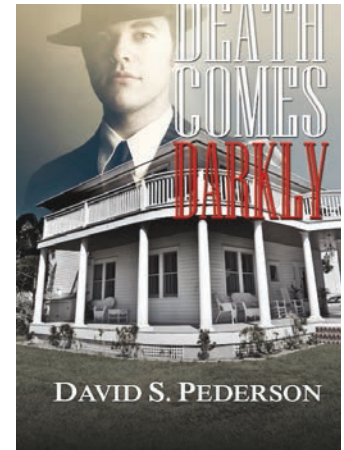
OUTFEST



Over the weekend thousands visit Ann Arbor's annual OutFest

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Author David Pederson will be reading from his debut mystery thriller

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PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP

20222 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone 734.293.7200

PUBLISHERS

Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

MEMBER OF

Michigan Press Association
National Gay Media Association
National Gay & Lesbian Chamber
Q Syndicate



EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief

Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 12
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

Entertainment Editor

Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200 x 24
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

Assistant Editor

Shelby Clark Petkus, shelby@pridesource.com

Calendar Editor

Kate Opalewski, kate@pridesource.com

Staff Writer

AJ Trager, ajtrager@pridesource.com

CREATIVE

Webmaster & MIS Director

Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

Contributing Writers

Charles Alexander, Michelle E. Brown,
Emell Derra Adolphus, Todd Heywood,
Jason Michael, Kate Opalewski,
Gwendolyn Ann Smith, Amy Lynn Smith,
Christopher J. Treacy

Cartoonists

Paul Berg, Dave Brousseau

Contributing Photographers

Andrew Potter
Alexander Godin

ADVERTISING & SALES

Director of Sales

Jan Stevenson, 734.293.7200 x 22
jan@pridesource.com

Sales Representatives

Ann Cox, 734.293.7200 x 13
anncox@pridesource.com

Donelle Kremke, 734.293.7200 x 16
donelle@pridesource.com

National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

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NEWS

Pugh Update: Case Moves Forward; Defense Request to Lower Bail Granted

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

DETROIT – Judge Deborah Langston from the 36th District Court had some harsh words to say about former Detroit City Council President and Fox 2 news anchor Charles Pugh at his preliminary hearing last Thursday. “It appears to me that Mr. Pugh is a gay pedophile,” Langston said as she bound the case over for trial. “And I don’t care that he’s gay. That’s his business. I am concerned about children.”

Langston added that the now 27-year-old accuser “became his unofficial gopher and sex slave.”

The accuser, who has not been identified because he is an alleged victim of a sex crime, testified for more than an hour in graphic detail about his relationship with Pugh. In testimony similar to that given by Khody Sanford, the accuser in Pugh’s civil trial who eventually won a \$250,000 settlement against him, the new accuser said his sexual relationship first began in 2003 when Pugh put his hand on his thigh. The accuser was at the time only 14.

“He looked at me lovingly,” the accuser recalled. “He looked at me like he was in awe or he was just really, really infatuated.”

Things escalated when the accuser was invited over to Pugh’s apartment to help put together a desk. While there, the accuser claimed that Pugh put on a video depicting a man masturbating. As the accuser, who testified he already knew he was gay, became aroused, Pugh allegedly asked him if he wanted to do something about his erection. The accuser then began masturbating and Pugh eventually joined in. From there, the relationship escalated to Pugh performing oral sex on the teen and more, the accuser testified.

In all, Pugh is charged with six counts of criminal sexual conduct – three first degree charges and two second degree. A sixth charge was dropped when Pugh’s defense attorney, Delphia Burton, proved that the alleged incident took place when the accuser was 16, the legal age of consent in Michigan.

Burton charged that Pugh’s accuser is making the claims against Pugh because he’s ultimately hoping to be awarded money in a civil suit.

“He’s hoping to get a payday and that’s what this is all about,” Burton said.

The accuser said that simply was not true, and claimed for years he thought he was the only one Pugh had done this to. He came forward last year, he said, after learning about Sanford and hearing Pugh dismiss those charges against him.

“He said, ‘this is all a lie and the city of Detroit knows that this never happened,’” the accuser recalled. “That really upset me. ... You’re running away to a different state. I’m not going to let you do this to any other kids.”

Pugh’s next court appearance will be Aug. 12 when he is to be officially arraigned. If convicted, Pugh faces up to 15 years in prison for the third degree charges and life behind bars for the first.

One thing did go Pugh’s way at the hearing: his bond was reduced from \$500,000 cash or surety to \$150,000 cash. If he makes bail, Pugh would have to surrender his driver’s license and passport, wear a tether and stay away from young men under the age of 16.

At press time, Pugh remained jailed.

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Autopsy: Pulse Gunman Hit by Eight Bullets in Police Shootout

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) - The gunman who killed 49 patrons at a gay nightclub in Orlando was hit by at least eight bullets as he died in a shootout with a SWAT team, according to an autopsy report released Friday.

Omar Mateen’s autopsy showed he was hit by bullets to his head, neck, chest, abdomen, calf and foot.

“In consideration of the circumstances surrounding his death, and after examination of the body and toxicology analysis, it is my opinion that the death of Omar Mir Seddique Mateen, a 29-year-old white male, shot by law enforcement, is the result of multiple gunshot wounds,” Dr. Joshua Stephany, the chief medical examiner, wrote in his report a day after the June 12 massacre at the Pulse nightclub.

No drugs or alcohol were found in his body, but his urine had levels – higher than typically

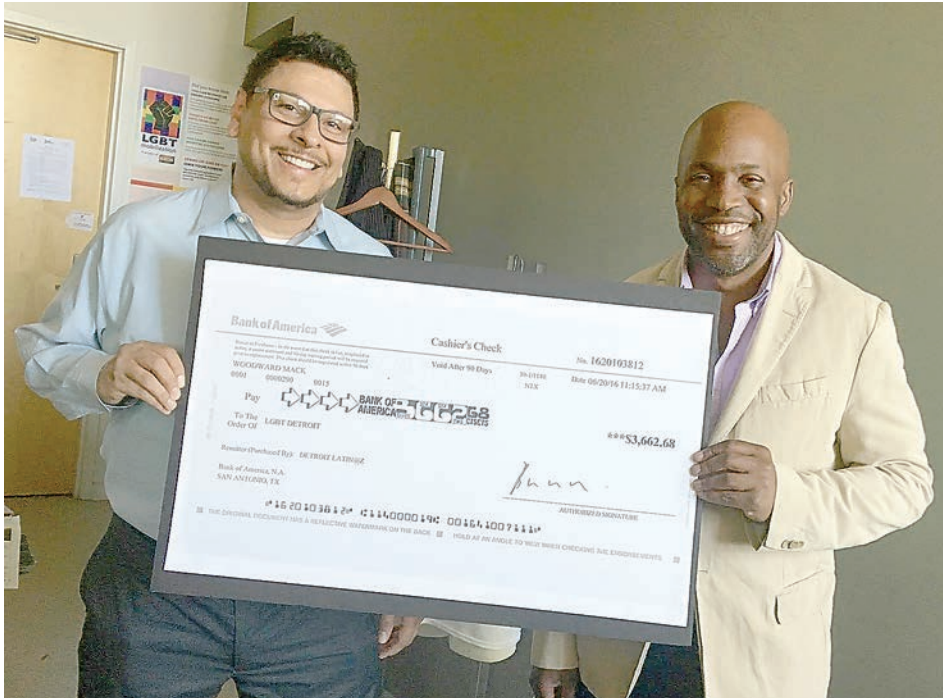
found in a healthy person – of a compound often associated with consuming a dietary supplement used for bodybuilding.

The report also said his testosterone range was normal.

The Orlando medical examiner’s office also released reports on more than two dozen of the victims and said more autopsy reports would be released next week.

Mateen opened fire at the nightclub near downtown Orlando in a rampage that killed 49 people and left 53 hospitalized. Mateen pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group during a call with police dispatchers during a three-hour standoff. He died in a hail of gunfire after police breached a wall in the venue.

The autopsy report showed Mateen had three bullet wounds to his foot, two wounds to his chest and a wound each to his scalp, abdomen and right calf.



Former board chair of Detroit Latin@z Tony O'Rourke-Quintana presents Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of LGBT Detroit with a donation to facilitate LGBT Latino/a programming in Detroit.

LGBT Detroit Receives Donation to Benefit LGBT Latinos/as

BY BTL STAFF

The only LGBT organization in Michigan for and by Latinos/as disbanded in 2013. But former members of the Detroit Latin@z group have agreed to distribute their residual funds to LGBT Detroit.

“Our intent is to provide physical and emotional well-being to our movement within Spanish-speaking communities,” said LGBT Detroit Executive Director Curtis Lipscomb. “Education, advocacy and capacity will be a priority with this generous gift. We are grateful.”

This is common practice for a dissolving 501(c)(3) to distribute any leftover funds according to the provision set in its charter upon forming the organization.

“Detroit Latin@z strongly supports the mission, vision and goals of LGBT Detroit, and as such, is donating \$3,662 to the agency

to continue LGBTQ Latino/a programming in and around Detroit,” former board chair of Detroit Latin@z Tony O'Rourke-Quintana said.

The funds, he said, were raised through organizing and outreach efforts - primarily small donations - as well as via The Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan's HOPE Fund.

“LGBT Detroit has committed to ensure that the funds will be used to provide programming directly to the LGBTQ Latino/a population in the city, and we'll hopefully see a new project for this underserved community in the near future.”

LGBT Detroit is a Michigan nonprofit organization serving the African American LGBT population of Detroit, and nearby communities. For more information about the agency, visit www.lgbtdetroit.org.

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U.S. Attorney General Launches Justice Forum Series with First Stop in Detroit

Loretta Lynch Assures the Justice System Exists for LGBT People Too

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

The “frayed trust” between law enforcement and the community is getting the attention it demands from the nation’s leaders. This includes U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch who attributes this disconnect, in part, to “recent tragedies over the last several weeks that struck a chord with so many people.”

In an effort to improve relations between citizens and police, Lynch traveled to Detroit in search of solutions within the community, where she said answers can be found.

Her two-day visit began at an annual National Night Out event on Aug. 2 at Fitzpatrick Play Field in Detroit to encourage neighborhood camaraderie. Lynch was joined by U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan Barbara McQuade, Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan and Detroit Police Chief James Craig with Detroit’s 6th and 8th precincts.

Lynch continued more formal conversations in Wayne State University’s McGregor Memorial Conference Center on Aug. 3 during the first in a scheduled series of nationwide Justice Forums on police-community relations.

“As painful as the discussion has been, it has allowed us to get to the point where we can now realize the depth of the issues and the depth of the grief,” Lynch said to members of law enforcement, officials, community leaders, clergy and citizens.

The goal, she said, is to bring people together, to critically examine the issues, and to open up new channels for dialogue and exchanges of ideas.

Talks began in August 2014 amid protests following Michael Brown’s fatal shooting in Ferguson, Missouri. In response to public outcry, President Obama established the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing in December 2014 to identify best practices and promote effective policing while building public trust.

Since then, Lynch has toured several police departments nationwide to see which cities had strong ties to the community, and which didn’t, before the findings of the 21st Century Policing report were released in May 2015.

Department of Justice spokesman Kevin Lewis told The Detroit News that by coming to Detroit, Lynch wants to find out what police have learned, and what recommendations



Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan Barbara McQuade, U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch, and Detroit Police Chief James Craig address community policing concerns during the first Justice Forum Series on Aug. 3 at Wayne State University’s McGregor Memorial Conference Center.

they have moving forward to continue those relationships with the community.

In this next phase – as the number of deadly police shootings in the U.S. continues to rise – Lynch is asking authorities to offer solutions that “we can lift up, implement and carry to other jurisdictions, so that we can actually begin to make a difference.”

LGBT and Police

Equality Michigan’s Executive Director Stephanie White said the relationship between the LGBT community and law enforcement is an “evolving” one.

White reiterates that annual Pride events arose from violence, particularly police brutality against the LGBT community.

Now, she said, “instead of being one of such conflict, it’s a celebration of solidarity. There is still a great deal of work to be done,

particularly for transgender women of color who have multiple identities that intersect in sometimes tragic ways in society.”

White drew attention to the elevated rates of violence and murder against transgender women of color.

2016 has already seen at least 16 transgender people – 13 of the victims were transgender women of color – fatally shot, stabbed and killed by other violent means, according to data compiled by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs.

“In many police departments, their lives are not seen as equal to other lives, crimes against them are not deemed to be important enough to be investigated fully. We absolutely believe in building relationships that they’ll trust. But in some police departments, we get push back,” she said.

White suggests having more mandatory cultural competency that not only deals with

race, but also sexual orientation and gender identity.

“We would love help reaching out to departments who have put up walls against that,” she said. “There are many departments who are great and say sure, come on in, we’ll be happy to talk, but many say no, they don’t need it. One of the solutions I would like to see is a better recognition of the full humanity of transgender women of color.”

