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Pioneering Ruth Ellis Center Takes Visionary Next Steps



Rio Games Seem
Decidedly Gay-friendly

Pugh and the P Word

Gay Students Raped,
Attacked More Often



HUGH LOOKS LIKE A LADY

Actor Talks Early Gay Films and
Appeal of Open Relationships

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COVER

16 Hugh Grant From 'Little Actress' To Hollywood Hunk

NEWS

4 LGBT Detroit, EMU Equality Research Center Continue Partnership

4 Prosecutor Kym Worthy's Career of Public Service to Be Honored

6 Federal Judge Hears Arguments in Transgender Discrimination Case, Title VII in Focus

7 Pugh and the P Word: Former Detroit City Council President Arraigned in Sex Crimes Case

8 REC Takes Next Steps with Health and Wellness Center

14 After Sochi Concerns, Rio Games Seem Decidedly Gay-Friendly

14 Daily Beast Withdraws Story About Gay Dating at Rio Games

OPINION

12 Parting Glances

12 Transmissions: Gwendolyn Ann Smith

13 Creep of the Week: Nico Hines

LIFE

16 Hugh Grant Talks 'Mademoiselle' Nickname, His Early Gay Films and the Appeal of Open Relationships

18 Revolutionary Change for Therapist Joe Kort

20 Cool Cities: Ann Arbor Meetups

22 Happenings

23 Hear Me Out

24 Classifieds

25 Puzzle and Comic

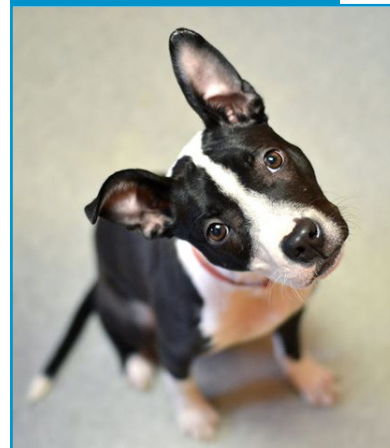
COMMUNITY



Pioneering Ruth Ellis Center Takes Visionary Next Steps with Health and Wellness Center

See page 8

CALENDAR



Briggs Throws a Benefit

See page 22

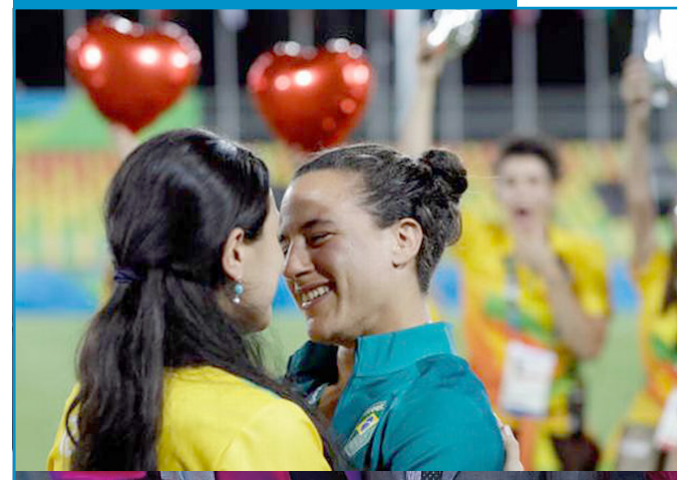
ARTS



Revolutionary Change for Therapist Joe Kort

See page 18

NEWS



Rio Olympics Marriage Proposal

See page 14

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NEWS

LGBT Detroit, EMU Equality Research Center Continue Partnership

DETROIT – The LGBT Detroit Leadership Academy announced their continued partnership with Eastern Michigan University’s Equality Research Center. The Fall 2016 academy class is now open for enrollment and will be assisted by the center with curriculum development to empower students in effective movement and community building.

“The spring class of the LGBT Detroit Leadership Academy proved to be a success,” said Equality Research Center’s Director Michael A. Tew, Ph.D. “Young people, especially those in marginalized communities, are the driving force in social change today and we are proud to continue our partnership with the group.”

The academy is an eight-week social justice and equality training program for young LGBT adults and allies, occurring twice a year in the spring and fall. Since 2012, 52 young adults have graduated from the academy,

enjoying several benefits upon successful completion of the program. This includes community recognition, additional educational opportunities at institutions of higher learning, representation at youth driven platforms and a seat on the Young Adults Board of Advisors.

“I’m proud to see the strong partnership continue with Eastern Michigan University for such a pivotal program,” said President of LGBT Detroit Antonio Johnson-Seals. “This leadership program continues to equip young LGBTQ members in the area with the necessary tools to go out and make this city, region and world a more just and equitable place.”

Enrollment is now open for the class. There is no fee, but space is limited. For more information, please contact Curtis Lipscomb at curtislipscomb@lgbtdetroit.org.

Kym Worthy’s Career of Public Service to Be Honored

DETROIT – Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy will be honored on Nov. 16 during the Detroit Metropolitan Bar



Kym Worthy

Association Foundation’s 12th annual Archer Award event. The Dennis W. Archer Award is presented annually to an attorney or jurist who has followed an exemplary career of public service, according to Archer Award Co-Chair Kathleen Lang of Dickinson Wright. “Our Foundation created the Archer Award event for two main reasons. The first is to recognize outstanding legal professionals who exemplify the highest ideals of our profession – people who have made serving others the cornerstone of their working lives,” Lang said in a press release. “The second, equally important, reason for this event is that it raises funds for our own collective public service work, including free monthly legal clinics and the work of our foster children’s organization, For The Seventh Generation.”

According to the DMBA Foundation, Worthy is being recognized for her “heroic efforts to clean up a shocking backlog of untested rape kits, to her office’s dedication to protecting vulnerable groups like senior citizens and LGBT individuals.” Under Worthy’s leadership, Detroit saw the nation’s most ambitious and effective response to its rape kit backlog – 11,431 to be exact. As of March 2016, roughly 10,000 rape

kits have been tested in Detroit. Worthy has been recognized for her ability to transform the “entire culture of law enforcement” and spearhead the push for concrete legal and procedural reforms in jurisdictions nationwide. Read more www.elle.com about how Worthy helped Detroit become the leader of a movement. Worthy’s Elder Abuse Unit, the first of its kind in the history of the prosecutor’s office, allows her team to make fighting crimes against vulnerable victims, such as senior citizens, a priority.

In July, Worthy announced the formation of the Fair Michigan Justice Project, a collaboration between Fair Michigan and the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office. The program will help Worthy and law enforcement investigate crimes against the LGBT community. More importantly, prosecute those crimes that Worthy said “often go unreported by the LGBT community and can be more difficult than other cases to solve.”

FMJP will now investigate and prosecute new and cold homicide cases, criminal sexual conduct, carjacking, armed robbery, assault with intent to murder, and other crimes involving LGBT victims who were targeted based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. The project is funded through a grant by the Hertz Schram law firm. These accomplishments and more will be acknowledged at the Archer Award gala at a landmark Detroit location to be announced in early September.

Event reservations are \$150 per person and are available online <http://conta.cc/2aJTD2z>.

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For decades, private employers have attempted to use their religious beliefs to evade compliance with anti-discrimination laws, including Title VII.



Federal Judge Hears Arguments in Transgender Discrimination Case, Title VII in Focus

Employee Fired By R.G. & G.R Harris Funeral Homes Awaits Ruling

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

DETROIT – U.S. District Judge Sean Cox heard oral arguments on motions for summary judgments Aug. 11 in the case of the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission v. R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes, Inc. in the Eastern District of Michigan Court in Detroit. The lawsuit revolves around Aimee Stephens, formerly Anthony Stephens, who was fired from her position as funeral director and embalmer at the Garden City location of the Detroit-based company in August 2013.

Stephens was employed since 2007. Her termination came two weeks after she wrote her employer a letter informing them about her transition from male to female, and explaining that she intended to dress in appropriate business attire as a woman. The funeral home's owner, Thomas Rost, responded by handing Stephens a severance agreement telling her that what she was "proposing to do" was unacceptable. Rost gave testimony in November 2015 that Stephens was fired because "he was no longer going to represent himself as a man. He wanted to dress as a woman."

When asked by EEOC Trial Attorney Dale Price why that is a problem, Rost said "because we have a dress code that is very specific that men will dress as men; in appropriate manner, in a suit and tie that we provide and that women will conform to their dress code that we specify," according to court records. For this reason, among others, the EEOC brought a sex-discrimination lawsuit against the funeral home on behalf of Stephens.

Is Sex Stereotyping Impermissible Under Title VII?

Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, federal law "prohibits employers from firing employees because they do not behave according to the employer's stereotypes of how men and women should act," said EEOC attorney Laurie Young in a statement issued in September 2014.

This case is one of the first of the EEOC's attempts to hold companies liable for bias against transgender employees. Cox's questions for EEOC attorneys in court centered on whether transgender people are a

protected class under Title VII and if Stephens was considered a public face of the funeral home.

In response to what, if any, statutory or case authority there is to back up the EEOC's position, Price drew Cox's attention to a number of federal cases which have upheld transgender rights under Title VII. This includes *Smith v. City of Salem* in the 6th Circuit Court in 2004, *Schroer v. Billington* in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in 2008, and *Glenn v. Brumby* in the 11th Circuit Court in Atlanta in 2011. All leading up to the EEOC's landmark decision in the *Macy v. Holder* case in April 2012.

To be clear, as Price noted in court, the EEOC's decision did not declare transgender people to be a protected class. Congress could change that by passing the Equality Act (formerly ENDA) making it "explicitly illegal to fire someone because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. The bill has strong bipartisan support and the support of a vast majority of Americans. It ought to be the law of the land," wrote President Barack Obama in an op-ed published in the *Huffington Post* in November 2013. Until

that happens, what transgender people do have, according to the EEOC's motion, is an indirect protection under Title VII as a result of the *Price Waterhouse v. Hopkins* case in 1989 when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that sex stereotyping can be an actionable form of employment discrimination.

The Court held that Title VII forbids employers from discriminating against an employee for failing to live up to gender-role expectations. Moving forward after these victories, it is doubtful that employers who discriminate against a transgender employee and challenge the Macy ruling in federal court will succeed. Despite that, the funeral home has stood behind their choice to terminate Stephens because she "failed to comply with its dress code based on the biological sex of its employees."

Alliance Defending Freedom Attorney Doug Wardlow spoke in defense of the funeral home, citing facts from their motion. "The government should respect the freedom of those who are serving the grieving and vulnerable," Wardlow said. "The funeral home's dress policy is legitimate, understandable, and legal. Numerous courts

Numerous courts have recognized that companies may differentiate between men and women in their dress and grooming policies without violating Title VII.” But the EEOC is not “challenging gendered dress codes, as the defendant would have this court believe,” according to the amicus brief the ACLU wrote in April 2016 in support of the EEOC’s motion. As the facts in this complex case can be confusing, the ACLU emphasized it’s “only about whether firing a transgender female employee because of her plan to start dressing as a woman constitutes sex stereotyping in violation of Title VII. It plainly does.”

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But the EEOC is not “challenging gendered dress codes, as the defendant would have this court believe,” according to the amicus brief the ACLU wrote in April 2016 in support of the EEOC’s motion. As the facts in this complex case can be confusing, the ACLU emphasized it’s “only about whether firing a transgender female employee because of her plan to start dressing as a woman constitutes sex stereotyping in violation of Title VII. It plainly does.”

The RFRA Dispute

The funeral home moved to dismiss the case in April 2015 on the grounds that gender identity is not protected by Title VII; however, the court concluded that the EEOC had properly alleged a sex discrimination claim asserting that Stephens was fired for failing to conform to Rost’s sex-or gender-based stereotypes.