Lynch acknowledged the many voices being raised in the LGBT, African American and other minority communities during her afternoon press briefing on Aug. 3 at the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Michigan in Detroit.

For any group in this country that feels disenfranchised or disaffected, Lynch said she will make sure they are “seen and heard,

See next page

DPD Holds LGBT Community Chat

BY AJ TRAGER

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For any group in this country that feels disenfranchised or disaffected, Lynch said she will make sure they are "seen and heard, and the justice system exists for them also."

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At the practical level, she noted that people often hurt before that happens.

"We understand that very much and we often come in after there's been some harm or after there's been an issue raised and what I always say is that while I cannot essentially guarantee the absence of prejudice, I can guarantee the presence of justice," she said. "This administration on down wants very much to make sure that groups have a voice at the local level."

Lynch urged marginalized groups to seek out local organizations such as Advocates and Leaders for Police and Community Trust, Michigan Alliance against Hate Crimes, Building Respect in Diverse Groups to Enhance Sensitivity – better known as BRIDGES – and Detroit One to raise concerns and make them known.

"In the wake of incidents that we've experienced so recently that are all still of fresh in all of our minds, it can indeed be easy to lose sight of the way forward and can also be easy to think that there's nothing that we can do," Lynch said, noting that these are examples of organizations that are addressing deeper issues and coming up with concrete, tangible solutions that can be implemented and sustained.

"This is an ongoing conversation, and people in Detroit have laid a great foundation for us," she said. "Everyone wants to be seen; everyone wants to be understood; everyone wants to be recognized as somebody who can contribute. That's why I'm here."

DETROIT – Metro Detroit community members and the Detroit Police Department met Aug. 3 in Palmer Park for the 2nd Annual LGBT Community Chat "Breaking Down Barriers," facilitated by DPD LGBT Liaison Dani Woods.

More than 100 passionate attendees gathered for a discussion with high-ranking officials in the DPD, to discuss the current climate between the LGBT community and the DPD, and how the two can better support each other moving forward.

Last year's inaugural event was significantly more heated, following multiple homicides of transgender and gender non-conforming Detroiters. Woods works directly between the two communities to ensure that LGBT people in Detroit are more comfortable coming to law enforcement in the event of danger or as a victim of a hate crime, but she has faced significant challenges.

Affirmations Program Services Director and DPD LGBT Advisory Board member Lilianna Angel Reyes reflected some of the challenges. "One year ago I was here. Like my sister Julisa, I was on the panel but I had no affiliation with any police ever. I'm still a little nervous about police officers, but the really great thing a year later is that not only myself, but Affirmations, has been able to work with the DPD."

Last year's event motivated DPD Chief James Craig to create the board made up of members of the community and advocates. This is to ensure concerns are heard by the police department. The board has developed ways to better the relationship between the LGBT community and law enforcement. Woods chairs the board which, a year later, consists of many LGBT community members including panelists Rhiannon Chester, community advocate; Reyes; and Trans Outreach Coordinator for Fair Michigan Justice Project Julisa Abad.

The board is tasked with more than just "fight crimes and having people talk about crimes," Reyes said. They are also responsible for community outreach. Reyes said she believes it is extremely important to have an "out" police officer on the force so that LGBT youth, especially, feel comfortable going to the DPD for help.

Reyes and Chester agreed the board is a successful result of last year's conversation.

"I really appreciate the intentionality of the DPD to hear us. I think that the first way that we heal from the things that happen to us or the traumas that we have in regards to our relationship with the police, is to start with a conversation. So last year we started with a conversation very much like this one and we're back to continue that conversation,"



The 2nd Annual LGBT Community Chat took place in Palmer Park Aug. 3. LGBT Liaison to the Detroit Police Department, Dani Woods, addresses the crowd of over 100 attendees. BTL Photo: AJ Trager

“I really appreciate the intentionality of the DPD to hear us. I think that the first way that we heal from the things that happen to us or the traumas that we have in regards to our relationship with the police is to start with a conversation. So last year we started with a conversation very much like this one and we're back to continue that conversation.”

– Rhiannon Chester, community advocate.

Chester said.

Cynthia Pittman traveled from Puerto Rico to attend the event. Her mother, Susan Pittman and her mother's partner, Christine Puckett, were both murdered in their Huron Township home by their neighbor in 1992. Both women, whom Pittman is writing a memoir about, were active members of the LGBT community. The Pittman-Puckett Art Gallery was named in their honor by Affirmations, for which the couple served on the board of directors

together.

"When they contacted the police about being threatened, the police said that something had to be done first before they could respond. So the neighbor came over to the yard..." Pittmann said recounting her mother's last day. Shortly after that phone call, the neighbor violently murdered both women.

"Is there a better way to handle this now? What's in place?" she asked the panel.

"Times have surely changed," Woods said. "We take even threats to the highest degree of sincerity. We don't count anyone short."

Many studies confirm that members of the LGBT community are more likely than their heterosexual counterparts to be victimized because of their identity and are less likely to report an incident to the police.

Detroit Police 1st Assistant Chief LaShina Stair said that the DPD is committed to providing the safest environment for all residents in Detroit, especially the LGBT community, but said that they can't do it alone. She stressed a need for a collaborative effort.

Director of Law and Policy at the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, attorney Daniel Levy, agreed with Stair and said that in order to provide protections or litigation for LGBT Detroiters, they first need to speak up and come to the police for help. He said that the MDCR wants to try cases of hate crimes against the LGBT community, but that MDCR "can't make those cases come to us. We can't bring those cases to us."

How Hot is It? Detroit Black Gay Pride Struggles in its Third Decade

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

In its heyday, Hotter Than July – Detroit Black Gay Pride – offered a jam packed week full of action and events. There were parades and marches, poetry nights, authors’ events, women’s events, a jazz bash and more parties than you could count. Today, the staples of the week – the candlelight vigil, conference and the picnic in Palmer Park – are still intact. But attendance is down and HTJ, one of the oldest black gay prides in the country, appears to have lost some of its prestige.

A Bit of History

The first HTJ took place in 1996. Community leaders decided to take existing events – the Men of Color Motivational Group annual picnic and the Billionaire Boys’ Club anniversary celebrations – and build a week of events around them. The concept caught on quickly. DBG Pride became the parent group for the week and turnout grew rapidly in the early years.

Johnny Jenkins was the first president of DBG Pride. He helmed HTJ for eight years until Hank Millbourne took over in 2004. HTJ initially continued to thrive under Millbourne’s leadership. But by the end of his tenure in 2010 there was dissension among the ranks. Millbourne left amid disagreements with other members of the board and Robert Clark won in an upset and became the new president of the organization, which by now had undergone a name change from DBG Pride to the Black Pride Society.

Clark was a controversial leader and health concerns caused him to step down after only a year. Kimberly Jones was elected to replace him and she struggled from a lack of support from a board that was largely inactive and had difficulty coming to agreement. HTJ, Jones stressed, was still making money at this point. But she was tired and felt it was time for HTJ to go in a new direction.

“It was up in the air for me whether I was going to give it to KICK (now LGBT Detroit) or Affirmations,” Jones said. “I decided it needed to stay with one of its founders so I met with Curtis (Lipscomb, executive director of KICK). Our conversation didn’t go that well so I went on and did year 16. For year 16, I didn’t get any help from any of the guys. ... After a year of not having any support within the organization, I just went ahead and gave it to Kick.”

A New Era of Black, Gay Pride

The first HTJ produced by KICK took place in 2012. But under the agency’s leadership, the



HTJ File photo 2010.

calendar of events gradually got much thinner and attendance declined. In 2013, about 80 people attended the Wednesday night boat cruise on the Detroit River. In 2014, only about 50 attended. The Thursday night film festival drew a crowd of almost 100 in 2013. Attendance in 2014 was less than half that.

“It’s obvious that since LGBT Detroit has become the primary overseer of HTJ a number of folks have chosen to step back,” said Cornelius Wilson, former executive director for Men of Color and longtime member of the HTJ planning committee. “Why, I don’t know. But I’ve had that conversation with some of my committee members and there are individuals in the community who have approached me and said the same.”

Alvina Bursey, who spent a couple of years on the HTJ planning committee before stepping down, said it’s undeniable HTJ is in decline.

“It’s dramatically changed,” she said. “The momentum for it is no longer there. Years ago when I first started going, it was what everyone was talking about. Now, people don’t even know about it. I don’t know if there’s nothing to really bring people in or if people are just not drawn to it.”

For his part, Lipscomb feels it’s not his agency that’s the problem, but rather the cost of events that turn certain people off.

“This is our take on that,” Lipscomb explained. “We noticed that when there was a paid event attendance was low. But when there was a free event attendance was very high. That’s us listening to the movement. The movement said they were interested in having no barriers. So this year there was only one event that was a paid event.”

The highlight of the week, the picnic

in Palmer Park, was free as always. But attendance was still down. An estimated 400-500 people came out throughout the course of the day. In its peak, thousands came out each year.

Admittedly, it sprinkled throughout the day and Lipscomb said that the rain kept people away.

“It seems to always rain on the day of the picnic,” he said. “It rained early for a long period of time. So some people, some vendors, made the decision to leave. At the end of the picnic there’s always this younger presence. Everyone loved the mini-ball. But I do know that the rain made a big impact on people deciding not to come out.”

Disorganization Among Organizers

Weather conditions and admission fees aside, it’s clear that HTJ is going through a critical period. Attendance at planning committee meetings, which take place at LGBT Detroit’s offices, is minimal and averages less than 10 people – mostly comprised of LGBT Detroit staff and volunteers.

“I have wondered over the years why folks who were key with doing the film festival, some folks who were working with the picnic and did the children’s corner, I wondered, why didn’t they come back?” said Wilson. “What’s going on or what happened that they didn’t come back to the table? Even certain staff members who have left LGBT Detroit ... once they left they completely disassociated, as far as I can tell anyway. It’s like, what’s going on?”

Corporate sponsorship is also at an all-time

low.

“Corporate sponsorship is a mainstay in developing prides,” said Lipscomb. “Unfortunately, LGBT Detroit, which manages HTJ, has to compete with other non-profits, many with more capacity for corporate support. Yes, there was corporate support but it was low. But that did not hinder our ability to listen to the people and to provide events for Hotter Than July.”

It did make the task more difficult though. Wilson, who is in charge of planning the annual conference, said he had no budget for the event at all.

“This is the first year that I did not have any funding,” Wilson said. “Usually, we get a grant from the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. This year I had no backing from nobody.” To subsidize costs, Wilson brought in AARP to do a presentation in exchange for them providing a free continental breakfast. He did the same for Gilead for lunch.

For his part, David Nelson, who organizes the picnic, did so on a shoestring budget.

“I’ve heard people say they want more ‘mega pride,’” he said. “I guess that means they want celebrities and big parties and stuff like that. That’s why I tried to raise extra money for the picnic. I raised about \$2,000 but that’s not enough for a mega pride. But me and my team have talked about doing fundraisers from October to June so we can have some extra income to do things for the picnic.”

Jones said that the group of young leaders organizing HTJ today are lacking a historical perspective.

“I know that Curtis has a team organizing HTJ,” she said. “But his team never had experience organizing HTJ when we organized on a grand scale.”

If people are not pleased with the condition HTJ is in, Lipscomb said there is only one thing to do: join the planning committee and have an active voice in the shaping of events.

“If people hear this plea maybe they’ll come and join us,” he said. “To come in June, that’s just useless. So join us starting in September when planning begins and say ‘I want to join the committee and I want to be an effective player.’”

“I think bigger and better is always great,” Lipscomb continued. “I think with additional resources – financial and human – those things can occur. But if it’s a challenge to have people at the planning committee join to make something bigger and better that makes the actual manifestation of it difficult. But it could be bigger and better. It could always be bigger and better.”

Planning for next year’s HTJ will start in September. Watch Between The Lines for details.

U.S. Supreme Court Issues Stay in Pro-Trans Decision

Disappointment Expressed, Hope 4th Circuit Will Prevail

BY LISA KEEN

LGBT legal activists were surprised and disappointed last week when two of the U.S. Supreme Court's most reliably pro-LGBT justices joined with conservatives on the bench to stay on a significant lower court decision that said federal law prohibits discrimination based on gender identity.

The case involves a Virginia student, Gavin Grimm, who seeks the right to use restrooms at his public high school that correspond to his gender identity. The 4th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals said the Title IX prohibition of discrimination "on the basis of sex" in schools includes discrimination based on the gender with which a student identifies.

On Aug. 3, in a 5 to 3 vote, the Supreme Court granted a preliminary injunction that blocks the 4th Circuit decision from taking effect until the court decides either to review the decision itself or votes to leave the decision in place.

Agreeing to the stay were Justice Anthony Kennedy, who has authored several landmark decisions that have secured important rights for LGBT people, and Justice Stephen Breyer, who has voted with Kennedy on those decisions and others that have benefited LGBT people. The three conservatives voting for the stay were Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Clarence Thomas and Sam Alito.

Next the court must decide whether to review the 4th Circuit decision on its merits. That vote (called granting a petition of cert) could happen this fall and requires only four justices to agree.

While five justices agreed to the stay, that does not guarantee the same five justices will vote to review the case. Kennedy made no comment concerning his vote, but Breyer attached a statement to the Aug. 3 order, saying his vote was a "courtesy" that would simply "preserve the status quo."

The statement implied the court being in recess prompted his courtesy, but he also indicated that he knew four justices had already voted to grant the stay so he knew his vote was the necessary fifth vote to grant the stay.

But a number of court observers, including Jon Davidson of Lambda Legal, point out that Breyer's brief statement made reference to his dissent in a death penalty case.

"Such 'courtesy' votes are fairly common in death penalty cases," noted Center for American Progress fellow Ian Millhiser in a ThinkProgress.com essay. They "prevent a situation where the Court announces that it will hear a capital case, only to have that case become moot after the inmate at issue in that case is executed...."

However, Gavin Grimm starts his senior year of high school Aug. 31. The school district does not have to file its petition to the Supreme Court, for review of the 4th Circuit decision, until Aug. 29. During the several months it takes for other briefs to be filed and the justices to discuss whether to take the case, Grimm will be barred from using the boys' restroom. (The school district has designated three "unisex" restrooms for use by Grimm and any other student. Grimm says this stigmatizes him and undermines his effort to transition to and be accepted as male.)

If the justices refuse the school district's petition for review, the 4th Circuit decision will go into effect and Grimm will be free to use the boys' restroom. If the Supreme Court decides to review the 4th Circuit decision, it will not likely be able to rule on the case until the end of Grimm's senior year.

Grimm is a senior this fall at Gloucester High School in the rural Virginia county of Gloucester. He's 17 years old and, though physically female since birth, he has, since age 6, felt that he's a male.

A psychologist diagnosed Grimm with gender dysphoria, a condition in which a person strongly identifies as a gender different from his or her physical gender attributes. His parents helped him change his name, secure treatment to enable him to transition to a male identity, and sought help from school officials. School officials were helpful until parents of some other students began to complain about Grimm's being allowed to use the boys' restrooms. Then, the school board adopted a policy requiring that transgender students use "an alternative appropriate private facility."

With the help of the ACLU, Lambda Legal, the National Center for Lesbian Rights and others, Grimm filed suit. A federal district court dismissed his case, but the 4th Circuit reversed that dismissal and sent the case back to district court, urging it to issue a decision on the merits of Grimm's Title IX argument as quickly as possible.

Now, Gloucester has won a stay of that directive and has until Aug. 29 to ask for the Supreme Court review of the lower court decisions.

Add to this one other twist: There's a possibility that, if the court agrees to hear the case, a court vacancy left by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia, will be filled in time to hear arguments in the case. That likelihood is deeply complicated by the current Republican Senate blockade against all Obama judicial nominees and the status of a

Notable Aug. 2 Michigan Primary Results



State Representative in District 50, Tim Sneller

BY AJ TRAGER

LGBT candidate for the Democratic nomination for State Representative in District 50, Tim Sneller, has won the primary election. The district covers Grand Blanc, Burton and Mundy Township.

Sneller, 60, received 4,537 or 68 percent of the Democratic vote in his district beating Democratic candidate Raymond Freiburger.

"Thank you so much for everyone who voted yesterday! I couldn't be more proud of everyone's efforts. Let's keep running until we reach Lansing!" Sneller wrote on his Facebook page following the Aug. 2 results.

Sneller has worked as a legislative staffer in the Michigan legislature for more than 30 years. As an openly gay man, Sneller never imagined that he would have a chance to win in the Democratic primary, let alone have a chance to represent in the state House.

If Sneller wins in the general election, he will join Rep. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield), and Rep. Jon Hoadley (D-Kalamazoo), as the third openly gay state representative.

Two other LGBT candidates who were hoping to be nominated the Democratic candidate in their respective races were defeated Aug. 2.

Brian Stone, candidate for District 15 representing Dearborn Heights and Dearborn, received 29 percent of the vote in his district with 2,717 votes. Stone, former Huffington Post contributor, is an LGBT Arab-American. He was defeated by 27-year-old Abdullah Hammoud. Hammoud received a master's degree from the University of Michigan and is the son of immigrant parents.

Jeff Chicoine ran against three other Democratic candidates in the state's 14th District representing Wynadotte, Riverview, Melvindale and Lincoln Park. Chicoine worked for former Rep.

John Dingell (D-Mich.) and his wife Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-Dearborn).

Chicoine received 28 percent of the vote with 1,282 votes cast in his favor. He was defeated by Cara Clemente who received 53 percent of the vote.

First openly-gay mayor of Ferndale Craig Covey ran unopposed for the Democratic nomination for Oakland County sheriff. He will run against Republican candidate Michael J. Bouchard in the November election.

County Clerks

In 2014, when marriage equality was available for less than 24 hours in Michigan, four county clerks opened their doors and happily wed 323 same-sex couples. All four clerks easily won their primary elections.

Democratic incumbent for Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum ran unopposed. Democratic incumbent for Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown received 81 percent of the vote with 55,475 votes in her favor. Lawrence Kestenbaum, Democratic incumbent for Washtenaw County Clerk ran unopposed and had 28,407 votes cast in his favor. Nancy Waters, Democratic incumbent for Muskegon County Clerk also ran uncontested.

Casperson

Anti-LGBT State Senator for the 38th District Tom Casperson, was defeated in the 1st Congressional District's Republican primary by political newcomer Jack Bergman, a retired Marine General.

Casperson authored an anti-LGBT bill that would limit access for transgender youth in public schools. The bill came as a response to the Michigan Department of Education's draft guidance document "Safe and Supportive Learning Environments for LGBT and Questioning Students," which, if approved by the board, would provide Michigan schools with optional suggestions on how to further support LGBT youth. The bill was introduced into the Government Operations Committee and has yet to receive a hearing.

Casperson received 26,320 votes for 34 percent of the vote. Bergman received 38 percent of the vote. Casperson received 26,320 votes for 34 percent of the vote. Bergman received 38 percent of the vote.

See U.S. Supreme Court page 14

Five Michiganders among Most Amazing HIV Positive People of 2016

BY BTL STAFF

Five Michiganders are among HIV Plus Magazine's "Most Amazing People Living with HIV in 2016." Among the honorees are Brian KillsCrow of the Grand Rapids area, Patricia Clark of the Kalamazoo area, Bre' Ann Campbell and Ari Hampton of the Detroit area and Todd Heywood of the Lansing area.

The honorees are among 75 U.S. residents selected by editors of the magazine for their work for those affected and infected by HIV.

Clark works at CARES in Kalamazoo as the team leader in that organizations care management. She's also co-chair of Michigan's chapter of the Positive Women's Network. Diane Anderson-Minshall, editor of the magazine said she was nominated by five people for the honor.

"They all said she really fought for clients and went above and beyond to keep HIV in the public sphere, doing TV and conferences and presentations and just overall advocating for other people living with HIV," Anderson-Minshall told BTL in an email. "That's the best form of activism, when you're pushing to help other people who maybe aren't as lucky as you are to have weathered coming out poz in a small town."

KillsCrow is a Lakota activist engaged in the Red Project of Grand Rapids. He's working to address sexuality, substance abuse and other barriers contributing to HIV transmissions among native Americans, Anderson-Minshall said.

"To have someone like Bryan out there putting a face to what is a silent epidemic for Natives is really incredible," she wrote.

Anderson-Minshall said Campbell's story of the creation of Trans Sistas of Color Project in metro Detroit was moving. Campbell moved in with family, and used her savings for surgery to fund her program.

"As the wife of a trans person, I know how tough that must have been to give up the money you'd

scraped together to make your body and mind congruent to the world and then use it instead to help other people," Anderson-Minshall wrote. "And she kept going, even after initial failures. (She also started out her activism as an HIV activist, long before she was poz herself)."

Hampton took a painful start in the world – homeless, relying on survival sex, becoming HIV-positive – and turned it into a powerful testament to healing.

"He really amazed me this year but shedding a light on mental health issues for people living with HIV, because there's such stigma against mental illness in the African-American community," she said of Hampton. "We talk about mental health so abstractly sometimes that it's just startlingly honest when someone says, 'I struggle with depression.' Ari is also one of those activists who as soon as he came out poz, he started working with other young men on HIV prevention for the Horizons Project."

Heywood is a contributor to *Between The Lines*. He also presents HIV prevention lectures around the state on a regular basis.

"He talked about barebacking (in a homophobic college environment, that's a no-no topic for gay men), about HIV exceptionalism, bullying, and transphobia, and then, when the time came, he chronicled his out assault," Anderson-Minshall said. "It's a brave act to admit you were assaulted, tied up, robbed of your HIV meds; and even braver to admit to the world it happened because you invited a sexual exchange with guys you met on Craigslist. As journalists and LGBT activists we're trained to be "model" citizens so even admitting you arranged a non-conventional hookup is difficult, but to admit to an assault and it's aftermath is pure soul baring and really inspiring. We need Todd's brand of truth out there."

The September/October issue of the magazine hits newsstands later this month.

North Carolina's Religious Objection Law in Court

BY GARY D. ROBERTSON

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Roughly five percent of North Carolina's magistrates are refusing to marry same-sex couples for religious reasons, and lawyers for the state say people suing in federal court have no standing to challenge these opt-outs as unconstitutional.

U.S. District Judge Max Cogburn scheduled a hearing for Monday in Asheville in part to consider a motion by the state to dismiss their lawsuit altogether.

Separately, Republican legislative leaders and some magistrates also want to be added as defendants, saying they don't trust Democratic Attorney General Roy Cooper to defend the state law.

Three couples – two lesbian and one heterosexual – say taxpayer dollars are being spent to implement the 2015 opt-out law that treats them as second-class citizens and favors one set of religious views over another.

"It allows judicial officers to opt out of upholding the constitution," said Jake Sussman, one of their attorneys. "We don't believe that the law appropriately balanced issues of religious liberty and these constitutional obligations."

Now that Mississippi's broad religious-objection law is blocked in court, North Carolina and Utah are the only states enabling government officials to recuse themselves for

religious reasons, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

If the law is struck down, religious freedom would be harmed not only in North Carolina but nationwide, particularly now that the U.S. Supreme Court has legalized gay marriage nationally, another attorney says.

"What the United States Supreme Court did last year was a sea change," and the government officials affected have a right to be protected, said Mat Staver, founder of the Florida-based Liberty Counsel. The legal aid group is representing Alexander County Magistrate Brenda Bumgarner, who wants to enter the lawsuit.

Bumgarner is among the 31 of the state's 670 magistrates invoking the law. It exempts magistrates and certain workers in Register of Deeds offices from all marriage transactions – gay and heterosexual – for at least six months if they fill out a religious objection form. In North Carolina, Register of Deeds offices issue marriage licenses while magistrates can officiate over a civil marriage.

State lawmakers approved this opt-out procedure in June 2015 after several magistrates resigned, feeling the state court system would punish or fire them if they didn't officiate at gay marriages. While the magistrates took oaths to defend the constitution and carry out laws, some say they shouldn't have to ignore strongly-

held religious views to do so.

The law provides for a chief District Court judge or county Register of Deeds – both elected officials – to carry out marriage transactions if no one else is available. If necessary, additional workers from adjoining areas can replace those opting-out.

All the magistrates opted out in McDowell County, just east of Asheville, according to the lawsuit. One of the lesbian couples who sued lives in McDowell County but is already married.

The lawsuit doesn't allege any delays or denials of marriage licenses so far due to the recusals, but says the second lesbian couple who sued is engaged, and wishes for a magistrate to officiate in their marriage "untainted by the stigma of animus" arising from the recusals.

House Speaker Tim Moore, Senate leader Phil Berger, Bumgarner and other named magistrates argue that Cooper's public opposition to the law makes him a poor advocate to defend it. A federal magistrate judge disagreed in July, saying Cooper's office was mounting a vigorous case. Cooper is running this fall against Republican Gov. Pat McCrory, who vetoed the law but was overridden by the GOP-led legislature.

Cogburn, an appointee of President Barack Obama, was the first judge to formally strike down North Carolina's gay marriage ban in October 2014.

Uganda's Government Vows to 'Suppress' Gay Pride Activities

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) – Uganda's government said Monday it "will continue to suppress" the public activities of homosexuals and that a rehabilitation program had been developed to allow them to "lead normal lives again."

Ugandan police last week arrested about 20 people attending a gay pride event at a nightclub in the capital, Kampala. They were questioned and released hours later, although some said they had been assaulted by police officers.

Simon Lokodo, a Ugandan minister in charge of ethics and integrity, told reporters that gay pride activities are being organized "with the influence of some foreign forces" he didn't name. He also accused

gay people of trying to promote themselves.

Homosexuality is criminalized in Uganda, as in many African countries. A colonial-era law proscribes such sex acts "against the order of nature." Gay leaders say the LGBTI community faces discrimination, violence and extortion.