After the motion to dismiss was denied, the funeral home amended its answer to raise defenses under the Free Exercise Clause and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. The ADF’s motion reads “Rost is a devout Christian who believes that God has called him to minister to these grieving families, and his faith informs the way he operates his business and how he presents his business to the public.”

The funeral home argues that it is protected by RFRA, which prohibits encroachment on certain kinds of business owners’ religious convictions absent a compelling government interest. The Supreme Court in 2014 held in the highly-controversial case, *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.*, that RFRA applies to closely-held for-profit companies.

“The undisputed facts demonstrate that forcing RG to allow Stephens to wear the uniform for female funeral directors would require Rost ‘to engage

in conduct that seriously violates [his] religious beliefs,” according to their motion. “Moreover,...requiring [RG] to permit a male funeral director to wear the uniform for female funeral directors would directly interfere with – and thus impose a substantial burden on - RG’s ability to carry out Rost’s religious exercise of caring for the grieving.”

This defense, according to the ACLU, is not new and for decades, private employers have attempted to use their religious beliefs to evade compliance with anti-discrimination laws, including Title VII.

“I believe that this is the gist of the Defendant’s position, that by having Stephens play a role in the public face of the funeral home will somehow burden the exercise of the owner’s religious beliefs,” ACLU of Michigan LGBT Project Staff Attorney Jay Kaplan said. “But couldn’t that also be used to excuse other kinds of discriminatory practices...refusing to hire a woman to be a funeral director, refusing to hire a person of color, for example. It’s also interesting to note that Rost does not advertise his funeral home as a specific denominational one and in depositions indicated that they serve families of all faiths, so there’s lots of contradictions here.”

No decision was made, but Cox said a ruling is likely within seven to 14 days. The EEOC is asking the funeral home to institute policies and practices that provide equal employment opportunities regardless of sex, including gender identity. It also wants Stephens to get appropriate back pay and compensation for medical losses, job search expenses and a lost clothing allowance.

ONLINE

Links to all the cases cited in this article can be found online at

>> www.pridesource.com

Special thanks to Kathleen Perrin, President of Equality Case Files, which you can find on Facebook

Pugh and the P Word

Former Detroit City Council President Arraigned in Sex Crimes Case

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

DETROIT – While preparing to go to trial in 2015 in the civil case that ultimately ended with Pugh being ordered to pay his accuser, Khody Sanford, \$250,000, Pugh’s then council, Marc Deldon, won a pretrial motion that the word “pedophile” be banned from the court room. But during his preliminary hearing before Judge Deborah Langston from the 36th District Court the word was very much front and center.

“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.”

But if she doesn’t care that he’s gay, why did she use the term gay pedophile? Some wonder about the damage the term may do not just to Pugh but to the LGBT community at large, a community that has fought for years to dispel the notion of a connection between being gay and being a child molester.

In a 2012 op-ed for the Huffington Post titled *Homosexuality and Pedophilia: The False Link*, well-known local psychotherapist and sex expert Joe Kort said that “to call child molestation of a boy by a man ‘homosexual’ or that of a girl by a man ‘heterosexual’ is to misunderstand pedophilia. No true pedophile is attracted to adults. So neither homosexuality nor heterosexuality applies.”

If Kort’s logic holds true, Pugh is, by his own admission, gay. He is not, however, a gay pedophile because no such thing exists. But there’s more. Pugh may ultimately be found guilty of having a sexual relationship with a teenager who was 14 and 15 years old at the time. That still, according to the same Huffington Post piece, would not make him a pedophile.

Kort points to University of California researcher Gregory Herek and his definition of pedophilia. Herek says that pedophilia is “a psychosexual disorder characterized by a preference for prepubescent children as sexual partners, which may or may not be acted upon.”

The unnamed accuser in the current case against Pugh was clearly not prepubescent and has stated he already knew he was gay at the time Pugh approached him. Unlike in his previous civil trial where coercion frequently came up, it does not matter whether Pugh’s actions were forced or invited: sex between an adult male and a minor under the age of 16 is against the law in Michigan. Very against the law.

While a sixth charge was dropped because the alleged sexual activity took place after the accuser had turned 16, Pugh is still charged with

If the Judge doesn’t care that Pugh’s gay, why did she use the term gay pedophile? Some wonder about the damage the term may do not just to Pugh but to the LGBT community at large, a community that has fought for years to dispel the notion of a connection between being gay and being a child molester.

five counts of criminal sexual conduct – three in the first degree and two in the second. The second degree charges carry a penalty of up to 15 years in prison and the first degree charges could get Pugh a life sentence.

But it still wouldn’t make him a pedophile – technically – and therefore might mean that Judge Langston was not only factually misinformed in her declaration but detrimental to Pugh receiving a fair trial.

“The purpose of a preliminary hearing is to do two things, one to see if there is sufficient evidence to hold that person over for trial and two, to set bail,” said Jay Kaplan, the LGBT Legal Project staff attorney for the ACLU of Michigan. “The judge’s comments were not helpful to that effort. That she thought Mr. Pugh was a gay pedophile ... those comments don’t necessarily go toward making those determinations.

“We at the ACLU believe that everyone is entitled to a fair trial and everyone is innocent until proven guilty,” Kaplan continued. “The issue here is would [her words] have the effect of compromising a fair trial. Another judge will be handling his criminal trial, so whether or not a jury or enough people would have read those comments that they would have an impact to affect the potential for him to have a fair trial to me, that’s the question.”

Pugh was arraigned on Friday, Aug. 12. Wayne County Circuit Judge Thomas Cameron set the start date of Pugh’s trial for Nov. 7. Cameron said that he estimates the trial will take four days and that approximately 15 witnesses may be called over that time.

Pioneering Ruth Ellis Center Takes Visionary Next Steps

Capital Campaign Supports Ongoing LGBTQ Youth Healthcare Services

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

LGBTQ youth and young adults living in one of the most medically-underserved cities in the state of Michigan will now have access to mental health, substance use disorder treatment and prevention, and primary healthcare. The Ruth Ellis Center, which incorporated as a youth social services agency seventeen years ago, will open the Ruth Ellis Health and Wellness Center to expand their services this year. REC will continue to provide short- and long-term residential safe space and support services for runaway, homeless, and at-risk LGBTQ youth in Highland Park and Detroit. By adding integrated behavioral and primary healthcare services, REC will take a critical step forward to meet the ever-changing needs of the young people they serve.

“While this may feel like new territory for some, we see this more as an evolution than a revolution in services for LGBTQ youth,” said REC Executive Director Jerry Peterson, who shared REC’s passion with Henry Ford Health System CEO Nancy Schlichting in the fall of 2013.

After careful consideration, and input from the Henry Ford Department of Pediatrics, Schlichting generously offered the in-kind support of Henry Ford to help guide the planning of this project. The design was developed and approved in collaboration with William Mazzara, Director of Facilities, Design and Construction and Christie Wilkewitz, Group Practice Operations Director of Henry Ford’s School-Based and Community Health Program.

“Both Henry Ford Health System and the Ruth Ellis Center are deeply committed to improving the overall health of the communities we serve,” Schlichting said. “Many young LGBTQ individuals experience significant barriers to accessing even the most basic healthcare services.” These barriers include geographical disbursement, an inadequate transportation system, prejudice



REC Executive Director Jerry Peterson, who shared REC’s passion with Henry Ford Health System CEO Nancy Schlichting in the fall of 2013. BTL photos: Andrew Potter.

among healthcare providers, as well as the need to maintain anonymity to guard personal safety. “The Ruth Ellis Health and Wellness Center will play a critical role in making high-quality primary and behavioral health services more accessible to the LGBTQ community,” Schlichting said.

HWC Construction Underway

More than a year after intense internal planning came to a close, REC launched its first capital campaign in April 2015. Through the generosity of individuals and a few foundations, REC was able to reach 60 percent of their \$1.5 million goal. This made it possible to break ground in December. Since then, REC has raised an additional 15 percent. While construction of the 5,000-square-foot space at their Highland Park facility is well underway, REC leadership will continue to work with individuals, corporations and foundations to secure the remaining funds needed to complete the campaign.

“The amount of enthusiasm, compassion, and generosity we have received throughout this campaign has been overwhelming,”

REC’s Director of Development Mark Erwin-McCormick said. “This isn’t about a renovation or expansion; this is redefining how we make healthcare accessible to some of the most vulnerable among us, and that, people want to invest in.”

Building Health Literacy, Cultural Competency

As of June 2016, 817 unique individuals who call Highland Park or Detroit their place of residence access REC services with varying rates of intensity and duration. Around 500 youth and young adults access services annually, of which ten percent are ages 13-17, 80 percent are ages 18-24, and ten percent are ages 24-30. Of them, 40 percent are living with HIV and are not in care or compliant with any treatment regimens. The HWC works in close collaboration with service providers in the city of Detroit who offer HIV treatment and care. REC staff members visited some local clinics to study successful services and sustainable practices in operation. Many of those clinics are located inside traditional healthcare spaces that are not emotionally accessible to LGBTQ

youth.

“We will work with these individuals to understand what to expect if you go to see your HIV provider. We’ll talk about what they’re going to be doing in terms of labs and really build that health literacy that makes those spaces more comfortable,” Henry Ford Pediatrician Maureen Connolly, M.D. said.

The HWC will provide HIV testing, guidance and prevention services, but is not to be confused with an HIV clinic.

“A lot of specific health care needs cannot be addressed in a primary care space, so part of the goal is to build strong relationships with other providers in the city with this accessible space as a starting point,” she said. That includes cultural competency training for front office and intake staff that Peterson said need to be more receiving and affirming of LGBTQ youth who are referred to them for help.

REC currently operates four core services – a residential housing program known as Ruth’s House, the Second Stories Drop-In Center, Second Stories Outpatient Mental Health Services, and the Family Preservation Program, an innovative two-year pilot with significant state-wide implications.

CONTRIBUTE

To contribute to Ruth Ellis Health and Wellness Center’s capital campaign, please contact Mark Erwin-McCormick, REC Director of Development at 313-680-3359 or Mark.McCormick@RuthEllisCenter.org.

“We are not transforming REC into something we’ve never been. This is establishing a new and expanded array of services that our young people need, specifically tailored to them,” Peterson said. When deciding what cost-free services to provide, Peterson said, “Our number one guide is always going to be what do the unstably-housed, LGBTQ youth of color in Highland Park and Detroit need.” To find out, the HWC did what it has done for seventeen years – ask the youth themselves.

LGBTQ Youth Want to Be Healthy

Beyond sore throats, ear infections, asthma management and diabetes, most LGBTQ young people are concerned about STD testing and treatment, birth control information and contraceptives, pregnancy testing and prenatal care, and treatment for substance use disorder. Vision and hearing screening tests will be available with referrals as well. Dental services to include cleaning, exams and prevention are on the list of services to provide in the near future.

“So far, there is so much enthusiasm from the youth,” Connolly said. These motivated young people, she said, were already banging on the door of the mobile outreach vehicle that has been in service every Monday since May 2016. REC entered into a formal service agreement with the Henry Ford School-Based Community Health Program and Global Health Initiative for primary care services in the HWC. The mobile clinic has allowed the HWC to introduce the Henry Ford team to young people while the HWC is under construction.

“It is inspiring to see these young people taking ownership over their own health and will hopefully serve as a model for other centers working with LGBTQ youth across the country,” she said.