Frank Mugisha, a prominent gay rights leader in Uganda, said on Twitter that LGBTI Ugandans will continue to hold public events despite Lokodo's order.

Lokodo, a former Catholic priest who condemns homosexuality, has previously been accused of leading efforts to foil the public activities of LGBTI Ugandans.

He said a program has been developed to "rehabilitate members of the LGBT community, with the ultimate aim of giving them a chance to lead normal lives again."

Many Ugandans say they despise homosexuality and believe it is imported from the West.

In 2009, a Ugandan lawmaker introduced a bill that prescribed the death penalty for some homosexual acts, saying he wanted to protect Ugandan children. The proposed bill prompted international condemnation, and a less severe version passed by lawmakers was rejected by a court as unconstitutional.

'I Am Arrested by Ugandan Police' -@FrankMugisha

BY TJ ROGERS

Last Thursday, Aug. 4, in the midst of the “Mr. and Ms. Pride” event of Pride Uganda 2016, police raided Venom nightclub and arrested at least 15 attendees, including two prominent international Ugandan LGBTI rights activists: Frank Mugisha, executive director, and Pepe Julian Onziema, program and advocacy director, of Sexual Minorities Uganda.

Those arrested were held in a local police station for several hours before being “cautioned and set free.”

In an interview with Reuters, Clare Byarugaba, a gay rights activist said, “They (Police) were dragging people, they were beating people, they were undressing people.” Further, “They were undressing especially transgender women. Apparently they wanted to find out whether they were men or women,” she said.

Initial reports said that the raid was in response to rumors that a same-sex marriage was underway,



Allida Black, Managing Director, Allenswood Group; Frank Mugisha, Executive Director, SMUG; Thomas “TJ” Rogers, Program Manager, Freedom House. Photo credit: Kate Sassak Photography.

and then the Ugandan authorities later claimed that the event was in violation of the Public Management Act because they were not notified. Ultimately, the gathering was said to be “unlawful”; and on Aug. 8, Uganda’s Minister of Ethics and

Integrity, Simon Lokodo, said the government disbanded the gathering because it’s “against Ugandan culture to be gay,” tweeted Mugisha.

Despite the fact that the infamous Anti-Homosexuality Act of 2014 was overturned by a constitutional

court on technicalities, and while SMUG and others have made notable progress, pervasive misconceptions of LGBTI individuals remain.

Following Mugisha’s 2014 visit to Detroit for the Freedom House organized event, “The Plight for Equality - A Luta Continua,” SMUG and Freedom House entered into a partnership in recognition of their mutual commitment to the respect of human rights and dignity of LGBTI individuals.

As SMUG works on the front lines to change hearts and minds, ensure protection, and enshrine equal rights in the law for LGBTI individuals in Uganda, Freedom House welcomes those who courageously live their truth and have no choice but to flee to save their lives.

Until LGBTI individuals, and indeed all individuals, are free to live and thrive in their authenticity, Freedom House will remain open and

answer any call for freedom. We will provide refuge to those “yearning to breathe free,” supporting and walking beside them as they start anew here in the United States.

To our friends at SMUG, and all others around the globe engaged in the plight for equality: we stand with you in solidarity.

Thomas “TJ” Rogers works at Freedom House Detroit and presently serves as program manager, where he is in charge of the day-to-day operations of the organization. Some of his duties include program development, case management, and assistance with fund development and event planning. Passionate about advocacy, and with five years of firsthand experience providing direct services to asylum seekers, Rogers works to generate awareness about the plight and courage of asylum seekers to increase support. He is also on the Steering Committee of LGBT Freedom and Asylum Network and a proud member of Amnesty International.

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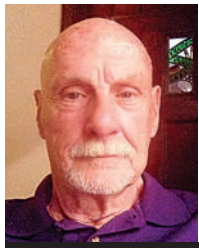
SATURDAY 9/3
 Pool **DJ Doug**
 PM **DJ Joe Gauthreaux**
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Remembering Jeff (3 of 3)

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

I've had two occasions – as an innocent bystander, I assure PG readers – to meet former Detroit mayor, Kwame Kilpatrick, now living as a rather restricted, extended-care resident in Arizona until 2041. (Reservations fully confirmed recently by SCOTUS.)

For my initial encounter I was with Triangle Foundation CEO Jeff Montgomery in 2001 when Mr. Kilpatrick, then running for mayor, dropped into Tom's Oyster Bar in downtown Detroit (now Briggs gay sports bar) with a few of his cronies, all of whom seemed to me at the time to be of questionable political acumen, a few looking suspiciously like Kwame's body guards.

Jeff, who had met Kwame several times when he was a Michigan state representative, and knew his mother, Michigan state rep Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, shook hands, and made brief intros to myself and other friends gathered that unmemorable day for de-boned fish and chips.

My first impression: Kwame's a big guy with a karate hand shake. (He's 6'5"). At 31, he would be Detroit's 68th mayor. Its youngest to date.

Jeff's comment afterward: "I just hope the Kwamster's up to the task of serving Detroit at a crucial time, given our on-going challenging financial and acute population struggles.

"At least his predecessor Mayor Dennis Archer acknowledged the Detroit gay/lesbian community, if only by awarding Triangle and me a plaque or a Spirit of Detroit recognition now and then."

My second meeting with Mayor Kilpatrick was during reelection year 2008 at – for him, at another out-of-the-way location – Hotter Than July in Palmer Park. I made my BTL columnist intro, and asked the hand-shaking, friendly mayor whom he had recently appointed as his LGBT community liaison. I was told to call his office for details.

According to Jeff, choosing to reach out to the LGBT community was an about face for Kwame. And, shortly after his election in 2001, the newly elected mayor made well-publicized TV media remarks against gay marriage, adding another time, that he would not want his twin boys to have to associate with gay people.

"It's not the first time that we've heard this position from the mayor," said Jeff. "He takes refuge in his Church of God in Christ religious cover that doesn't allow him to support gay marriage.

"Indeed, Kilpatrick's relationship with the LGBT community has always been contentious. His voting record on LGBT issues while in the state legislature was fairly good. But from the time he announced his intention to run for mayor, his contact with our community has consisted of a seesaw of anti-gay statements and partial pledges of support."

Some weeks after his stated concern for his kids, Kilpatrick was invited by Montgomery to attend a forum at the George M. Fadiga Community Pride Building. There the mayor came just short of apologizing for his anti-gay remarks but said instead that he "had no idea, as most of American society doesn't as well, the amount of pain you inflict in other people with your words."

In 2002, a slightly repentant Kilpatrick attended an Affirmations Big Bash fundraiser, and began rather hurried welcoming remarks to its LGBT crowd with a pledge of sorts. "I know I have some making up to do with this community."

"Yet he never offered an apology for his previous vitriol," Jeff said shortly after the Affirmation's event. "It's, long, long, long overdue". (Better late than never? 2041. Don't hold your breath. RIP.)

Charles@pridesource.com



Viewpoint



Michigan Supreme Court Lets Down LGBT Families, Again

BY JAY KAPLAN

The verdict is in, it seems: LGBT co-parents can have their kids unilaterally taken away from them by their former partner (the legal parent) – and the highest court in Michigan has essentially said it doesn't give a damn.

In denying to Leave to Appeal in our case, Mabry v. Mabry, a state Supreme Court majority – (and I'm going to name each and every one of them) Justices Robert Young Jr, Stephen Markman, Brian Zahra, David Viviano, and Joan Larsen – refused to consider the legal ramifications of denying LGBT co-parents the protections of equitable parenthood (which the court has conditioned on marriage) when these co-parents were unconstitutionally denied the right to marry in Michigan, while they were in relationships with their partners.

The ruling came despite an impassioned dissent by Justice Bridget McCormick (and joined by Justice Richard Bernstein) that noted that Deanna Mabry has been a parent to her three children, providing them love, support, affection and financial support.

The collateral damage caused by last week's decision is both significant and heartbreaking. As we explore the feasibility of a legislative fix or federal legal challenges, we are left with a legal principle that deliberately harms and stigmatizes children of LGBT parents who were denied the right to marry in Michigan.

The dissent aside, the Michigan Supreme Court opted instead for the end result of tearing families apart and allowing children of LGBT parents to lose their mommies at the unilateral whims of the biological parents.

The court's refusal to address the changing legal landscape brought about by the U.S. Supreme Court in the Obergefell v Hodges marriage-equality decision shows a callous disregard for the stability of LGBT families and the best interests of the children involved in these custody disputes. Once again, Michigan's Supreme Court conservative majority in its unwillingness

The court's refusal to address the changing legal landscape brought about by the U.S. Supreme Court in the Obergefell v. Hodges marriage-equality decision shows a callous disregard for the stability of LGBT families and the best interests of the children involved in these custody disputes.

► Kaplan: Supreme Court

Continued from p. 12

to consider and appreciate the diversity of Michigan's families has both harmed and let LGBT families down.

But unfortunately, this is nothing new.

This is the same Michigan Supreme Court that has held that local human-rights ordinances that protect LGBT people from discrimination are not enforceable against the cities and local governments themselves (Mack v. Detroit, 2002).

This is the same Supreme Court that held that Michigan's Marriage Amendment (later declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court) not only denied same-sex couples the right to marry, but took everything off the table for them in terms of recognition by the state – no civil unions, no domestic partnerships, not even health insurance – making Michigan's prohibition one of the broadest in the country (National Pride at Work v. Granholm, 2008).

This is the same Supreme Court that limited the doctrine of equitable-parent protections to the context of a legal marriage, making Michigan the only state with such a limitation that ignores any focus on the parent-child relationship, or the best interests of children. (Van v. Zahorik, 1999).

This is the same Supreme Court, where then Chief Justice Maura Corrigan, without any pending LGBT adoption case before the Court, ordered Washtenaw County Circuit Court Chief Judge Archie Brown to stop Washtenaw County Circuit Court from

granting second-parent adoptions to same-sex couples and he complied.

And we elect these Supreme Court justices. They are nominated by political parties (and appointed by governors), often holding the same political views of their nominating parties on LGBT rights. And yet when they are listed on the ballot, they are listed as non-partisan, allowing voters to be both misinformed and confused.

Is it any wonder that Michigan's Supreme Court, in a 2008 study conducted by the University of Chicago Law School, was ranked dead last in terms of independence from political or outside influences? Is it any wonder that a 2012 report by the bipartisan Judicial Task Force – headed by former Justice Marilyn Kelly and which included former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor – recommended changes to the way justices are elected and appointed, including providing voter guides to combat ignorance and misinformation regarding the qualifications of judicial candidates and the responsibilities that Justice have to the people of Michigan?

The collateral damage caused by last week's decision is both significant and heartbreaking. As we explore the feasibility of a legislative fix or federal legal challenges, we are left with a legal principle that deliberately harms and stigmatizes children of LGBT parents who were denied the right to marry in Michigan.

Once again, the Michigan Supreme Court has let us down.

Creep of the Week

Ben Kinchlow

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

It has come to the attention to many people, including and especially many Republicans, that Donald Trump is a Looney Tunes character come to life who



Kinchlow

would probably throw a fit and blow up the planet if, say, Vladimir Putin didn't retweet him often enough. He's a giant egomaniacal man-baby who cannot be trusted with any public office, let alone the presidency.

But he's totally going to be ready by November. I mean, he gave a speech in Detroit on Aug. 8 about the economy during which protesters disrupted him many times. And he didn't call for any of them to be carried out on a stretcher or punched in the face. What brave restraint!

Anyone who lives in Reality America knows that Trump is bad news. Even people who don't particularly like Hillary Clinton know that.

But if you live in Right-Wing America, then reality is just a pesky detail that you keep swatting away because it's annoying your otherwise terrifying nightmare version of the country.

Take former "700 Club" co-host and founder of the African American Political Awareness Coalition Ben Kinchlow, for example. He really does NOT want Clinton to be President.

And he laid it all out in an unhinged Aug. 7 World Net Daily editorial in which he reveals a very surprising theory about President Obama's election: Americans only elected him because he's black.

"It wasn't because he was the most eminently qualified individual," Kinchlow writes, "but because America wanted to prove to itself, and the world, that it was not racist – ergo they elected Barack Hussein Obama."

And since America did such a shitty job of "proving" we aren't racist, we elected him again. And somehow we've still done a really shitty job of proving we aren't racist and now he's term-limited. Thanks, Obama.

And now Americans, in our quest to show the world what a wonderful, peaceful (drone

strikes aside) people we are, are going to elect Hillary Clinton as our next President in order to finally put to bed the ridiculous notion that we are sexist.

Because that's totally how presidential elections work.

Need proof? Oh, Kinchlow's got proof. Check out these action-packed stats: "America has an extremely high percentage of voting-age college students, millennials, transsexuals, homosexuals, bisexuals and feminists," he writes. "In addition, many normal Americans want to demonstrate that they are not racists, homophobes or anti-feminist."