REC has emerged already as a national innovator in addressing the needs of LGBTQ youth and young adults experiencing homelessness and other barriers to success. In support of that service, the Michigan Health Endowment Fund recently supported REC with a grant totaling \$358,750 to support integrated behavioral and primary healthcare services for LGBTQ youth.

REC Connects LGBTQ Children and Families

With Michigan Minor Consent Laws in place, considerable opportunities are available for LGBTQ youth to access care without parental consent. However, Connolly said that “every young person is served best by having as many supportive adults involved as possible. Our intent is never to try and go behind the back of any family member or adult, but it is really a matter of what the young person is most comfortable with and how we are going to get them the services that they feel they need to be healthy.”

Young people ages 14 and older are permitted up to 12 mental health counseling visits without parental consent. Many of which, Connolly said, are geared toward thinking about the adults in their life, if any, and how they can all work together.

“For many LGBTQ youth, mental health counseling provides an opportunity to discuss the process of coming out to family and friends, safety planning and considering our best and worse case scenarios,” Erwin-McCormick said. “A young person’s ability to discuss this incredibly sensitive topic, in a safe and supportive environment, is just one reason these permissions exist.”

Family conflict due to a child’s sexual orientation, gender identity or expression is the leading cause of LGBTQ youth homelessness nationwide. REC’s Family Preservation Program, in partnership with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Child Protective Services, and the Family Acceptance Project conducted by Dr. Caitlin Ryan is the first intervention of its kind tailored to address the disproportionate number of LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness nationwide. Families who are being investigated by CPS or are at risk of their child being placed in the children’s welfare system, are referred to REC for up to 13 months of intense family services. As part of the pilot, REC has trained more than 400 CPS investigators to effectively identify, and advocate for LGBTQ children whose families are conflicted over their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

“Historically, organizations have demonized families for rejecting their children due to their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression,” Erwin-McCormick said about the program that helps families recognize rejecting behaviors in the home and the devastating

affect they have on their LGBTQ children.

Needs of Transgender Youth

Nearly 20 percent of the youth who access services at REC identify as transgender, and many seek transition care specifically, but hormone therapy requires the consent of an adult for minors. Connolly ensures there are medical interventions the HWC can offer to help these young people feel more comfortable and affirmed in their gender identity until then. The Family Preservation Program is also uniquely tailored to work with families struggling to understand their child’s desire to transition.

“Once over the age of 18, we go through an informed consent process with them and if transitioning has been identified by the young person as the appropriate next step, that’s what we provide. Supporting them as they become the most authentic version of themselves is exciting and a pretty new area of medicine,” she said.

REC Community Outreach

“A group of individuals, some who identified as LGBTQ, others, straight allies, came together one summer weekend nearly two decades ago to brainstorm ways they could support the growing number of LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness in their community,” Peterson said.

Their answer was the REC, named after one of Detroit’s oldest and most beloved lesbian activists. Ellis opened her home on the east side of Detroit as early as the 1930’s as a safe place for the LGBTQ community.

Peterson continued, “It was their thought that no young person should ever be denied the safety and support they deserve, just because of who they were. And now, seventeen years later, after achieving a historic victory in marriage equality, I pose this question...will you join this group of individuals? Will you invest in the health and wellbeing of hundreds of deserving LGBTQ youth so that they may enjoy the same progress we have?”



Nancy Schlichting generously offered the in-kind support of Henry Ford to help guide the planning of this project. The design was developed and approved in collaboration with William Mazzara, Director of Facilities, Design and Construction and Christie Wilkewitz, Group Practice Operations Director of Henry Ford’s School-Based and Community Health Program. BTL photos: Andrew Potter.

In Orlando, Unprecedented Unity After Nightclub Shooting

BY MIKE SCHNEIDER

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) – Two months after the massacre at a gay Orlando nightclub, residents say this city of newcomers is bonding in unprecedented solidarity, upending an old adage attributed to a former governor: “Florida isn’t so much a community as a crowd.”

Elements that often unite communities – sports teams, food culture, generations of residents living in the same neighborhood – are young or nonexistent in Orlando, where nearly two-thirds of all residents were born out of state. Many say Orlando’s modern existence dates back only 45 years, to Walt Disney World’s opening.

Now, the rainbow flag associated with gay pride seems to have become the Orlando area’s unofficial symbol. It sits beside an American flag and a Florida flag at City Hall. It’s emblazoned on stickers at hipster bars downtown and at boutiques and bistros on tony Park Avenue in the suburb Winter Park.

Rainbow colors have lit up downtown buildings, bridge spans and the iconic Lake Eola fountain in the heart of the city. Stores are selling out of “(hash)OrlandoUnited” T-shirts with rainbow colors in a heart shape.

As many as 50,000 people showed up for a vigil after the June 12 Pulse nightclub shooting. More than \$23 million has been raised for the victims, some of it from fundraisers at local yoga studios, restaurants, and roller skating rinks. Hundreds, if not thousands, of donors waited in long lines to give blood after the shooting. And a steady stream of residents place flowers, cards and stuffed animals at a makeshift memorial outside the club.

“Pulse is a shared experience that I’ve had so many people, after it, say something along the lines of ‘I now truly consider Orlando my home. I always thought of myself as being from Pittsburgh,’” Mayor Buddy Dyer said.

The collective mourning has tightened Orlando bonds and created a true sense of community, according to residents, elected leaders and business owners.

“The way our community has come together is monumental,” said Pulse owner Barbara Poma, who is still deciding the future of the now-closed nightclub. “We’re more than a crowd.”

Lawyer Lawrence Kolin grew up in Orlando, went away for school but returned as an adult. He said he hasn’t seen Orlando come together like this since Hurricane Charley a dozen years

See Orlando, next page

Gay High School Students Raped, Attacked Far More Often

BY MIKE STOBBE

NEW YORK (AP) – Gay, lesbian and bisexual high school students are far more likely than their classmates to be raped or assaulted in a dating situation, according to the first national survey of its kind.

The research also found gay teens were far more likely to have attempted suicide, taken illegal drugs and engaged in other risky behaviors.

The finding echoes results of smaller surveys and findings from advocacy groups, but it is the first government survey to look at the issues across the entire country.

For years, advocacy groups have been saying gay and lesbian kids are more often bullied, ostracized and at high risk for many other problems. But earlier research by the government was limited to a small number of states and cities. The new survey includes students in rural areas and other parts of the U.S.

“This is the first time we can say that nationwide these are consistent challenges faced by lesbian, gay and bi- youth,” said David W. Bond of The Trevor Project, a

national suicide-prevention organization focused on gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth.

Shontay Richardson says the survey reflects her experience in high school. “There’s of course the physical bullying, but also the emotional bullying that takes place,” she said.

Now 24 and a graduate student at Purchase College in suburban New York, she says she was lesbian but tried to hide it from her classmates. Still, she was seen as different. She was ostracized by her classmates and sexually assaulted by a boy she knew, she said.

The research results are based on responses from about 15,600 students to an anonymous survey conducted last year by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC released the report Aug. 11.

Of the survey participants, about 2 percent said they were gay or lesbian, 6 percent said they were bisexual and 3 percent said they weren’t sure of their sexual identity.

That suggests that of the 16 million students who attended public and private high schools last year, roughly 321,000 were gay or lesbian and 964,000 were bisexual, CDC officials

said.

Among the findings:

- Nearly 1 in 5 of the gay, lesbian and bisexual students said they’d been raped at some point in their lives, compared to 1 in 20 heterosexual students.

- Nearly 1 in 5 who had gone out with someone in the past year said their date had hit them, slammed them against a wall, or committed some other form of physical violence. That was more than twice what straight kids reported.

- About 1 in 3 said they had been bullied at school, while 1 in 5 straight kids had.

- More than 1 in 10 said they’d missed school the past month because of safety concerns. Less than 1 in 20 heterosexual kids reported that.

- More than 1 in 4 said they has attempted suicide in the previous 12 months. In contrast, about 1 in 16 straight kids reported recent suicide attempts.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org, The Trevor Project: www.thetrevorproject.org.

Iowa Medical, Psychology Boards Mull Conversion Therapy Rule

BY DAVID PITT

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) – Iowa boards overseeing doctors and psychologists considered Friday whether to adopt a policy that would ban state-licensed professionals from counseling gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender children to change their sexual orientation in a practice known as conversion therapy.

The Iowa Board of Psychology on Friday voted to deny a petition that would have prohibited Iowa licensed mental health providers from trying to reverse a patient’s sexual orientation, said board spokeswoman Sharon Dozier. She declined to discuss the reasons, saying the board will release its full decision later.

The petition submitted in February was signed by 695 people. It said a third of LGBTQ individuals report they were sent outside the home to a therapist or religious leader to “cure, treat or change their sexual orientation.”

An Iowa Board of Medicine committee declined to take action Friday on the ban. Committee Chairman Ronald Cheney said the group needs further study before making a recommendation to the full board.

The board, which licenses and regulates medical doctors in Iowa, also was petitioned in February. The board denied the petition in April, saying it needed more information and assigned the four-member committee to study it.

The issue has become controversial, and the Obama administration in April called for an end to the practice.

Seventeen states have considered laws that would prohibit conversion therapy. California, New Jersey, Oregon, Illinois, Vermont and Washington D.C. have passed such laws.

A group of pastors is suing Illinois over its law, contending in an Aug. 11 filing that the prohibition violates free speech and religious rights.

Illinois’ law applies to therapists and other licensed counselors, but the portion of the law that concerns pastors makes anyone liable for consumer fraud if they practice or advertise conversion therapy that portrays homosexuality as a mental disorder.

The Iowa Senate passed a bill earlier this year but it was not considered in the House.

The Board of Medicine committee on Friday heard from a doctor who said conversion therapy has been shown to be harmful to children.

Dr. Katie Imborek, who runs the LGBTQ Clinic at the University of Iowa, said she’s seen more than 300 patients since opening in October 2012 and may need to expand.

She said she doesn’t believe Iowa doctors or psychologists perform conversion therapy but that it’s possible some may refer patients to individuals who do.

“It seems like there are still folks in Iowa that are looking for that and they are going to licensed psychologists or therapists trying to seek those services,” she said. “It’s clear that this is something that continues to be talked about and continues to be offered.”

The committee also heard from members of a Christian organization that opposes the ban. They said such a policy steps beyond medical concerns and into religious and spiritual matters.

“Many people hold different views, and when we as a board or we as a state seek to step in and limit a very large section of the population that holds a certain view of sexual ethics, I think that’s dangerous and it’s wrong,” said Nathan Oppman, a spokesman for The Family Leader, a Des Moines based group that opposes gay marriage and other gay rights, abortion and the spread of gambling.

► **Orlando**

Continued from p. 10

ago left parts of the metro area without power for a week, damaged scores of homes and made many roads impassable due to downed trees. He called the Pulse shooting a defining moment.

“It’s unfortunate that something like this is the reason,” Kolin said. “Hopefully we can build on this sense of unity so something positive comes out of it.”

But experts say these incidences of post-trauma unity are often short-lived. Sociologist James Hawdon of Virginia Tech suggests that solidarity plateaus two or three months after a tragedy, with things returning to normal after six to nine months.

“The increase in the solidarity is part of the grieving process, and so over time your life just gets back to normal,” said Hawdon, who was at Virginia Tech in 2007 when a gunman killed 32 people – the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history until the Pulse massacre. “We need to continue with our lives, so people start getting back into our routines.”

Even now, not all residents feel the community is uniting behind the right symbol. Colleen Tomassetti-Cartier, a property manager downtown, said people seem kinder since the Pulse shooting, and she’s noticed more people giving to the homeless. But she believes people should be flying the American flag instead of the rainbow one to express solidarity.

Others see the rainbow as a key symbol. “For us it was a nice gesture to say, ‘Hey, not only do we stand with the city of Orlando, but we also stand with the gay community as well,’” said Mike Klinski, manager of David’s World Cycle bicycle shop, where the front window displays rainbow-colored bicycle helmets with the words “(hash)OrlandoStrong.”

Diana Font, an official with the Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce of Central Florida, saw the solidarity in the hotel owners who put up out-of-state families of shooting victims for free and others who provided transportation for them. About half of those killed at Pulse had ties to Puerto Rico.

“I feel that it has created community,” Font said.

Dyer said the Pulse massacre gives Orlando the chance to become “a beacon of light” for equality and tolerance, regardless of whether the solidarity fades, and that the city can build on its recent history of welcoming strangers of diverse backgrounds. Orlando has visible gay, Hispanic and Vietnamese communities and a low threshold for getting involved in civic affairs, a benefit of being a place with shallow roots.

“I actually had a pastor preach a service where he said, ‘God has anointed Orlando with the opportunity to be the symbol to fight against hatred and to uplift diversity and equality,’” Dyer said. “We have that ability now because of the Pulse event.”

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Genesis 20:16 (Rainbow Translation)

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

1. In the year of the Trumpeted Mongrel 666 Beast of War endlessly chasing his flea-bitten tail, a prophet of restless dudes scaled Mt. Rush-No-More, seeking counsel with the electrifying powers that sometimes be.

2. Thus spake the Prophet Dude: “Eternal CEOs of centuries flushed down the oft-clogging, gas-driven drain of time. Ye who have dazzled and conned naive humankind with awe-inspiring displays – triune, quadraphonic to behold – hear my humble – but mainly cool – complaint.

3. “Yea, verily! Ye who made the sun stand still in its skyward climb. Ye who made Noah’s rebuilt, tax-free ark a crib for lowly ass and bellowing pachyderm tourists (our present pets). Ye who turned well water into Palestinian Perrier. Give us thy hands-on blessings of total space out for this the Age of Lukewarm Tea Baggery.

4. “Give us a push-button rod to conjure with, a change-channel staff to comfort us. Give us thy constant rerun soaps. Gridiron images of total adoration. Placebo messages of world dominion. Free floating! Whiz bang! Be here now! Do whatever thou wilt!”

5. Then atop Mt. Rush-No-More spoke a voice from a burning bush, unlike any theocratic tumbleweed past, present, or (hopefully) future. “O lowly assembly line kinda guy!” it said, echoing like ten thousand autoharps in perfect E-flat Pluribus Unison.

6. “May We, the autonomous Big Three, presume, that thou art not content to keep sabbath, ritual, holy day? Lease and buy our chariots, used and otherwise? Kiddest thou us not?”

7. Then answered the Prophet Dude (sun-glassing his eyes for the sight of the day-glo, smoldering shrub was too much for mere mortal sight), “These are trying, ball-busting times. Years of zillion dollar debt. Trickle-down disaster. (All knowing Big-Three: Grant us, thy hallowed hocus pokus to help us make it through the night.)

8. “Yea, and howdy doody!” he continueth. “Ye whom the Angels, Cardinals, and Cubs praise sky high, ad infinitum, ad nauseum, let our three-score-ten (so short a bluenote gig) be sweet and 24/7 entertained, in this bad-ass epoch of mumble-grumble, wife-swap politics, and rightwing navel fuzzing. Give us top booking. Amen.”

9. So moved by this bogue supplication, the burning bush toned down its thousand points of light, and in an omnipotent, omnipresent, omnivorous, omnibus, oh-my-gosh voice spoke forth again.

10 “O Prophet Dude, we, the autocratic Trinity Broadcast Network, think thou hast indeed a legitimate axel to grind. Take, then, our magic buyout. With kith and kin go raiseth hell.

11. “Better still. Many are these cellphone charms to chose. (One model never fits all ears). Yea, truly, Prophet Dude, these gizmos are prestidigitation! Images. Tunes. Eden postures. Instant hand-held, high-watt joy.

12. “Be now gods like Us! Never bored. Wide awake. Pandora power mad. But these new add-on, commandments, O Prophet Dude, must be obeyed!

13. “Make thou no You Tube graven images. No iPod XXXing during prime time. TXT us when in Unisex Stalls. (See if indeed We Three give a damn.) And always recharge in a holy socket. No AC-DC hanky panky. Over and never out. Pax! Nix ObamaScare. Amen!”

Charles@pridesource.com (September is Take A Dyke to Lunch Month.



BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

Fitting Together

When I was still in the process of coming out, I found that one of the friends who seemed to have the hardest time dealing with my transition was the one who had come out just a year or two earlier as gay. This baffled me, as I had naively assumed he would be one of my bigger supporters.

As it turned out, I quickly learned one of the reasons for his reluctance. For him, part of his coming out included a concern that his existing friends and family would seem him as effeminate or unmanly, or perhaps expect him to suddenly take to drag performing around the house. For him, it was important, in one way or another, to push back against my identity for fear of how that would affect his identity.

The same can be true for transgender people, too. The same books I was reading about coming out at that time stressed letting people know that just because you identified as transgender did not mean you were gay as well, as if being such was an even worse horror to foist on your Aunt Connie than merely one’s trans identity.

I came out a couple of decades ago, but this remains an uneasy border even now.

Several months back, at a speaking engagement for the Transgender Day of Remembrance, I was pulled aside from a member of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. The sister in question, with a tightly trimmed beard framed with the signature white makeup, as well as their full habit and wimple, spoke to me alongside a busy road in hushed tones.

They saw the Transgender Day of Remembrance as

an important day, but had found it difficult to explain to others in the area. Yes, they understood the importance of speaking out against these murders and honoring those lost, but they did not know how to explain to others why these others – presumed to be non-transgender gays, lesbians, and bisexuals – why the fight for transgender people mattered to them.

This discussion stayed heavy in my mind for the rest of my time at the event, and is something I’ve pondered a lot over time.

On the surface, yes, it may well be hard to see a similarity. First and foremost, the “G,” “L,” and “B” parts of the equation are far more concerned with sexual orientation. They are the parts of a movement that champions the rights of those who want to be in a relationship with a person of the same gender or, in the case of bisexuality, with either of the dominant genders. Or, in the case of the latter, perhaps more than simply two genders – but I’m getting ahead of myself.

The “T” in the equation, however, is more involved with gender identity and expression, and seems less of a fit than the others. This is, however, too simple of a worldview.

I think we belong together, unified with other sexual and gender minorities. We are stronger together as a coalition, rather than scattered into smaller and smaller subsets, unable to find common ground like some queer tower of Babel. I’ve always been a believer in working together on common causes, and supporting each other during those times when one or another of us needs support. It’s what I expect in a community. I also know my views are excessively optimistic, and we’re unlikely

► Smith: Fitting Together

Continued from p. 12

to make a perfect harmony of voices – but we can try.

Beyond this simple plea for an effective, beneficial community, I think there are more things that bind us together. Yes, trans identities are not on the surface the same as gay, lesbian, or bisexual ones – but we do cross over on expression. It may seem a radical approach, but I often look at gay and lesbian identities as being closer to a subset of trans, much more than the opposite.

Consider again my friend from high school. The concerns he pushed back against were not about whom he chose as a sexual partner, but about how his masculinity would be impacted when he came out as gay. That seems to me to clearly fall in the realm of gender expression far more than sexual orientation. By that same token, I could have pointed out to the member of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence who pulled me aside that they were, at that very moment, transcending gender, presenting in traditionally feminine garb while also sporting male facial hair. They were, indeed, transcending gender far more than I was in the time, presenting traditionally female, albeit it

in women's slacks and a simple blouse and jacket combo.

There's truth to this union from our side as well. While many trans people may not identify in a more, shall we say, traditional sense as "gay" or "lesbian," surely our gender expression muddies the waters of gender, and that can further affect the sexual identity of a trans person as well as those who may have a sexual relationship with us. This becomes even more complex and obvious as the trans community blazes new, non-binary and other trails.

It's also worth noting that the arguments of so-called "transgender panic" defense around trans deaths are ones where trans identities and sexual orientation are tightly wound. Those who kill us often claim to do so because their masculinity was threatened, and they worried that someone might think they were homosexual.

This, to me, is why the fight for trans people sits firmly alongside our gay, lesbian, and bisexual siblings, and it is why we should learn from each other, grow together, and be ready and willing to stand up for each other.

Gwen Smith fits within three of four letters in LGBT. You'll find her at www.gwensmith.com

Letter: In Time of Turmoil

In this time of ongoing turmoil, student exchange is good medicine for a world torn by terror. We want to invite the families of Livonia to help us combat international fears and prejudices by welcoming a foreign teen into their homes and hearts!

In recent weeks, all eyes have turned to Rio and the Olympic games. But as we cheer on Phelps, Biles, and Ledecky, many of us quietly hold our breath: rumors of a potential terrorist threat are woven through the press and shared on social media. The result? Fear. "International," a word once celebrated as exciting and elite, now feels scary and oppressive.

And yet – we have a choice!

If we want to break down prejudices and build understanding (even in the face of terror), relationship is the most likely antidote! real relationships with other human beings. This is where student exchange comes in! Welcoming an international student is a simple, tangible way to teach our children that different is not dangerous. When students engage with a classmate from Germany or Thailand, they begin to see the world differently. They become more likely to judge the country based on their friendship (and not the other way around).

In short: exchange students provide a much-needed way to let "global" be good again!

We can't do it without community support – so let's link arms and be part of the solution.

We urge your readers to help us bring all students "home"! We are seeking host homes for 60 students from Germany, Thailand,

Switzerland, Spain, Austria, and Italy. All students must have a host home by Aug. 31. Readers can consider helping by hosting as a short-term or long-term host family.

To learn more, readers may contact International Experience directly at 888-266-2921 and we will connect you with the Local Coordinator in your area, or visit www.IE-USA.org.

*Sincerely, Jodi Lundell
International Experience*

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

It's disappointing that this article appears to be neither fair nor balanced. It seems to me, the only people the reporter found to interview were those who had negative and unhelpful comments about this year's Hotter Than July celebration. I've spoken with only two HTJ 2016 visitors, yet both praised the events they attended and each used the word "inspiring." The overwhelming pessimism of the article creates the impression that its discouraging agenda was deliberate and premeditated. I am hopeful that next year, instead of focusing solely on people's comments that accuse and blame, BTL might represent a wider variety of opinions of Hotter Than July's attendees, as well as a deeper, more meaningful, investigation into the reasons why some suggest our local LGBT community events are experiencing declining community participation.

Howard Israel

Creep of the Week

Nico Hines

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

It is no secret that Olympic athletes have sex. It's also no secret that they hook up with each other in the Olympic village. I mean, we're talking about a land full of young people with chiseled bodies and lots of stamina. So, yeah, there's a whole lot of humpin' going' on.

It is also no secret that some Olympic athletes are gay. Actually, secret is a problematic word here because often the specific identity of gay athletes are secret. Sometimes this is because a particular athlete isn't out yet for a variety of reasons. Maybe they fear losing sponsorship opportunities, maybe they fear what their teammates will think, maybe they just aren't fully accepting of who they are yet and are not ready to publicly declare a sexual identity.