Woah, did he just use "extremely high"

But note his use of "normal Americans." He deems LGBT people and feminists as abnormal, which isn't surprising considering his ideology. But he also seems to be including voting-age college students and millennials as abnormal. Wut?

as a way to quantify a percentage? How high is "extremely," exactly? Well, it's higher than "really" and "very," duh. And this very specific and no doubt exhaustively researched number is apparently enough to tip the election to Clinton.

But note his use of "normal Americans." He deems LGBT people and feminists as abnormal, which isn't surprising considering his ideology. But he also seems to be including voting-age college students and millennials as abnormal. Wut?

It's interesting, too, that given his explanation, it appears that racist, homophobic, and sexist are the default settings for "normal Americans" who go out every four years and choose the President based on what moral failings they need to atone for.

Kinchlow states more than once that Clinton is unqualified, though he offers no examples of what qualifications she lacks. So my guess is she just doesn't hate gays and Muslims enough. If she wanted to nab Kinchlow's WND readers' votes, she'd need to turn up her hatred level to "extremely high." Thankfully she's running to lead Reality America, not Kinchlow's bizarre version where no one, not even him, wants to live.

COMING OUT SEPT. 1

BTL EQUALITY VOTER GUIDE

Upcoming Author Reading Introduces New 40s Gay Detective

BY KEITH ORR

I discovered Agatha Christie in the sixth grade. A friend's parents had an enormous library which included about 60 of Christie's mysteries. The books are puzzles. All of the clues are present. Often the area of the crime is finite and closed. No external shenanigans. It is clearly not the way of the real world, but it makes for intensely enjoyable reading.

David Pederson's debut novel, *Death Comes Darkly*, is a mystery in this tradition. My capsule review of the book is "Agatha Christie...if Miss Marple were a gay police detective in post-WWII Milwaukee." In this case, Miss Marple is Heath Barrington, a confident and attractive detective on the Milwaukee police force. Miss Marple did not have a sidekick, however Heath has one in the form of police officer Alan Keyes. Alan is both sidekick and lover to Heath.

When I spoke to Pederson, he told me he loved the capsule review, though said, "Yes, I am a big Agatha Christie fan. While the homage was not necessarily deliberate, her writing certainly had an influence on me."

Just to the south and west of Milwaukee lies Lake Geneva, a resort community. In the 1940s it was a playground for the wealthy of Chicago and Milwaukee. The lake was lined with cottages which would be described as mansions by the rest of humanity. Heath Barrington is inexplicably invited for a weekend at one such estate, the summer home of eccentric millionaire Dexter S. Darkly. It is accessible only by a steamer ferry.

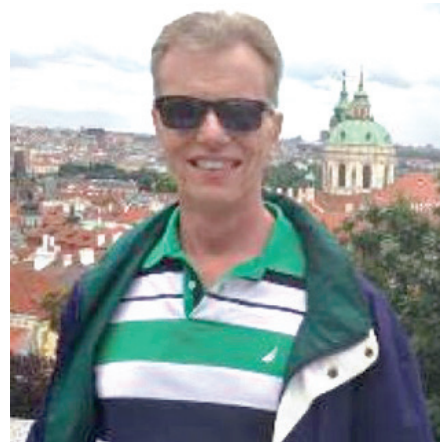
Other invitees include a cast of characters, each of whom would have some motive for killing Darkly, including Darkly's estranged family, the (unacknowledged) boyfriend of his deceased son, and, of course, the butler. Joining Heath on the second day of his stay is his lover and sidekick Alan Keyes. Before

My capsule review of the book is "Agatha Christie...if Miss Marple were a gay police detective in post-WWII Milwaukee." In this case, Miss Marple is Heath Barrington, a confident and attractive detective on the Milwaukee police force.

you know it, a murder occurs, the phone line is cut, and the steamer will not be coming by for another day. The murderer has to be one of the people staying at the cottage. In the absence of the local police, Detective Barrington takes charge, assisted by Officer Keyes.

Particularly fun is that this is also a historical novel. I asked Pederson about this aspect of the book and he said, "I wrote it historically, because I think I've always been a bit of an old soul. I grew up watching old MGM musicals and movies, wanting to emulate them, to be like those stars. Even in high school I spun Doris Day and Frank Sinatra records, and my favorite musical group was the Pied Pipers. So I guess I feel very comfortable with the time period of the 40s. Even so, I did indeed have to do a great deal of research. The internet was a huge help, but so is having a partner who's a librarian. I wanted to be as historically accurate as possible, down to clothing, cars, prices, what was at the movies, on the radio and in the headlines. I researched what food was served, what social customs were practiced and how they spoke."

One of the earliest writers of gay mysteries was Joseph Hansen, who wrote the groundbreaking David Brandstetter books. The first Brandstetter book was published in 1970. They were set in a contemporary time



and Brandstetter was openly gay. In all other ways he epitomized the hard-boiled detective protagonist of a Dashiell Hammett story. The dashing and fearless Heath Barrington reminds me of Brandstetter. However, Barrington lives in an earlier time. Being openly gay was not an option.

Heath and Alan's relationship is complicated by their careers and their times. I was curious about Pederson's choice of writing a gay

detective novel set in a time which would not allow his hero to be out. He said, "to me, being gay is a part of Heath. He has to keep it a secret from all but a very, very few, and that's just the way it was. He's not out to his parents, his co-workers, his friends or his neighbors. He realizes he has no choice in the matter if he doesn't want to be ostracized, fired and/or arrested."

Oddly, the most mysterious characters in the book are Heath and Alan. We see them at work and learn a little bit about them in their interplay. But there are many unanswered questions. How did they meet? Are there any other people in their lives who share their secret? Aside from clearly caring about each other, what are their lives like in a setting other than the Darkly Estate while working to solve a crime? Pederson promises there will be answers. "The story of how they met is in a book I'm still working on (shelved at the moment), but I hope to go back and finish it soon."

Keith Orr and his husband Martin Contreras are owner/operators of Common Language Bookstore and the \aut\ BAR. Both are avid readers and activists for Social Justice.

SAVE THE DATE

Author Reading

David Pederson will be appearing at Common Language Bookstore in Ann Arbor on Saturday, Aug. 20, at 6 p.m. for a reading, reception and book signing. Join him and find out more about his fascinating detective. Hear a reading from the first in what we hope will be many Heath Barrington books. Copies of *Death Comes Darkly* will be available for sale and signing by the author.

>> www.glbttbooks.com

► U.S. Supreme Court

Continued from p. 9

very volatile presidential campaign that won't be resolved until Nov. 8.

The possibility of the Senate confirming Obama's named nominee (Merrick Garland) is not likely until after the election. And though there is little chance that a decision could be rendered before the end of Grimm's senior year, the issue is still critical for many transgender students now and into the future.

Why? Because the 4th Circuit said that Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 – which prohibits discrimination

based on sex by federally funded educational institutions — also prohibits discrimination based on gender identity was a big victory for LGBT people. It was the first time a federal appeals court anywhere in the nation had ruled that an already existing federal law prohibiting discrimination based on "sex" included discrimination based on "gender identity."

When that 4th Circuit decision was released in April, LGBT legal advocates thought there was little chance the Supreme Court would accept an appeal. The case was (and is still) in a preliminary stage and, at that time, the 4th Circuit decision did not conflict with an opinion of any other circuit in the nation.

And, with the Supreme Court having only eight members, a tie vote would uphold the 4th Circuit decision.

There's still no conflict among the circuits and that, said NCLR Legal Director Shannon Minter, makes the possibility that the Supreme Court will review the case "less likely" still.

But Minter and Lambda's Davidson acknowledge some disappointment over the stay grant.

"The vote is certainly sobering," said Minter. "That said, I am cautiously optimistic the court will not take review and ultimately quite optimistic the court will affirm that that Title IX protects transgender students when

they do take up a case."

Davidson said he is "very disappointed" in the stay but said the fact that only eight justices are on the court makes a 4 to 4 vote on the merits of the case a real possibility. And a tie vote leaves the lower court decision intact.

"This makes it less likely that review will be granted in close cases, something Supreme Court scholars have noted has been happening since Justice Scalia's death," said Davidson. "So, at the moment, it's very hard to tell whether the Supreme Court will actually decide to hear a challenge to the correctness of the 4th Circuit's decision."



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 4

OUTfest Honors and Remembers Pulse Nightclub Victims in Orlando

Several thousand people gathered on the streets of Ann Arbor's historic Kerrytown neighborhood to enjoy the 22nd annual OUTfest Aug. 5-7. The three-day festival celebrates LGBT pride and benefits the Jim Toy Community Center.

Photo 1: All OUTfest performers and attendees gathered on stage as the community comes together, holding hands to honor and remember the Pulse Nightclub shooting victims in Orlando.

Photo 2: Many LGBT organizations were in attendance to include FTM Detroit and FTMA2

Ypsi. Both are devoted to creating a safe space in which transgender men in the greater Detroit area can build community, find support, and engage in activism.

Photo 3: Jim Toy, the namesake of Jim Toy Community Center, spoke before introducing the local band Elemental Meaning.

Photo 4: Known as the "angry drag queen," Sabin co-hosted and performed during the OUTfest Drag Revue.

Photo 5: This year's early drag revue featured Kraven, a local drag king who performed in Braun Court.

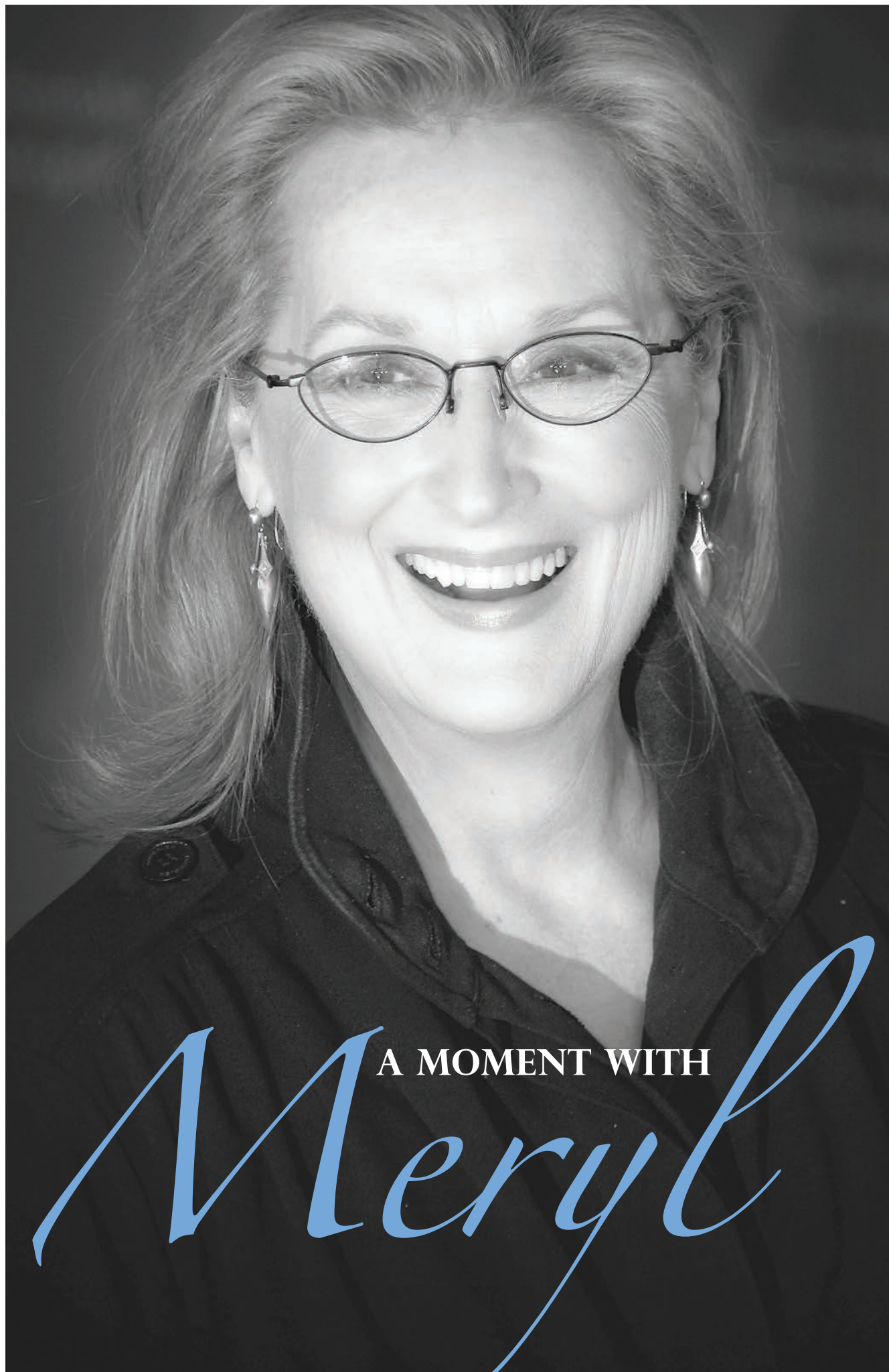
Photos courtesy of Vincent Krauzowicz



Photo 3



Photo 5



Acting Luminary Opens Up About Being 'In Love with Gay People' & Her Beloved LGBT Roles

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Meryl Streep is laughing her signature laugh. You know it: Sometimes light and airy, sometimes a surge of boisterous euphoria that carries well into the next question – and always unmistakably Meryl.