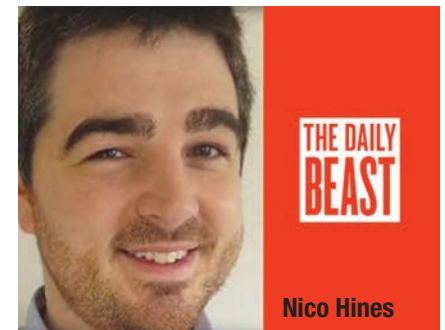
But other times the reason for staying closeted are much more dire, especially for athletes from notoriously anti-gay counties where homosexuality is severely punished up to and including death. Uganda, Iran, Saudi Arabia, or Yemen, for example, are places where being gay can cost you your life. In any country under sharia law gay people are in danger. And, of course, any place where ISIS has taken over. They reportedly just threw a man off of a building for being gay. They are sick fucks.

So you'd have to be a pretty big douche bag to out Olympic athletes just for the fun of it. Alas, this is essentially what journalist Nico Hines did for a Daily Beast article titled, "I Got Three Grindr Dates in an Hour in the Olympic Village," complete with a collage of a rainbow flag, the Olympic rings, and the Grindr logo. Very subtle.

The article has since been taken down, but it was up long enough to do real damage. Hines wrote about cruising the Olympic Village for sex using Grindr, a gay hook up app, and finding a whole host of guys who were DTF. In the article he included identifying characteristics that could be used to out the athletes he had "dates" with.

And even if none of the athletes mentioned face any direct repercussions, the article was a romp through homophobic tropes, as if the fact that gay sex even exists among Olympic athletes - you know, "real men" - is newsworthy.

Hines, who is a heterosexual married man with kids, is essentially clueless about the subject he decided to write about in a piece that was nothing but clickbait to begin with. How could he possibly know the fear and the shame that closeted LGBT people live with - not to mention the fear and the shame



Uganda, Iran, Saudi Arabia, or Yemen, for example, are places where being gay can cost you your life. In any country under sharia law gay people are in danger... (Daily Beast Reporter) Hines, who is a heterosexual married man with kids, is essentially clueless about the subject he decided to write about in a piece that was nothing but clickbait to begin with...let's hope that nobody gets thrown off of any buildings.

that out LGBT people live with and struggle against daily? However, being ignorant does not give him a pass. He knew that this subject was titillating and so he went for it, consequences be damned.

The Daily Beast did pull Hines out of Rio and they edited the piece before ultimately taking it down. But as we all know, once on the Internet, always on the Internet.

In a statement on the Daily Beast page, they write, "The article was not intended to do harm or degrade members of the LGBT community, but intent doesn't matter, impact does. Our hope is that removing an article that is in conflict with both our values and what we aspire to as journalists will demonstrate how seriously we take our error."

Which is all well and good. But it was a big mistake. Mistakes suck, but ideally we learn from them. The Daily Beast seems poised to get schooled. Let's hope Hines does, too. But above all, let's hope that nobody gets thrown off of any buildings.

After Sochi Concerns, Rio Games Seem Decidedly Gay-friendly

BY TIM REYNOLDS

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) - Isadora Cerullo got no medal at these Olympics. A ring will have to suffice.

Cerullo is a rugby player for Brazil and her team finished ninth at the Rio Games out of a 12-team field, well out of medal contention. When the competition was over, a venue manager walked onto the pitch and eventually got around to asking her a question.

The manager was her girlfriend, Marjorie Enya. The question was “will you marry me?” And as others surrounded them and held red heart-shaped balloons, Cerullo said yes.

Unlike the Sochi Games two years ago, where gay rights were called into question over anti-gay laws enacted by Russia’s government, the Rio Games seem to be increasingly tolerant by comparison. It hasn’t been flawless – for example, homophobic slurs were shouted by some in the stands at a U.S. women’s soccer match as the games opened – but there’s certain signs of progress on the inclusion front.

“That’s what I hope for and I feel like our society is going in the right direction,” said U.S. women’s basketball star Elena Delle Donne, who came out and announced her engagement last week. “That’s not a story. It’s normal.”

The new normal, perhaps.

Gay marriage is legal in Brazil, though tolerance seems far from universal. One gay rights group says that on average since 2013, about one LGBT person each day has been killed in Brazil. The organization called Grupo Gay da Bahia calls Brazil “the world champion of crimes motivated by homophobia and-or transphobia.”

“I know all the prejudice that exists in society against homosexuals,” said 2012



Isadora Cerullo, a rugby player for Brazil, and her partner Marjorie Enya, who asked Cerullo to marry her on the field last week during the Olympics. AP Photo.

Olympic beach volleyball bronze medalist Larissa Franca of Brazil, who is competing again in Rio. “We don’t choose our feelings, let alone control them.”

So far in these Olympics, there seems to be far more cheering than prejudice.

Whether it was a transgender model appearing in the athletes’ parade at the opening ceremony, two men kissing during their leg of the torch relay along Copacabana Beach or the British women’s field hockey team including two teammates who are married – an Olympic first – it has already been a games unlike any other for the LGBTQ community.

“A lot of support,” Delle Donne said.

That’s as the International Olympic

Committee intended, too. After Sochi, the IOC required future Olympic host cities to abide by rules that forbid any kind of discrimination, including with regard to sexual orientation.

“It’s in the charter that we don’t accept any discrimination on grounds of race or religion and sexuality is now included in that. But this kind of takes it even further,” IOC spokesman Mark Adams said Tuesday. “It’s a celebration of that and certainly made me feel good this morning when I heard about the story. So it’s excellent, excellent news.”

Cerullo’s engagement quickly made global headlines given the stage on which it occurred. Enya appeared, gave a rather impassioned and emotional speech about how Cerullo is the love

of her life, and the couple sealed the moment with a kiss.

“That certainly made her very happy,” said Brazil rugby player Rachel Kochhann, one of Cerullo’s teammates. “We felt this joy in our group.”

Outsports.com reported that there are at least 46 publicly known LGBT athletes in the Rio Games, the highest number of any Olympics. British diver Tom Daley won a bronze medal in the synchronized competition, with his fiancée in the stands to cheer him on – and whatever buzz that created didn’t seem to overshadow the medal accomplishment whatsoever.

Daley came out in 2013 and said he’s never been happier.

“I’m at my most consistent,” Daley said. “I feel ready physically, psychologically, everything, so I’m really excited.”

Daley said the support he’s gotten has been empowering, and British racewalker Tom Bosworth can relate. When Bosworth revealed his sexuality publicly last year, he said he was blown away by the support from those who already knew and people he never met.

“It’s actually spurred me on,” Bosworth said. “It’s actually given me more motivation. ... Now I feel like I’m doing it for even more people than before.”

For Cerullo and Enya, it was an Olympic moment they’ll never forget.

The stadium was largely empty when Enya walked onto the grass with a microphone, volunteers gathered around as she spoke about what Cerullo means to her. The “ring” that Enya gave Cerullo was a simple piece of ribbon.

Gold ribbon, that is. After all, it was at an Olympics.

“I wanted to show people,” Enya said, “that love wins.”

Daily Beast Withdraws Story About Gay Dating at Rio Games

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) – The Daily Beast has withdrawn a story that prompted ire of many readers, complaining that it could have outed gay athletes at the Rio Games.

The story’s removal from the site Thursday night came hours after the editor-in-chief for the publication apologized for the article, which was first revised before being taken down completely.

“Today we did not uphold a deep set of The Daily Beast’s values,” read a statement on the site. “These values – which include standing up to bullies and bigots, and specifically being a proudly, steadfastly supportive voice for LGBT people all over the world – are core to our commitment to journalism and to our

commitment to serving our readers.”

The story talked about how athletes use dating apps such as Bumble, Grindr, Jack’d, and Tinder to connect with people at the games. A reporter for the site said in the story that he got three dates in his first hour of trying and also detailed what some men wrote on their profiles on Grindr, a popular gay dating app.

Readers and social media users quickly voiced concern that the details in the original version of the story could not only out gay athletes, but also potentially threaten their safety.

Those concerns, Daily Beast editor-in-chief John Avlon wrote in issuing the first apology,

were legitimate.

“This was never our reporter’s intention, of course,” Avlon wrote. “No names were ever used and some of the profiles described were of straight women. But there was a concern that even mentioning the home nation of some gay athletes could compromise their safety. We apologize for potentially jeopardizing that safety in any way. As a result, we have removed all descriptions of the men and women’s profiles that we previously described.”

The Society of Professional Journalists was quick to criticize the story as well.

“The athletes adversely affected by the story also deserve an apology,” wrote Andrew

Seaman, who chairs SPJ’s ethics committee. “Such a story has no place in a modern media organization.”

Avlon said some “editorial changes” were made to the original article in response to readers’ concerns. The backlash continued, and the site then went a step further.

“The article was not intended to do harm or degrade members of the LGBT community, but intent doesn’t matter, impact does,” the site’s statement on the story’s withdrawal said. “Our hope is that removing an article that is in conflict with both our values and what we aspire to as journalists will demonstrate how seriously we take our error. We screwed up. We will do better.”



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Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant in "Florence Foster Jenkins." Photo: Paramount

From 'Little Actress' to HOLLYWOOD HUNK

Hugh Grant Talks Gender-Bending Youth, Monogamy & His Early Gay Films

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

For more than 20 years as a leading man, rom-com vet Hugh Grant has been the object of many actresses' (and, yes, even some actors') affection. But get this: He's also been an actress himself.

As a kid, the actor's feminine features earned him numerous lady roles in plays he and his classmates performed at London's all-male Wetherby School.

"This was a necessity," he says of his

gender-bending days. "It was dictated that some of us had to become little actresses and, yes, I was particularly moving as Brigitta von Trapp, one of the von Trapp daughters, in 'The Sound of Music.'"

The role, he enthusiastically notes, entailed a full-on drag transformation, with your mom's '90s movie crush "in a white dress with a blue satin sash."

You're thinking: Is this really the same Hugh Grant who charmed Julia Roberts as a bookshop owner in 1999's "Notting Hill"?

Who was Sandra Bullock's pompous boss-turned-lover in "Two Weeks Notice"? Who famously played Daniel Cleaver and swept Renée Zellweger off her feet in "Bridget Jones's Diary"? Who danced down a set of stairs to The Pointer Sisters' "Jump for My Love" in "Love Actually" and then won over Natalie (Martine McCutcheon) and everyone who wished they *were* Natalie? (Hey, that dance scene was epic.)

Yup, same Hugh. Because before becoming the lady's man he was, well, the lady.

"In my teenage years, I was very girly," Grant says, "I remember when I used to go on a French exchange in Paris and all the locals called me 'mademoiselle' because they thought I was a girl."

Did his femininity ever call into question his sexuality?

He ponders before settling on a response. "No. They just thought I *was* a girl. I looked like a girl, let's face it. I had long, very dodgy '70s hair."

Fast forward 40 years and "I look like a

scrotum now,” he zings.

Yes, folks: Tell your mom that Hugh Grant thinks his face looks like a man’s genitals. When I assure him that his face is not scrotum-like, he replies in his dainty English accent, “Very well. Thank you for cheering me up.”

Whether he truly agrees is uncertain, but now 55, the actor’s self-proclaimed ball-sac face makes a welcome return to the big screen in “Florence Foster Jenkins.” The actor portrays shoddy actor St. Clair Bayfield, who lets his equally-untalented wife, the film’s eponymous Florence, a well-intentioned socialite, believe she can sing.

According to the Oscar-bound dramedy, which is loosely based on the real-life Jenkins, their marriage was open, and after tucking Jenkins into bed, Bayfield spent his nights getting frisky with a much younger woman.

“I think it’s certainly possible to love – to properly love – different people in different ways simultaneously,” he says. Suddenly realizing that statement is essentially a summary of his own romantic life, Grant unleashes a tickled laugh. “I’ve always been an advocate of that, and sometimes I think the only reason (director) Stephen Frears thought of me for this part was, he thought, ‘OK, who do I know who has a very unorthodox domestic life? Oh, Hugh.’”

I joke that the film, then, is a documentary. He snickers and playfully agrees. The film’s subversive nature, he adds, may “speak particularly to the LGBT community.”

The topic of open relationships – or any union that breaks tradition, really – is one Grant’s clearly interested in speaking about, so he gladly elaborates: “I felt like the script and the film was kind of a celebration of unorthodoxy and of the very strange shapes that we fall into in life, in ourselves and in our relationships. It’s all great as long it’s done with passion and love, and so yeah, I think that’s what the film is.”

He’s not done with his telling discourse, fortunately.

“I’ve never really understood why people should think men and women or men and men or women and women have to be in 40-year monogamous relationships and that that’s the natural state of human beings, because I’m pretty damn sure it isn’t,” Grant insists. “I think it’s just a social norm or the ghost of a religious norm being passed down, and I’m not entirely sure it’s a recipe for happiness.”

The same could be said about “Maurice,” Grant’s 1987 film that brought the actor closer to the queer community after he portrayed Clive, a repressed gay man living in early 20th-century England. As Grant puts it, “My character ends up married and smug with a mustache, but you can tell everything is being bottled up.”

To this day, the movie is held in high regard, mentioned alongside “Torch Song Trilogy” and “My Own Private Idaho” in Steven Paul Davies’ book “Out at the Movies: A History of Gay Cinema” as well as in Alonso Duralde’s “101 Must See Movies for Gay Men.” For Grant, its legacy within the LGBT community is a revelation.

“I didn’t realize that it had that status!” he says, laughing. “But I’m very pleased that it does, and I’m sure that (the book’s author) E. M. Forster would be very pleased that it does. After all, it was a novel he wrote and kept under his bed for many years, and it was only published after his death because he was too nervous of the law to publish it during his lifetime. I think he’d be pleased that it’s struck a chord now.”

Several gay roles followed “Maurice,” including Grant’s turn as a gay director in the obscure backstage tragicomedy “An Awfully Big Adventure,” released a year after his big rom-com break in 1994’s “Four Weddings and a Funeral.” Earlier, in 1991’s TV movie “Our Sons,” the actor played Julie Andrews’ son James, the lover of an AIDS-stricken man.

Reflecting on his gay roles from the late ’80s to the early ’90s, a time when taking on such parts could be considered taboo, he says, “Maybe it was considered fractionally more daring to do that, but it didn’t feel daring to me.”

Though LGBT-themed narratives have thankfully evolved beyond AIDS as a death sentence (because it’s not) and forbidden love (because it doesn’t have to be), Grant contemplates whether an out gay actor could rule the same genre he did for over two decades. Is the world ready for a gay Grant?

“We’ve had straight men playing gay men in romantic situations, but I’m struggling to think of an out gay actor playing a straight relationship in a high-profile film,” the actor says.

Grant doesn’t come up with any names because they don’t exist. Yet, that is.

“Yeah,” he says, optimistically. “I’m sure it’s coming.”

“I’ve never really understood why people should think men and women or men and men or women and women have to be in 40-year monogamous relationships and that that’s the natural state of human beings, because I’m pretty damn sure it isn’t. I think it’s just a social norm or the ghost of a religious norm being passed down, and I’m not entirely sure it’s a recipe for happiness.”



The graphic features a light blue background with various text elements and illustrations. At the top, the word "Live" is written in a large, bold, black font. Below it, the word "ART" is written in a large, white, outlined font. To the right of "ART", there is an illustration of a hand holding a paintbrush, with a pink hand and a blue hand also holding brushes. Below "ART", the word "Detroit" is written in a large, black, cursive font. Underneath "Detroit", the text "AN INTERACTIVE ART FAIR" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. Below that, the text "See - Try - Buy" is written in a large, black, cursive font. Underneath "See - Try - Buy", the text "LIVE PAINTING-DEMOS-MAKE & TAKE" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. Below that, the text "Sunday August 21st" is written in a large, black, cursive font. Underneath "Sunday August 21st", the text "10AM-4PM" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. Below that, the text "SHED 3, EASTERN MARKET, DETROIT" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the text "SHED 5 Sundays" is written in a large, black, sans-serif font, with "SHED 5" in a white box with a black border. To the right of "SHED 5", the text "FREE ADMISSION" is written in a large, black, sans-serif font. At the very bottom, the text "WWW.SHED5ART.COM" is written in a large, black, sans-serif font.

Revolutionary Change for Therapist Joe Kort

BY AJ TRAGER

ROYAL OAK – Therapist, coach and author Joe Kort, Ph.D., LMSW, helped many individuals cope and manage issues relating to sex addiction for over 20 years. Kort completed the second edition of his book “10 Smart Things Gay Men Can Do To Improve Their Lives” this year, 13 years after it was initially released, and shared with readers a sweeping realization about his own therapy practice: Joe Kort no longer believes in sex addiction.

“The first book was all about the negatives, like, ‘Oh you’re going to hurt yourself and this is terrible.’ The sex addiction model is very negative. It’s pathological. And they (sex addiction therapists) pathologize the behavior. Out-of-control sexual behavior model doesn’t. It says, ‘We’re not going to look at the behavior, because we could be doing anything. But instead, let’s look at your relationship to the behavior.. How do you feel about the behavior? Are you being honest? Is it relational? Is it consensual?’ It has other elements in it,” Kort said.

Kort has been a practicing psychotherapist and counselor since 1985 and until 2016 spent his career specializing in sex addiction as well as responsible non-monogamy/monogamy; childhood sexual, physical and emotional abuse; mixed-orientation marriages; coming out; and depression and anxiety.

While there is no real definition of sex addiction, therapists, counselors and physicians working to treat sex addiction have come to define the condition through the addiction model as “compulsive participation or engagement in sexual activity, despite negative consequences.”

Sex Addiction, Eroticectomies and Sexual Therapy

In his book, Kort uses examples from his own life experience and the anonymous experiences of some of his clients to explore the complex journey of becoming a gay man and help readers learn how to identify internalized homophobia, navigate difficult relationship situations,



Joe Kort, Ph.D., LMSW, showing off the second edition of his book “10 Smart Things Gay Men Can Do To Improve Their Lives.” In his book, Kort uses examples from his own life experience and the anonymous experiences of some of his clients to explore the complex journey of becoming a gay man. BTL Photo: AJ Trager

learn how to develop a rewarding relationship, resolve issues with family and more.

Much has changed from the first edition of his book. Now, more LGBT individuals are out of the closet than ever before, the LGBT community is more integrated into larger society and social media has gone from a curiosity to a major part of everyday American life. Some things are still the same, however. Homophobia remains a worldwide problem plaguing communities both in and outside the LGBT community and dating hasn’t gotten any easier, either.

Kort took all of this into consideration when writing the second edition. The first edition didn’t cover more modern topics

such as social media, how dating apps like Grindr have impacted the social and dating life of gay men, and how open relationships can be just as healthy as monogamous ones. If he was going to re-write a “How To Book” for gay men, Kort wanted to make sure that the concepts he was suggesting to his cohort were up to date, honest and not detrimental to gay men’s sexual health.

“The biggest change in the book – and this is huge – is that originally I had a whole chapter on sex addiction, which I no longer believe in anymore. Zero. It’s not a diagnosis. It does not exist. There’s no research to support it. Anything somebody says to support it is wrong. There is brain science and neuroscience, but none of that

Therapist, coach and author Joe Kort, Ph.D., LMSW, helped many individuals cope and manage issues relating to sex addiction for over 20 years – and now no longer believes in sex addiction.

applies to sexual science,” Kort said.

He now believes in an approach called the Out-Of-Control Sexual Behavior model. OCSB focuses more on what is missing in the relationship and how those in question have more to unpack than just their briefs. Some sexual acts such as BDSM (bondage, dominance, submission and sadomasochism) are misdiagnosed as sexual addiction, Kort says, and the OCSB helps individuals discover whether or not there is a problem with the behavior and helps guide them to a healthy place for them individually and as a couple.

“OCSB says, ‘Let’s look at your values and look at what’s right for you and how you want to live your life,’ and not the therapist. It’s like clients need to be protected from us, our biases and our values. The joke about sex addiction is the mission of sex addiction therapy is to put everybody in the missionary position. The bottom line is, this doesn’t work. It really mirrors reparative therapy,” Kort explained.

He used the term eroticectomy to describe how the sex addiction model strips the sexy out of sexual-physical intimacy and replaces that energy with a duller, more passive understanding of one’s own sexuality – or even none at all.

“I identified myself as a sex addict for years and that’s what I really felt I had done to myself, and that I gave myself an eroticectomy. I realized in my 40s that, ‘No, the things I like are what I like.’ So I had my own personal journey and a professional journey,” he admitted.

Sex addiction therapy turned out to be moralistic, judgmental, homophobic and religious. Since coming to a new understanding of complicated, sex-focused behaviors and how to treat them, Kort says

that he has been bullied a lot by the sex addiction community for disagreeing with them. He says that the sex addiction model fails gay men and forces them into heteronormativity.

“People are allowed to say in the sex addiction community that homosexuality is an abomination and that is not something that I would help a client embrace. And I’ve had to say, ‘You know you can talk like that in a religious institution, but this is unethical,’” he said.

“I feel like the sex addiction model completely fails gay men. If you have open relationships or you’re kinky or you have multiple partners, sex addiction says, ‘There’s something wrong with you and let’s look into what happened to you to as a gay man,’” he added.

Kort began his training in sexual therapy in his 40s through the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and Therapists. He is now an AASECT certified sex therapist and affirms the fundamental value of sexuality as an inherent, essential and beneficial dimension of being human.

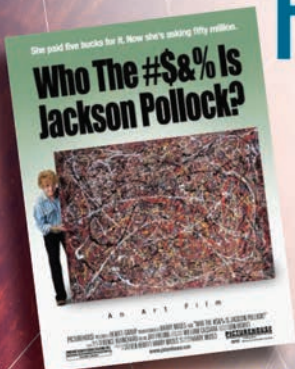
Sex Addiction therapy arose in the 1980s, but Kort believes it hasn’t grown since. Kort has spent his career using the sex addiction model and says he owes his clients an apology.

“I regret it. Like a reparative therapist regrets trying to change a gay person and then said they were sorry,” Kort admitted. “I hope you know that I did what I did out of a lot of compassion and I had the best intentions.”

To learn more about Kort, his work or to purchase a copy of his book, visit www.joekort.com.