Cinema's grand dame cracks one of her warm, famous chortles during our recent interview, while entertaining the idea that her latest chameleonic role, as real-life opera diva Florence Foster Jenkins in the movie of the same name, could once again spur drag queens to emulate another one of her queer-loved characters. Then she laughs again as she fondly remembers locking lips with Allison Janney in 2002's "The Hours." Meanwhile, the mere mention of 1992's "Death Becomes Her" has Meryl unleashing a hearty roar. Another laugh, too, when she ponders how sexting and Snapchat are related.

Gay audiences know this laugh because they know Meryl Streep. They also know her compassion for LGBT issues, both as an extension of her queer-inclusive acting repertoire and more explicitly, when, during her Golden Globe acceptance speech in 2004, she slammed then-president George W. Bush by condemning his anti-gay marriage stance. They've learned the art of shade from her sharp, searing tongue in "The Devil Wears Prada," and they live for all the campy one-liners in "Death Becomes Her." And during "Angels in America," HBO's 2003 watershed miniseries about the AIDS crisis, they wept.

Now, Streep, 67, sheds her skin once again to portray Jenkins, one of the worst singers in the world. In the poignant dramedy "Florence Foster Jenkins" from Stephen Frears, director of "The Queen," the esteemed once-in-a-lifetime luminary plays a wannabe opera singer with a voice so hysterically appalling her loyal husband (Hugh Grant) bribes critics into letting her think she can sing.

Here, during this rare and revealing one-on-one conversation with Streep, the three-time Academy Award winner and record holder for most Oscar nominations discusses why she regards "Angels in America" as one of the most important LGBT-themed films she's done

and how she feels about gay men performing Meryl monologues. And looking ahead, is the biopic queen ready to consider her own story becoming a feature-length film in the future? Streeep laughs at the very thought, of course, but she's not kidding when she says, "I hope I fade into oblivion."

You've given the gay community a breadth of greatness over the last four decades. When you look back at your gay roles, which has been the most important to you?

Oh, gosh. To me, I mean, "Angels" is such an important piece of history, and I felt really lucky to be part of that because I don't think there was anything like it before. It really felt like being at the Democratic National Convention in the moment that Hillary shattered the glass ceiling – a big deal. "The Hours" was important too. And of course I got to kiss Allison Janney, which was a perk! (Laughs)

Don't tell Emma Thompson, who famously tongue-kissed you and gave you an orgasm in "Angels."

(Laughs) Yeah, right! ("The Hours") was nothing like that!

I remember Emma talking about that kiss in an interview with The Hollywood Reporter. She's very proud of it. She said she learned that "you have to use tongues even if you're not a lesbian."

Oh yeah, you really do. (Laughs)

When you look back at that moment, how does your takeaway from that kissing scene compare to Emma's?

It's just, you can't take the baby from the bathwater. You can't. It's just the whole thing of it – that (orgasm scene) was just like the culmination of it. But what (screenwriter Tony Kushner) was doing was for a really mainstream HBO audience at that point – just groundbreaking. That hadn't been on television. Movies, yes. But not television. So it was very cool.

You discovered you were a gay icon in 2012, when you found out about "Streep Tease" – gay men taking on Meryl monologues in West Hollywood. Did you ever get a chance to see it?

I didn't. We went immediately to London to shoot something else.

How do you feel about watching other people – gay men, for instance – do Meryl?

I love it when they do other people! (Laughs) I don't know. I'm sure it would tickle me, but I'm just not – I don't have a distance on myself yet that I probably should have. It's like when my kids imitate me. I laugh but I kind of don't like it. (Laughs)

Do they imitate you often?

Oh my god, yes. Endlessly. Especially when I answer the phone and they can tell that

“I think the limits other people put on you are the least valuable. A child announces who they are and people who encourage them are the ones to be around... and you have to get rid of everybody else who doesn't help! (Laughs) I feel that way about everything, but certainly LGBT audiences will understand that.”

it's (me pretending to be), like, a Jamaican operator or something, because I sort of start talking in the accent of the person I'm talking to. Oh, they're merciless.

Do you feel a connection to the LGBT community?

I just can't remember when LGBT people were not in my life. You know, gosh. My piano teachers when I was 11 and 12 were two gay men in a little town in New Jersey who had a collection of Mexican art and piñatas and silver lantern covers, and their house was wonderful, not like anybody else's house in Berkeley Heights, New Jersey. And yeah, I came of age when everything was kind of opening up and that's a good time, right like now.

This film harkens back to the '40s when communities were kind of cloaked and undercover, and yet in Greenwich Village and just communities of people in the artistic world, they were always embracing of people, every kind. That freedom – very staid people were drawn to that world because of its imagination and exoticism and willingness to embrace life in a different way.

How do you think the message of Florence – doing something you love because you love it and not because of what other people think – will resonate with the LGBT community?

Well, to the extent that anybody tells you that you can't be a certain way or you shouldn't be a certain way. You know, I think the limits other people put on you are the least

See Meryl Streep, page 18

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► **Meryl Streep**

Continued from p. 17

valuable. A child announces who they are and people who encourage them are the ones to be around... and you have to get rid of everybody else who doesn't help! (Laughs) I feel that way about everything, but certainly LGBT audiences will understand that.

In 1979, when you played a lesbian in "Manhattan," being LGBT wasn't cool. Why did you take on a role that might've been deemed "too much" during that time period?

I didn't think of it that way. I mean, I was coming to movies sort of sideways from the theater. I got an early movie and I thought, "Well, this is a one-off; they'll never ask me again." I was fine with that. I was happy in the theater. And in the theater I had lots of gay friends and my longtime collaborator Roy Helland is gay. I've grown up with gay people and been in love with gay people.

Romantic love?

Oh no, not that kind!

I mean, I know women who've had gay boyfriends and gay husbands.

No, no. Well... not that I know of! (Laughs)

If you were to play another lesbian role, who would be your dream co-star?

Oh, well, someone younger, clearly. (Laughs)



Meryl Streep's luminous career includes roles in "The Devil Wears Prada" (top left), the new "Florence Foster Jenkins" (above) and "The Hours," alongside Allison Janney (bottom left).

But who? I mean, you and Sandra Bullock have already had practice making out at the 2010 Critics Choice Movie Awards.

Yeah! That was famous. But I don't know! I can't pick! There

are so many. One thing I think is, there are so many young talented actresses and actors. I grew up in a time when people emerged – like, there were a handful of people. Now, there's like 35, 40 people who are just beyond talented, and because of the opening up of long-form television and all the other platforms – webisodes and things like that – I think there are more opportunities for people to demonstrate their talent. There are so many talented people.

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And streaming – I heard you say you're learning about it.

Getting on that, yes. Not really. (Laughs) Somebody told me that I Snapchatted but I don't know how to Snapchat and I thought it was the thing that you do when you're sexting sort of and then you want it to be erased. I didn't know what they were talking about!

It's very confusing out there, Meryl. Stay in your bubble.

OK, fine! (Laughs)

Emily Blunt said she's interested in doing another "Devil Wears Prada" if everybody else returns. Would you be interested in doing a sequel?

In theory. But the heart sinks until you read the script. It's like, somebody said (they want a) "Mamma Mia 2!" and it just – *ack!* I thought, "Gram-Mamma Mia!"? Really? No. (Laughs) So it would depend on the script; the script is everything. If somebody has the imagination and wit to apply and has an interesting story, yeah, sure. But absent that, no.

Your gay fans wouldn't mind, I'll tell you that – as long there's a solid script, of course.

No, I wouldn't mind either if the script were good.

Your "Death Becomes Her" co-star Isabella Rossellini said that she didn't know she was making what became a gay cult film until after some market research. When did you realize "Death Becomes Her" would become a gay cult classic?

I knew when I met the writer! (Laughs) When I met Martin (Donovan), I thought, "OK, here we go." And then (when I sang) my first number, I thought, "Oh, all right, I'll see this in a club somewhere." I mean, with lines like, "Now a warning?!" – I mean, come on! It was so much fun, and it's sort of a documentary on aging in Los Angeles now, it seems to me.

For years you've been playing real-life people: Julia Child, Margaret Thatcher, now Florence Foster Jenkins. If one day there's a Meryl Streep biopic, what do you hope it captures about your life and career?

I hope that doesn't happen! You know, I treasure my life and the fact that it's not on Facebook, and I really love my solitude and privacy – all these old-fashioned concepts. In a job where I'm with hundreds of people all the time and going on these press things, I just really love to get away and not be in the chattering world. That's really important to me. So, I hope I fade into oblivion.

We rode in from the airport and Roy – my hair and makeup guy – pointed out the Will Rogers museum here in LA that's closing and I said, "Why?" He said because nobody knows who he was and nobody cares, and there was no more central figure in his time that could sort of translate the best of the wit and charm of his era. So, you know, then it's over. He's gone. Nobody cares.

And you're OK with that happening to you?

Yeah, I'm fine with that! (Laughs) I seriously feel like you can only speak to your moment, and right now your work should reflect it. Your work has to just be important right now. And in 10 years if it looks obsolete or like you were overdoing it, that's fine, because for that time you were.

Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service. He can proudly say Mariah Carey once called him a "daaahhhling." Reach him via his website at www.chris-azzopardi.com and on Twitter (@chrisazzopardi).

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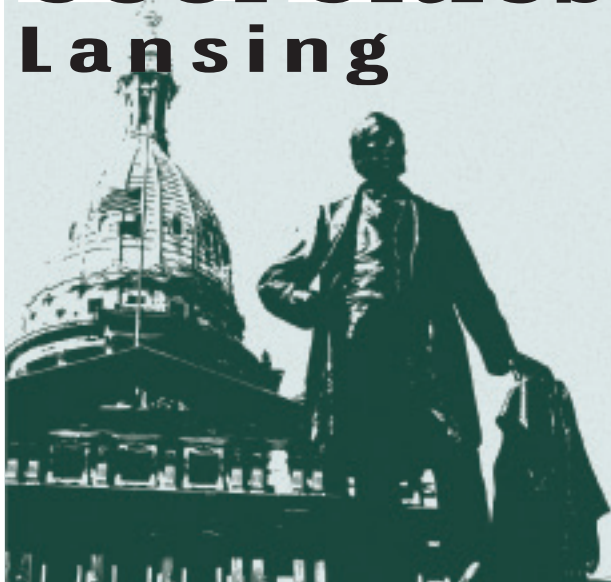
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Michigan Pride 2016 Floats On Without Parade

Like many 501(c)3 non-profit organizations, Michigan Pride operates on the kindness of volunteers. If volunteers are lacking or there is a decline in participation for a particular event, as a result, the organization chooses not to host it. Such is the case with Michigan Pride's annual parade this year.

According to their Facebook page, Michigan Pride said that they may consider bringing back the parade next year if there is a popular demand. Their post reads: "We are always looking for feedback, but especially help in planning. Many hands make light work. If you'd like to be a part of the planning process in the future, please let us know."

Despite the hiccup in planning, the 27th Annual Michigan Pride event will be held Aug. 26-27 in Lansing. This year's celebration features the White Party on Aug. 26 at 7 p.m. Wristbands are \$10 and grant access to Spiral Dance Bar, Esquire, and Sir Pizza. They can be purchased at any of these venues.

The rally at Michigan's State Capitol on Aug. 27 at noon is followed by the Pride Festival in REO Town at 2 p.m. on and around S. Washington Ave. Festivities will include food and merchandise

vendors, nonprofit and information stations, local beer and wine choices, shows and entertainment throughout the day. For more information, visit www.michiganpride.org.

First Annual LGBTQ Inclusion Awards

City Pulse, a weekly alternative newspaper in Lansing, decided 2016 is a good year to honor people who helped fight for accomplishments and who are still putting up the good fight against the community's continuing struggles.

To this end, they requested nominations in two broad categories: individuals and businesses/organizations for both members of the LGBT community, and friends and allies that have advanced the cause of diversity.

On Aug. 26, City Pulse will honor the winners during a special event at Spiral Dance Bar at 8 p.m. It is a ticketed event, but what a deal: for \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door, guests receive food, two drink tickets and a wristband for the Pride party to continue at the bar following the award presentation.

City Pulse put together a committee of individuals and representatives, both

gay and gay-friendly area organizations to decide on the recipients. Winners will be announced in City Pulse's annual pride issue, on Aug. 24, in advance of the event. To purchase tickets or for more information, call 517-999-6704.