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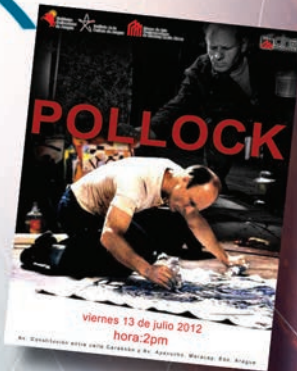
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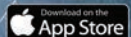
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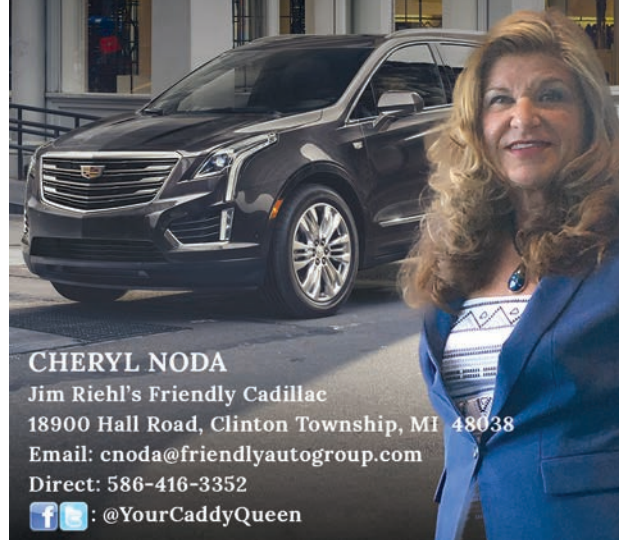
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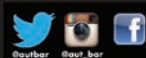
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Men's Yoga	13
Merkel Carpet One.....*	
Mitchell Gold & Bob Williams.....	14
Necto.....	15
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People's Food Coop.....	16
Performance Network.....	17
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Rosenberg, David	12
Sh\aut\ Cabaret and Gallery	6
Spectrum Center.....	19
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Ann Arbor People Make Friends By Joining Meetup Groups

Meetup Groups have quickly become a good way for people to share their interests and spark new friendships. Today, according to the Meetup website, there are more than 220,000 Meetup groups in 181 countries. More than 24 million people have signed up for the site. Data collected by Meetup shows that, as of January 2015, there were 127,630 Meetup groups in the U.S. of which 1,840 are LGBT, one of the fastest growing groups with a 62 percent growth rate as of 2015. LGBT people in Ann Arbor are making it easier to find new friends and develop a meaningful social life.

Ypsi/A2 LGBTQA This Meetup group was founded in 2008. They have 1,130 members and 32 upcoming meetups to include a Superhero Bar Crawl, an LGBT Toastmaster Club, a Meet and Greet Brunch, a Gay Business Networking Opportunity, and an Ann Arbor Rainbow Book Club.

Plymouth Womyn's Diversity Dining Club This Meetup group was founded in 2011 and is intended for meeting womyn in the LGBT community to enjoy food, friendship, and good conversation in and around Plymouth, Northville, Novi, Canton, and Livonia on the second Friday of each month. They have 480 members.

ArborYpsiGuys This Meetup group was started in 2010 to accommodate gay men over the age of 40. With 236 members, these guys are interested in making quality friendships with other gay men in welcoming spaces. They encourage men to be who they are. It's not about dating and hooking up. It's not about how much money a man makes, how often he goes to the gym or where he buys his clothes. At the same time, if a man wants to workout, this Meetup group will help him find a workout partner, or someone to go shopping with. These guys get together for weekend barbecues, to watch baseball games, and take road trips. They support each other and are interested in building long-lasting friendships.

LGBTQA2 Group With 72 members, this Meetup group formed recently this year for adults, 21 and over, who want to get together to enjoy fun events in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. They host social events, food and drink events, private parties, game nights, field trips, and camping events. This Meetup group was created to help bridge the age gap in the local community.

Metro Detroit Asexuality Group Anyone interested in meeting other individuals on the "gray" spectrum should join this Meetup group of 27 members. From asexual to demi-sexual, all are welcome. This Meetup group was started this year to foster new friends and develop relationships that are not filled with sexual tension or even any sexual issues. It is open to anyone that doesn't fit into the "norm" or fit into the LGBTQ community necessarily.

Queer Young Professionals Founded in 2014, this Meetup group has 922 friends that come together in a variety of ways whether it's trivia night, board game night, visits to the local dog parks and cider mills, movies, and festivals, to name a few. There is a Meetup group in Ann Arbor to satisfy a variety of interests and to meet and develop friendships with like-minded people.

For more information about these LGBT Meetup groups and to grow a social network, visit www.meetup.com and search for activities in the Ann Arbor area.

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Happenings

OUTINGS

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/

Leelanau Peninsula Wine Trail's Small Plates Event 6 p.m. Attendees enjoy wine and gourmet small plates along the trail with 12 participating wineries and dining locations. Tickets: \$15. Reservations are encouraged. Leelanau Peninsula Vintners Association, **Traverse City**. info@lpwines.com www.lpwines.com

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. 19

Ability and Access to Health Care for LGBT People 12 p.m. The Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression (SOGIE) learning series. 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

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

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 www.reddoorclub.com/events/

Sunday, Aug. 21

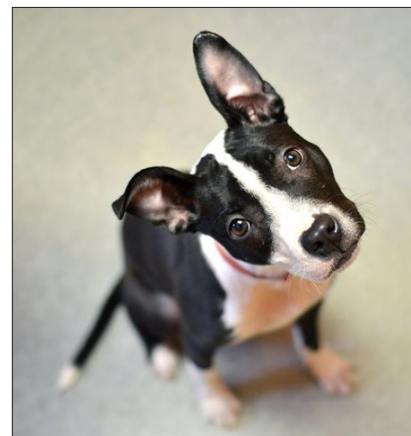
Paddle Group 1 a.m. Bring a kayak, canoe or whatever floats. The paddle group hits the watersheds known as Brighton, Huron-Clinton, Irish Hills, Jackson, Pinckney and Waterloo Recreation Areas. They paddle for two to three hours most Sundays. Life jackets are required. Yak season is April through October.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

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

Thursday, Aug. 25

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.,



Editor's Pick

Brigg's Detroit Rooftop Benefit Concert

The Michigan Humane Society Mega March for Animals is coming soon and the Detroit MHS shelter staff is hosting a rooftop concert fundraiser in partnership with Brigg's Detroit on Aug. 24 at 8 p.m. There will be prizes, giveaways, and Detroit's own David Caraco will be bartending. Brigg's offers a large selection of craft beers on tap. On the rooftop deck will be Soulfinger playing a variety of rock, soul, and funk. Tickets are only \$5 and can be purchased at the MHS Detroit shelter at 7887 Chrysler Drive. Brigg's is located in Downtown Detroit at 519 E. Jefferson. For more information, visit www.briggsdetroit.com or call 313-656-4820.

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

Friday, Aug. 26

Kids Day! A Family Friendly Event for LGBTQ Youth, Parents and Allies 4 p.m. Kick off Pride weekend with a fun family day in the parking lot for the first ever Kids Day. All ages welcome. Free entry. Contact Sam Courtney at sam@spiraldancebar.com for details. Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St., **Lansing**. 517-371-3221. info@spiraldancebar.com [www.spiraldancebar.com](http://spiraldancebar.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

Spiral's White Party 9 p.m. Parking lot tent and entertainment featuring DJ's, drag queens and go-go's. Don't forget to wear white so you can glow under the black lights. Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St., **Lansing**. 517-371-3221. info@spiraldancebar.com www.spiraldancebar.com

Saturday, Aug. 27

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

Dexter Cider Mill 1 p.m. Oldest continuously operating cider mill in Michigan. Queer Young Professionals, 3685 Central St., **Dexter**. www.meetup.com

True Colors 9 p.m. Pride After-Party Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St., **Lansing**. 517-371-3221.

info@spiraldancebar.com www.spiraldancebar.com

Sunday, Aug. 28

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

Monday, Aug. 29

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

MUSIC & MORE

Comedy

The Whiting "Comedian Ralphie May" For mature audiences. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 7 p.m. Aug. 24. 810-237-8689. www.thewhiting.com

Concerts

AEG Live "O.A.R." The XX Tour - Evolution of a Revolution. Tickets: \$49.75-\$79.75. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 7 p.m. Aug. 25. 248-399-2980. www.royaloakmusictheatre.com

AEG Live, React, The Crofoot and Electricity "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

AEG Live, The Crofoot and Electricity "Flume" Special guests Ryan Hensworth and HWLS perform. Tickets: \$29-\$40. 16 and over welcome. Masonic Temple, 500 Temple St., Detroit. 7 p.m. Aug. 22. 3138327100. www.themasonic.com

Blind Pig "PokePig" Featuring Neekapz and Digeri, Vest and Tyler, DosLopez and Katzmeow. Tickets: \$5-\$8. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9:30 p.m. Aug. 25. 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/

Majestic Theater "Bayside" Special guests The Menzingers and Sorority Noise perform. Tickets: \$21-\$25. All ages welcome. Majestic Theater, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Aug. 26. 313-833-9700. www.majesticdetroit.com

Majik Ninja Entertainment "The Official Green Book Party" Hosted by Twiztid featuring performances by Zodiak, 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.soundboarddetroit.com

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

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>

The Ark "George Bedards Match Box Blues" History of American Roots Music series. Bedard will reunite with his old pal Mark "Mr. B" Braun, a blues and boogie-woogie pianist. Also featured is Rich Dishman, Pat Prouty, and David Root. Tickets: \$20-\$27. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 27. 734-761-1800. www.theark.org

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

Dance

Jewish Community Center "Tommy Tune Tonight!" Broadway's tallest tapper takes the stage with dancing, singing and tale-telling. Tickets: \$63. Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 25. 248-661-1900. www.theberman.org

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/

Static Network "Foxfest! Women's Music & Art Festival" Tickets: \$10. A portion of proceeds to benefit Girls Rock Detroit, Alternatives for Girls and Genesis House. The Tangent Gallery, 715 E. Milwaukee, Detroit. 8 p.m. Aug. 27. 313-873-2955. www.facebook.com/FoxfestDetroit/?fref=ts

THEATER

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

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

Professional

Ernie - The Play Tickets: \$15-70. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. Aug. 24 - Aug. 27. 800-WHARTON. www.whartoncenter.com

ART 'N' AROUND

Ann Arbor Art Center "Alternative Printmaking" This four-day course, instructed by Michael Garguilo, will explore alternative printmaking and photo processes. No experience is necessary. Ages 18 and up are welcome. The fee for this class is \$140. Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 22 - Aug. 25. 734-994-8004. http://apm.activecommunities.com/annarborartcenter/Activity_Search/891

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

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

Detroit Institute of Arts "The Open Road: Photography and the American Road Trip" Tickets: \$12.50 for adults, \$8 for seniors, and \$6 for youth. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 17 - Sep. 11. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

Eastern Market "Live Art Detroit" This interactive art fair features demonstrations, competitions, and workshops. Experience the art process and make art to take home, watch more than 50 artists work, or help with group art projects. Public admission is free, but art will be available for purchase. Shed 5, 2934 Russell St., Detroit. 10 a.m. Aug. 21. 313-833-9300. www.easternmarket.com/

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

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "Carlos Rolon/Dzine Vintage Voyages and Atomic Memories" \$5 or more donation encouraged to help continue groundbreaking exhibitions, public programs, and events. Mike Kelley's Mobile Homestead, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. July 23 - Aug. 28. 313-832-6622. www.mocaddetroit.org

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "Methexis: Works by DEPE Space Resident Mitch McEwen" A video series curated by A(n) Office and Dawn Lundy Martin. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. July 8 - Aug. 28. 313-832-6622. www.mocaddetroit.org

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "Detroit City/Detroit Affinities" Works by Annette Kelm Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 3 - Aug. 28. 313-832-6622. www.mocaddetroit.org

PNC Financial Services Group "Hippie Modernism: The Struggle for Utopia" Tickets: \$10 for the general public, \$8 for seniors, and \$6 for students with ID. Free for ArtMembers and children 12 and under. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. June 18 - Oct. 9. 877-462-7262. www.cranbrook.edu

Solo Exhibition by artist Futura "New Horizons" Artist Reception, Saturday, June 18 at 6 p.m. Library Street Collective, 1260 Library St., Detroit. June 18 - Sep. 3. 313-600-7443. www.lscgallery.com

Static Network "Hazel Park Art Fair" Free admission. Around 80 artists and 17 musical acts. All ages welcome. Green Acres Park, 620 W. Woodward Heights, Hazel Park. Aug. 27 - Aug. 28. 313-886-7860. www.hazelparkartfair.com