Miss Michigan Gay Pride Pageant Returns

Returning after a six-year hiatus, the Miss Michigan Gay Pride pageant promises to be a high-energy, glamorous event hosted by Karma Vuitton. Contestants from all over the state will compete for the title of



Current Miss Michigan Gay Pride Jamie Ashby will pass on her crown on Aug. 14 at Spiral Dance Bar in Lansing.

See Michigan Pride page 26



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The Frivolist: 5 Pieces of Financial Advice for Living With a Roommate

BY MIKEY ROX

Splitting rent with a roommate saves money – and it can be the ticket out of your parents’ house (which means no more sneaking those Grindr tricks in through the basement window, much to his delight). But while living with a gay brother from another mother can be rewarding, it’s important to protect yourself and make decisions that don’t hurt your finances. To make this living sitch work with few financial disagreements, here are five money tips for bunking with your bestie.

1. Have a separate roommate agreement

If you’re renting an apartment, you and your roommate will have a lease agreement with the landlord. But in addition to this agreement, you should also establish a roommate agreement between the two of you. Before moving into the apartment, you obviously sat down and discussed how to handle expenses – or at least you should have. Since money can be a touchy topic, the agreement you come up with shouldn’t be a verbal one. Even if you walked away from the discussion on the same page, you need to get everything in writing so there are no misunderstandings down the road. Some roommates choose to split all expenses evenly down the middle, but you and your roommate may come up with a different agreement – perhaps a 70–30 split, for instance. If you don’t get anything in writing, the person paying more may later claim that he’s being taken advantage of. Creating a separate roommate agreement may seem like an unnecessary step, but it can save you from a lot of heartache and stress.

2. Buy your furniture separately

When furnishing the new place, some roommates decide to purchase furniture together so it’s not a burden on one person. But in all likelihood the two of you will not live together forever – and even if you don’t realize it today, buying furniture together can create problems once you make the decision to part ways. This can start disagreements about who gets what items, and if you and your roommate part on bad terms, these disagreements do nothing but add fuel to the fire. To make it easy on yourself, agree that everyone buys their own furniture pieces. Once you’re ready to move out of a shared apartment or house, each person leaves with what they brought into the living arrangement.

3. Don’t be afraid to be a landlord

When you and your roommate apply for an apartment together, it’s the landlord’s responsibility to confirm your employment and income. But if it’s your home and you bring in a roommate, it’s your job to act as a landlord. This can be awkward and uncomfortable,



especially if you don’t have landlord experience. You may not feel comfortable asking a stranger or a friend for their financial information. But if you want to avoid potential problems, never choose a roommate based solely on what they say they earn. If you don’t confirm this information, you could end up with a roommate who’s not capable of covering their expenses. You don’t have to get too personal, but you should at least call your roommate’s employer to confirm they work for the company, and get a copy of their most recent paycheck stub. Don’t feel bad; you’re doing what any landlord would do, which is ultimately protecting yourself.

4. Maintain a financial cushion

Although getting a roommate can improve your finances and help you save money, you shouldn’t blow all your extra cash. It’s important to maintain a financial cushion – just in case your roommate bounces. If your roommate moves out before the end of the lease, and you move out because you can’t afford the rent by yourself, you’re also in breach of contract. This can trigger litigation and credit damage. But if you prepare for the worst-case scenario and build a “just in case” fund, you can possibly save enough to cover the rent until the end of your lease.

5. Keep your finances separate

Regardless of whether your roommate is a best friend, never combine finances. This person is not your spouse, so there’s no need to combine your bank accounts. Some roommates have one joint bank account exclusively for household bills, and each person deposits their share into this account. To each his own. Just know that this approach can lead to problems, especially

if one person isn’t as responsible with money. This person may dip into the account to cover personal expenses or fail to deposit his share, which forces the other roommate to pick up the slack. A better, safer approach is each person writing a separate check from their own checking accounts, and then including both checks in an

envelope to the landlord or a utility company. Or if you’re paying bills online, one person can give the other cash to cover his share. Your landlord and utility companies don’t care how you pay a bill, as long as you pay it.

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Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, Aug. 11

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

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

Friday, Aug. 12

Detroit Beer & Wine Festival 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$30, VIP for \$45. Limited tickets will be available at the door for \$50 for general admission and \$65 for VIP. Detroit Beer & Wine Festival, **Detroit**. 248-543-1000. specialevents@thesocialconnection.com www.detroitbeerandwinefest.com/

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 SAYID016 for \$5 off your ticket price. Pink Dot Concepts & Eclectic Fete, 2015 Massachusetts Ave. NW, **Washington**. 2025056026. sayido@eclecticrose.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 Alen 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. Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St., **Lansing**. 517-371-3221. info@spiraldancebar.com www.spiraldancebar.com

Wednesday, Aug. 17

LGBT Cancer Support Group 6:30 p.m. This LGBT support group provides social and emotional support for LGBT persons with cancer, their partners, LGBT family members and friends. Gilda's Club Metro Detroit, 3517 Rochester Road, **Royal Oak**. 248-577-0800. www.gildasclubdetroit.org/calendar/lgbt-cancer-group-19/



Thursday, Aug. 18

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

Friday, Aug. 19

Ability and Access to Health Care for LGBT People 12 p.m. The Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression (SOGIE) learning series will expand your understanding of Social Identity in order to challenge your perceptions and strengthen your practice when working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) persons. SOGIE Basics will be offered the first 30 minutes prior to each training. All participants are encouraged to attend SOGIE Basics once, prior to attending any key topic. This will enhance the participants' learning by clarifying LGBT concepts and terminology. Pre-registration required. No Cost for NASW Members. \$30 for Non-Members. Two Social Work CEUs available. Co-Sponsors: The Ruth Ellis Center and Connections-Wayne County System of Care. National Association of Social Workers - Michigan Chapter, 2799 West Grand Blvd, **Detroit**. 517-487-1548. cnichols@thechildrenscenter.com www.nasw-michigan.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=812727&group=

Drag Race Season 8 Contestants Live 8 p.m. Tickets: \$20-\$75. Get ready for Kim Chi, Naomi Smalls, Chi Chi DeVayne, Derrick Barry and Thorgy Thor performing live with special guest host Katya, Miss Congeniality from Season 7. Murray and Peter, 303 Monroe Ave., **Grand Rapids**. 1-800-745-3000. www.dragfans.com

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. 20

2016 Woodward Cruise Super Roll 8 a.m. When was the last time you had an official police escort to the Woodward Cruise? Refreshments and tours followed by the Super Roll lineup. Enjoy free coffee and donuts. Parking in a secure lot. Ford Piquette Avenue Plant, 461 Piquette Street, **Detroit**. 313-872-8759. info@fordpiquetteplant.org fordpiquetteplant.org

RuPaul's Drag Race and 100 contestants to enter the competition. The winner of this season was Bob The Drag Queen. Miss Congeniality was Cynthia Lee Fontaine. Tickets are \$20-75, and for the first time ever, \$250 front row and \$150 second row Super Fan packages are available with first-in-line meet-and-greet passes, autographed tour posters, laminates and lanyards. This is an all-ages show. Prices and lineup are subject to change. For more information, visit www.logotv.com/shows/rupauls-drag-race.

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

Sunday, Aug. 21

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

Tuesday, Aug. 23

Show Your Support for MIC Every Tuesday, Julianio'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

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

Wednesday, Aug. 24

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

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

Thursday, Aug. 25

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

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

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

MUSIC & MORE

Comedy

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. 9 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. Local Kitchen, 344 W. 9 Mile Rd., **Ferndale**. Aug. 13 - 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 Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. 7 p.m. Aug. 12. 248-544-3030. www.detroitimprovfestival.org

The Detroit Improv Festival "The Detroit Improv Festival" Headlined by

Editor's Pick

See the Queens Rock the Catwalk

Gurl, do not miss your favorite contestants from Season 8, RuPaul's Drag Race on Aug. 19 at 8 p.m. at DeVos Performance Hall at 303 Monroe Ave. in Grand Rapids. Murray & Peter promise fabulous live performances from Kim Chi, Naomi Smalls, Chi Chi DeVayne, Thorgy Thor and Derrick Barry. Season 7's Miss Congeniality Katya Zamolodchikova will host this special event. Season 8 marks 100 episodes of

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 Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. Aug. 11 - Aug. 13. 248-545-5545. www.detroitimprovfestival.org

Concerts

101 WRIF "Volbeat" Tickets: \$35-\$45. All ages welcome. Masonic Temple, 500 Temple St., **Detroit**. 7 p.m. Aug. 12. www.themasonic.com

AEG Live "Toots and the Maytals" Tickets: \$25-\$30. All ages welcome. Majestic Theater, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 7 p.m. Aug. 14. 313-833-9700. www.majesticdetroit.com

AEG Live, React, The Crofoot and ElektriCity "Mad Decent Block Party" Tickets: \$35-\$50. 16 and over welcome. Russell Industrial Center, 1600 Clay St., **Detroit**. 3 p.m. Aug. 20. 313-872-4000. www.russellindustrialcenter.com

Blind Pig "Dirty Deville" With Intrepid Travelers and Dead Hit. Tickets: \$7, under 21 \$10. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., **Ann Arbor**. 9:30 p.m. Aug. 12. 734-996-8555. www.blindpigmusic.com

Live Nation "5Quad" Tickets: \$25. Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress St., **Detroit**. 6 p.m. Aug. 19. www.saintandrewsdetroit.com/

Live Nation "Baroness" Tickets: \$28. Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress St., **Detroit**. 8 p.m. Aug. 20. www.saintandrewsdetroit.com/

Majik Ninja Entertainment "The Official Green Book Party" Hosted by Twiztid featuring performances by Zodiac, Imprint, Prozak, AJAX, Smokehouse Junkies, Dagda, Godz of Kaos, and Kovax. Tickets: \$10. The Shelter, 431 E. Congress St., **Detroit**. 10 p.m. Aug. 19. www.saintandrewsdetroit.com/

Motor City Casino Hotel "Ashanti" Tickets: \$37-\$50. Sound Board, 2901 Grand River Ave., **Detroit**. 8 p.m. Aug. 20. 800-745-3000. www.

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Hear Me Out

Lori McKenna, Tegan and Sara

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

a standout merging a thoughtful marriage-centric commentary with a punchy and distinctly queer chorus. Leaning heavily on keyboard for downer ditty “100x” is a nice touch—it’s appropriately minimalistic, a quiet moment of reflection during an otherwise spirited outing. The song might be underwritten, even slightly amateurish considering their impressive catalog of more intricate compositions, but clearly the twins are embracing the simple pleasures of pop music. It’s perfectly OK if we do too. *Grade: B-*



Lori McKenna, 'The Bird & the Rifle'

Music Row’s renowned wordsmith Lori McKenna doesn’t exactly bury this casual burn, but still, you might miss it. You might because Lori McKenna’s exceptional 10th studio album teems with lines that sear and stick; that’s just what happens when you’re as seasoned at breathing new life into familiar tropes as the 47-year-old Massachusetts-based musician. The burn? “You can have him / I hope you have fun / I guess wife number three could be the one.” “Old Men Young Women” opens with that zinger, wryly tearing down ageist patriarchal values. On “The Bird & the Rifle,” McKenna’s poeticism endures throughout all 10 tracks, while Dave Cobb’s rustic production is appropriately lean, letting her gentle Southern drawl guide her engaging narratives, as it should. (McKenna’s writing chops are, in fact, Grammy-certified; she recently won the coveted award for co-writing Little Big Town’s “Girl Crush”). On “Giving Up On Your Hometown,” McKenna depicts a picturesque scene of childhood nostalgia, while “We Were Cool” recalls young love and cruising around in an old car listening to Duran Duran, with all the hindsight of a grown adult. The album’s opening track, “Wreck You,” is a brutally honest portrait of a relationship gone awry, and that title track – oh, it’s a stunner. During the song,

McKenna draws on metaphors to tell the tale of a dreamer seeking to set herself free from her husband’s oppressive ways. Like the bird McKenna sings about, her voice flutters. It’s beautiful. Her singing, that song, this album. *Grade: A*



Tegan and Sara, 'Love You to Death'

If you’re still lamenting the loss of Tegan and Sara’s grunge-y, string-strumming past (RIP guitars), it

might be time to move on. Because have you heard “Love You to Death”? It’s the next obvious step in the gay sisters’ glossy pop career, wherein – after 2013’s “Heartthrob,” their full-on pop initiation – they continue to fulfill their childhood music fantasies to become, to some extent, the boombox pop icons they admired as kids. Buoyant synths. Throbbing basslines. Deep ’80s. If Amy Grant was recording a pop album in 2016, this might be it. That’s only a slightly weird observation, though also a compliment – remember Grant’s own ’90s pop-crossover “Heart in Motion”? So much of “Love You to Death” is, like that album, served sunny side up, romping through pop pleasures like the invigorating, drum-happy “Faint of Heart” and “BWU,”

Also Out



Fantasia, 'The Definition Of...'

It’s been 12 years since Fantasia Barrino gave us eternal life as she sobbed her way through “I Believe”

after winning the third season of “American Idol.” Those tears were the tears of a dream being realized. The 32-year-old singer is still living that dream on “The Definition Of...,” her reflective fifth album. Fantasia’s evolution over the last decade has been met with Grammy nominations and critical acclaim, and she’s still taking charge of her artistry. Here, she bridges her old-school roots with a contemporary zest that’s in full bloom on the deep blues of “Sleeping With the One I Love,” “Ugly,” a welcome country detour, and the vintage, Patti LaBelle-esque ballad “When I Met You.” Prepare to be inspired all over again.



Michael Blume, 'When I Get It Right'

Close your eyes and imagine a world in which Sam Smith’s songs are as impressive as his voice. Or just listen to Michael Blume,

a New Jersey native who, because he’s not run by a major-label machine (don’t be surprised if he is as you’re reading this), can nonchalantly mention going down on a guy during an impressive rap break on “Relationships.” When he’s not rousing with his rhymes, Blume is a blue-eyed soul treasure singing passionately about queer issues and civil rights. The truth is, if there’s any justice in this fickle music industry, both he and his intoxicating debut EP will reach Smith-level success sooner rather than later.

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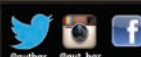
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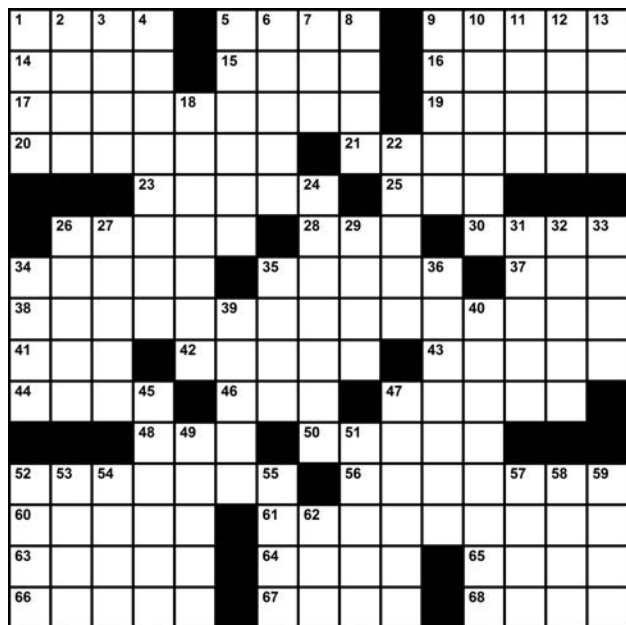
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Q Puzzle



The Bishop's Wife

Across

- 1 What guns shoot off
- 5 "West ___ Story"
- 9 Pub order
- 14 Be plenty hot
- 15 Boob, to a Brit
- 16 Start of a Sappho title, perhaps
- 17 He played an angel in "The Bishop's Wife"
- 19 With 60-Across, he played the bishop in "The Bishop's

- Wife"
- 20 Virginia Woolf's maiden name
- 21 Left the cockpit in a hurry
- 23 Ellen DeGeneres and others
- 25 Sex attachment
- 26 Whitman's leaves
- 28 1903 Gertrude Stein short story
- 30 Novelist Patricia ___ Warren
- 34 Should have said
- 35 Sometime poisonous plant
- 37 Elton's john
- 38 Denomination that recently elected a female bishop with a wife
- 41 Elbow-bender

- 42 Fights for twosomes
- 43 Circumcision and more
- 44 "See ya"
- 46 Old nuclear power org.
- 47 "Our" for Ulrichs
- 48 Stimp's boyfriend, perhaps
- 50 German philosopher Georg
- 52 Got top billing on Broadway
- 56 Gay rodeo watering holes
- 60 See 19-Across
- 61 Like a bishop and her wife
- 63 Became erect
- 64 Annie, to Daddy Warbucks, in "Annie"
- 65 Von Trapp family escape route
- 66 Lavatory door sign
- 67 Mar. Madness source
- 68 "___ we forget"

Down

- 1 Nuts and bolts
- 2 Ditch in some Flynn flicks
- 3 Muck's partner
- 4 Timothy of "The Broken Hearts Club"
- 5 Second part of Shakespeare's iamb
- 6 "All ___ is a room somewhere..."
- 7 Noisy clamor
- 8 Novel conclusion
- 9 With one's hands full
- 10 Prop for "I have a headache tonight ..."
- 11 Poli sci subj.
- 12 Warhol pal ___ Sedgwick
- 13 Sanford portrayal Foxx
- 18 Like some autobiographies
- 22 ___ Ben Hur
- 24 What you do when you sit on it
- 26 Salami that you stick in your hero
- 27 Bluesy Bonnie
- 29 911 respondents
- 31 Top
- 32 Hamilton Burger to Perry Mason, usually
- 33 Where they yell "Cut!"
- 34 Has to
- 35 Foe of Peter Pan
- 36 Ithaca school
- 39 New York state senator Tom
- 40 Like a lover who cheats
- 45 Recruit to sing "Jailhouse Rock"?
- 47 Kampala's land
- 49 Birds at sea
- 51 Former NFL player Tuoalo
- 52 Problem for a drag queen's hosiery
- 53 Kind of jack
- 54 Shakespeare's stream
- 55 One way to go
- 57 Eyeball
- 58 Breaks for Heather's mummies
- 59 Pt. of SSS
- 62 D.C. lobby group

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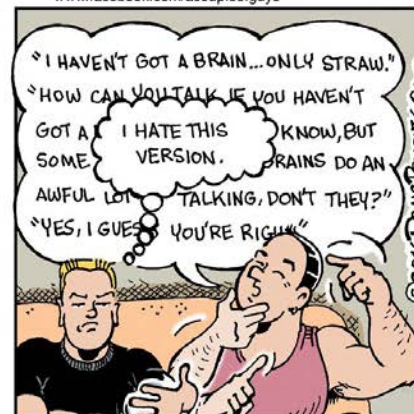
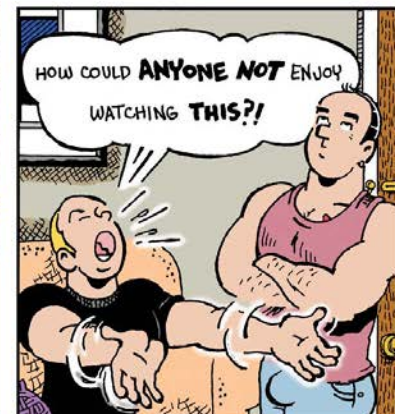
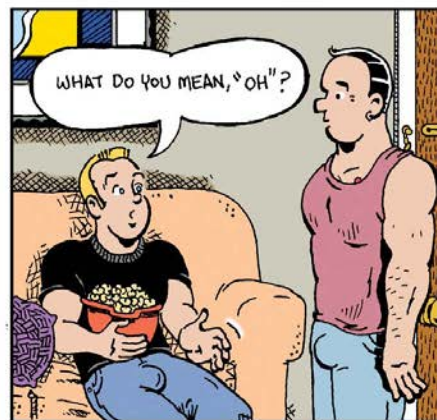
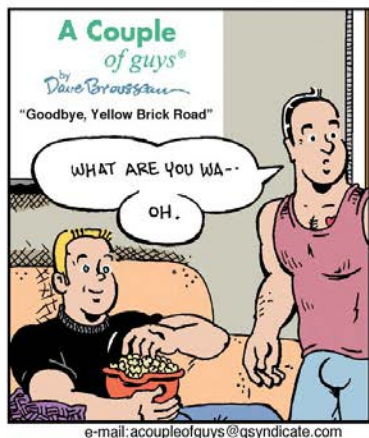
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▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 22

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Olympia Entertainment "Street Kings 3 Tour" Featuring Meek Mill, Yo Gotti, Blac Youngsta and Designer. Tickets: \$49-\$125. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Aug. 19. 313-471-6611. www.olympiaentertainment.com

Olympia Entertainment "Tony Bennett" Tickets: \$55-\$95. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Aug. 12. 313-471-6611. www.olympiaentertainment.com

Olympia Entertainment "Drake" "Summer Sixteen Tour" with Future. Tickets: \$49.50-\$149.50. Joe Louis Arena, 19 Steve Yzerman Drive, Detroit. 6:30 p.m. Aug. 16. 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 Paul Carey Group featuring Ivory Darnell, and The Reefermen. Center Street between Third and Fourth Streets, Center Street, Royal Oak. 6 p.m. Aug. 18. 2482463201. http://romi.gov/arts

Royal Oak Commission for the Arts "2016 Summer Concert Series" Pre-Show with The Detroit School of Rock and Pop Music followed by Sean Blackman's In Transit, and the Dave Hamilton Band. Center Street between Third and Fourth Streets, Center Street, Royal Oak. 6 p.m. Aug. 11. 2482463201. http://romi.gov/arts

The Carr Center "Evenings in Paradise" Showcase of musical performances and entertainment by local and national

jazz and R&B favorites. Paradise Valley Beatrice Buck Park. See website for location details. Detroit. June 7 - Aug. 25. www.downtowndetroitparks.com

The Crofoot "Olivia Holt" Special guest Ryland performs. Tickets: \$18-\$22. The Pike Room, 1 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac. 8 p.m. Aug. 15. www.thecrofoot.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

Festivals

Blind Pig "Midwest Fest IX" Various artists scheduled to perform. Tickets \$10-\$20. Festival pass available. 18 and over welcome. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 18 - Aug. 20. 734-996-8555. www.blindpigmusic.com/

MSU Museum "Great Lakes Folk Festival" Admission is by donation. \$10 per day is suggested. The award-winning Great Lakes Folk Festival, produced by the MSU Museum's Michigan Traditional Arts Program, is a celebration of culture, tradition and community. A detailed music and dance program can be found on the festival website. Downtown East Lansing, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. Aug. 12 - Aug. 14. 512-432-3357. http://greatlakesfolkfest.net/2016/

Shows

Blind Pig "Luxotica Lounge Cabaret" Cover: \$10. A lush burlesque show featuring stunning striptease talent with a twist. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann

Arbor. 9:30 p.m. Aug. 13. 734-996-8555. www.blindpigmusic.com

THEATER

Benefits and Fundraisers

Raise the Rooftop Yoga Sunday Morning Slow Jam. Tickets: \$25. Class held on the Rooftop Terrace. All proceeds to support programming at Music Hall including the Youth Performing Arts Outreach Education. Must pre-register, space is limited. Detroit Yoga Lab, Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit. 10 a.m. Aug. 14. 313-831-9642. www.musichall.org

Civic/Community Theater

Improvisation by The Brothers Majik Tickets: \$15. Barefoot Productions, 240 N. Main, Plymouth. 8 p.m. Aug. 20. 734-404-6889. www.justgobarefoot.com

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

College/University Theater

Irene: A Nostalgic Musical Comedy Tickets: \$16-\$18. Heart of the Hills Players, Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. Aug. 18 - Aug. 21. 586-286-2222. www.macombcenter.com

▶ Michigan Pride

Continued from p. 20

Miss Michigan Gay Pride at Spiral Dance Bar at 1247 Center St. in Lansing on Aug. 14 at 8 p.m. The pageant is open to drag queens, female impersonators and transgender women, according to pageant director Delicious Jackson.

"Miss Michigan Gay Pride embodies an overall confidence that is relatable to all walks of life in our community," Jackson said. "She possesses a talent that is entertaining and moving. She is also a well-spoken individual that is dependable and available."

The current titleholder is Jamie Ashby, a transgender woman from Grand Rapids. During her reign, Ashby has participated in Pride celebrations throughout Michigan. She has organized fundraising events and benefit shows to help raise money for LGBT causes such as HIV/AIDS. Ashby has performed her duty as a role model for the transgender community to include work with transgender youth and support groups in Grand Rapids.

Jackson said the winner of this year's pageant will continue these kinds of efforts and more.

"She will also be entertaining and appearing at the annual Michigan Pride event in Lansing. She will recruit girls for upcoming pageants. Throughout her year, she

will make appearances at Spiral and she will ride in the 32nd Annual Silver Bells Parade in the City in November," she said. "Our queen will participate in other Pride festivals throughout the state, making herself a visible role model within the LGBT community."

The Miss Michigan Gay Pride pageant is made possible by Jackson, Kyle Clark, and many sponsors within the Lansing community to include Spiral. For more information, visit www.spiraldancebar.com or call 517-371-3221.

Kids Day: A Family-Friendly Event

Spiral Dance Bar in Lansing is kicking off Pride weekend with their first-ever family fun day in their parking lot. Spiral employees have been raising money to help children in need with their school supplies. The goal is to have 100 backpacks full of standard school necessities to provide to those children who need them on Aug. 26 from 4-8 p.m. Festivities include free hot dogs and chips, face painting, dancing and games. All ages are welcome. Entry is free for this event. Those who wish to donate money or supplies are encouraged to drop them off at Spiral at 1247 Center St. in Lansing. To get involved, email Sam Courtney at sam@spiraldancebar.com.

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