UMMA "Catie Newell: Overnight" Works by the Detroit-based architect will be on display at the Irving Stenn, Jr. Family Gallery. Nighttime images of Detroit streetscapes and interiors, alongside a site-specific sculptural installation will be on display. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. June 11 - Nov. 6. 734-763-4186. www.umma.umich.edu

University of Michigan Museum of Art "The Connoisseur's Legacy: The Collection of Nesta and Walter Spink" Nesta Spink, curator at UMMA from 1967 to 1979, is regarded as the preeminent authority on the lithographs of James McNeill Whistler. U-M professor emeritus Walter Spink is a world-renowned specialist on early Buddhist art and architecture in

India. A. Alfred Taubman Gallery, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. July 8 - Sep. 25. 7347634186. www.umma.umich.edu

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Catherine Opie: 700 Nimes Road" This exhibition presents new and recent work by Los Angeles-based artist Catherine Opie, one of the essential figures in contemporary photography. Beginning in 2010, Opie spent six months taking photographs at the Bel Air, California, residence of Elizabeth Taylor. The exhibition includes 50 works drawn from two series, "Closets and Jewels" and "700 Nimes Road." A. Alfred Taubman Gallery, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. June 11 - Sep. 11. 734-647-0524. www.umma.umich.edu/view/exhibitions/2016-opie.php

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Manuel Alvarez: Mexico's Poet of Light" This exhibition is supported by the University of Michigan Office of the Provost, the Richard and Rosann Noel Endowment Fund, and other generous donors. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 2 - Oct. 23. 734-763-4186. www.umma.umich.edu

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Mira Henry: The View Inside" Lead support for this exhibition is provided by the Herbert W. and Susan L. Johe Endowment. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 2 - Oct. 16. 734-763-4186. www.umma.umich.edu

University of Michigan Museum of Art "In Focus: Modern Japanese Folk Ceramics" Artist and poet Ann Holmes University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 9 - Oct. 30. 734-763-4186. www.umma.umich.edu

Ypsilanti Historical Museum "Meredith Bixby's Marvelous Marionettes" Puppets will be on display through spring of 2017. Ypsilanti Historical Museum, 220 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. July 10 - Dec. 31. 734-482-4990.

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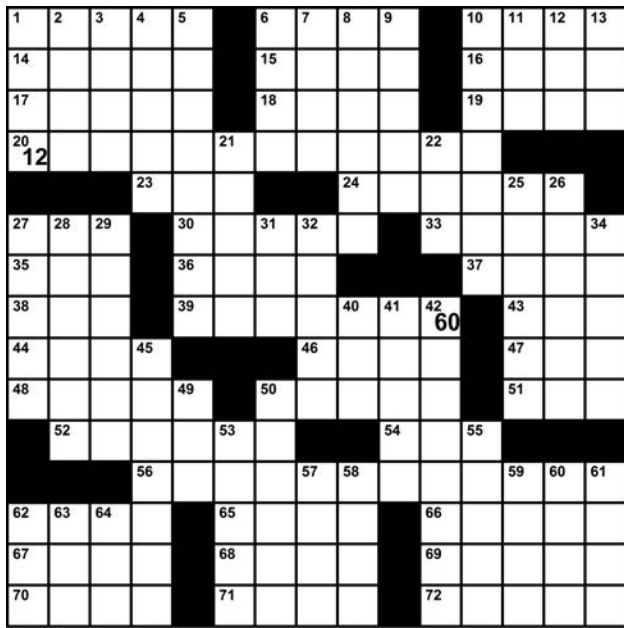
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Q Puzzle



In a Number of Performances

Across

- 1 Da Vinci's bridge
- 6 Rock Hudson's "A Farewell to _____"
- 10 Vegetable dildo, for short
- 14 "The Seven Samurai" director Kurosawa
- 15 The African Queen, e.g.
- 16 Baldwin's "The _____ Corner"
- 17 Provide food for

- 18 Brought forth fruit
- 19 Deli jarful
- 20 56-Across played Mary Epps in this 2013 movie
- 23 Noise at the Roxy
- 24 Brunch entree
- 27 Semen may be evidence on this program
- 30 Faith in music
- 33 Like a stifling relationship
- 35 Hosp. worker
- 36 Express pleasure orally
- 37 Scroll for the cut
- 38 Sandy's sound in "Annie"
- 39 56-Across played Harriet Hayes in this 2006-07 TV series

- 43 It gets laid on some streets
- 44 Gather, after spilling one's seed
- 46 Run-down neighborhood
- 47 Same-sex vow
- 48 "Let the Dead Bury the Dead" author Randall
- 50 Conductor Georg
- 51 "Beauty and the Beast" film frame
- 52 Meryl of "The Hours"
- 54 "Star Trek" sequel, briefly
- 56 Actress in "a number of performances"
- 62 Gay-friendly area of London
- 65 Trojans' org.
- 66 8-Down had his last one in Paris
- 67 Think out
- 68 In stitches, to Edith Head
- 69 "Dirty Dancing" director Ardolino
- 70 Bow source in "Robin Hood - Men in Tights"
- 71 Little biker in a Gay Pride march
- 72 Satisfies fully

- 11 Thurman of "Even Cowgirls Get the Blues"
- 12 F, in the orchestra pit
- 13 Bowie collaborator Brian
- 21 Stallion's sound
- 22 Doc for lions and tigers and bears
- 25 Kind of dancer or fruit
- 26 Tongue-lashing
- 27 Marcia _____ ("American Crime Story" role for 56-Across)
- 28 Abercrombie & Fitch buying binges
- 29 Little one
- 31 Lucy of "Charlie's Angels"
- 32 "_____ it goes" (Ellerbe line taken from Vonnegut)
- 34 56-Across played Abby in this 2015 film
- 40 Not in the pink
- 41 "The closet" opening?
- 42 TV newsmagazine with Anderson Cooper
- 45 Jim of "The Big Bang Theory"
- 49 PBS helper
- 50 Kevin of "American Beauty"
- 53 German Surrealist Max
- 55 Type of award for singers, e.g.
- 57 Overhead predator
- 58 Material for Philip Johnson's Glass House
- 59 Prissy hissy
- 60 Enjoy the scenery at a gay bar
- 61 Discouraging words
- 62 Undercover agent
- 63 Cheer for Lorca
- 64 Left in the field

Down

- 1 Conference of the UCLA Bruins
- 2 "I've had better..."
- 3 Evening, in ads
- 4 E.M. Forster's "Where Angels Fear to _____"
- 5 Pair of studs, e.g.
- 6 "Dancing Queen" band
- 7 Hoppers down under
- 8 Streetcar guy
- 9 Type of room at a bathhouse
- 10 Robert Goulet musical

Find solution to this puzzle at www.pridesource.com

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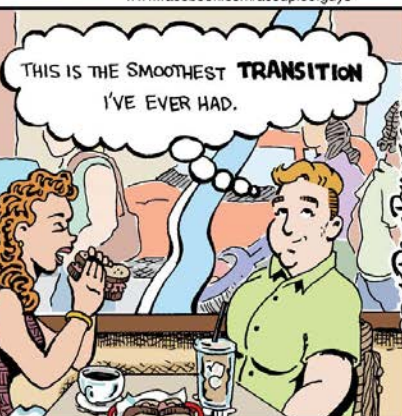
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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

'Hairspray Live!' adds Rosie O'Donnell and Sean Hayes to cast

Sean Hayes will play the role of Hefty Hideaway Dress Shop proprietor Mr. Pinky and Rosie O'Donnell will play the gym teacher in NBC's holiday season production of "Hairspray Live!." The 1960s-set musical – based on the John Waters film – about a young Baltimore girl named Tracy Turnblad (newcomer Maddie Baillio) who dreams of appearing on, and then desegregating, a local TV teenage dance show, already features an enticing cast of queer audience favorites. Hayes and O'Donnell join Kristin Chenoweth, Dove Cameron, Ariana Grande, Jennifer Hudson and Harvey Fierstein (who'll reprise his Broadway role as Edna Turnblad). In the wake of the ambitious and wildly successful "Grease Live," the live-musical-on-TV genre was put on creative notice, so expect a lot of extravagant, inventive staging for this one. And while we're on the subject of Broadway we can flop on the couch for, we would like to request "Grey Gardens," "Fun Home," "Hamilton," and possibly "Carrie." Not necessarily in that order, mind you, but at least before and/or instead of "Les Miz" and "Phantom." Please.



Photo: KathClyde

The 'Triumph' of Colton Haynes

You knew Colton Haynes from "Teen Wolf." Then you knew Colton Haynes from "Arrow." Then you knew him because he came out. Then you knew him from that wild, unscripted moment when Noah Galvin from "The Real O'Neals" attacked him in an interview for not coming out the right way (and, come on, this is a far preferable set

of circumstances than trying to figure out who to fake-hetero-marry to keep your career intact). So now Colton Haynes is working on making himself known to movie audiences in the upcoming teen drama "Triumph." Yes, that title is the essence of cominess, especially when you learn that the plot involves RJ Mitte ("Breaking Bad"), an actor with cerebral palsy, as a teenager who must overcome adversity, join the wrestling team, and win over the girl of his dreams. But we're going to give all of it the benefit of the doubt, if for no other reason than it's long overdue that Hollywood stopped being so horribly ableist all the time and gave some leading roles to guys like Mitte. Haynes, it can be assumed, will play a friend or foe of the hero, possibly a fellow wrestler, maybe someone's parent (he is nearly 30, after all, and this is Hollywood). Whatever happens, we'll be watching.

Rowan Blanchard taking a trip to 'A World Away'

What kind of teen actor comes out in the middle of her tenure on a popular sitcom? The kind who grows up in an accepting environment that lets her know it's fine to be exactly who she is. And that's exactly the situation 14-year-old actor Rowan Blanchard is in. She stars on "Girl Meets World" as, you know, The Girl, and this year she made the decision to talk about her queerness as naturally and easily as a human being should be allowed to discuss the subject. There's already some fan discussion on whether or not her character on the show should also be allowed to come out (though if she continues to play a heterosexual teen, to paraphrase Jerry Seinfeld, there'll be nothing wrong with that). But in the meantime, the kid has a movie career to kick-start. She's starring in the upcoming adventure film, "A World Away." The plot revolves around six kids who take a trip to the Grand Canyon, but who then find themselves in what is being referred to as "a whole other world." So... "Land of the Lost"? With some dinosaurs? Talking caveman-esque friends? Wherever she winds up on screen, this young woman is clearly on her way.

Ingrid Jungermann takes 'F to 7th' to Showtime

You don't know Ingrid Jungermann yet. That's fine. You will. Her first feature, "Women Who Kill," is bringing her film festival acclaim from Outfest to Tribeca, and her popular web series, "F to 7th," is headed for Showtime. The half-hour comedy follows a young woman in her 30s navigating New York's queer terrain, a cultural space where the old ways of being a lesbian have given way to newer understandings of gender and sexuality. The web series starred Jungermann – who has not signed on to appear on the Showtime version – and featured people like Amy Sedaris, Michael Showalter ("Wet Hot American Summer"), Gaby Hoffman, Olympia Dukakis and Janeane Garofalo. Jungermann will produce the adaptation alongside Showalter and lesbian filmmaker Jamie Babbit ("But I'm A Cheerleader"). It's been way too long since Showtime gave us any women-who-love-women content to fill the dark, nonsense-shaped void left by "The L Word," so really it's about time. Hurry up and bring this to series, Entertainment Power Lesbians. We're waiting.

Romeo San Vicente's wet hot American summer is simply too wet and too hot for cable TV.

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