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Legislation to Amend Hate Crimes Law Introduced

BY TODD HEYWOOD

LANSING – A Senate bill to amend Michigan’s Ethnic Intimidation Act to include bias crimes perpetrated against the LGBT community has been sent to the Government Operations Committee.

“Normally, that’s the committee where things go to die,” said Sen. Steve Bieda (D-Warren), who introduced the legislation. “Leadership has told me it normally sends hate crimes legislation to that committee and that it doesn’t mean it’s dead. But history says otherwise.”

Bieda, along with Republican Sen. Rick Jones of Grand Ledge, introduced the legislation in June. Sens. Curtis Hertel Jr. (D-Meridian Township) and Tory Rocca (R-Sterling Heights) also co-sponsored the bill. Bieda, Jones and Rocca all serve on the Senate Judiciary Committee - with Jones serving as the Committee’s chair.

In June, senators thought the bill would be referred to Judiciary. That committee generally handles legislation dealing with new criminal laws and reforming such laws. Jones was also expecting legislation to make deliberately targeting a law enforcement officer a form of a hate crime. That legislation has been proposed, but not yet introduced, by Sen. Mike Kowall (R-White Lake). Kowall also serves as Senate Majority Leader.

“Disappointed,” said Jones about the referral to a different Committee. “I would have preferred to have had both hate crime bills be referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. They would have had a hearing on the same day.”

Jones, who has opposed such legislation in the past, became a lead co-sponsor in June after details of a series of anti-gay assaults in the Lansing area in November became public. At least eight men were targeted through Craigslist by two men - Adrian James Tupper and Christopher Aaron Spyker. Both men enter guilty pleas earlier this year and were each sentenced to 17 to 55 years in prison.

In addition to this series of attacks, Jones said the assault and shooting spree at Pulse nightclub in Orlando - he calls it “a tragedy” - played a role in his change of mind on the laws.

For Hertel, the Senator representing most of Ingham County, the referral was “disappointing, but not surprising.”

He said it was indicative of the “GOP leaderships” refusal to do anything to “expand the rights of the LGBT community.”

Bieda and Jones said that if the bill dies in Committee this session, they will re-introduce the legislation next year.

“I am hopeful that sometime in the near future we’ll have a hearing,” Bieda said, “and it will land on the governor’s desk.”

Ruth Ellis Center Hosts Annual Voices Fundraiser

DETROIT – Voices isn’t just a fundraising event to support the incredible work happening at the Ruth Ellis Center in Highland Park.

“It is an opportunity to share in an extraordinary legacy that continues to impact hundreds of young people each year,” REC Director of Development Mark Erwin-McCormick said about their annual gala on Sept. 22 at the Waterview Loft at Port Detroit.

The Voices event, presented by Lear Corporation, provides critical funding to support REC’s annual operations while also celebrating its dedicated and generous supporters, whose voices have allowed REC to serve runaway, homeless and at-risk LGBTQ youth for 16 years.

These LGBTQ young people are living in one of the most medically-underserved cities in the state of Michigan and will now have access to mental health, substance use disorder treatment and prevention, and primary healthcare.

Voices also celebrates REC’s new Health and Wellness Center scheduled to open this year to expand their services 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. Read more about REC’s partnership with the Henry Ford Health System online at www.pridesource.com.

Erwin-McCormick said, “Being surrounded by people who have given their time, energy and resources so that LGBTQ youth, especially those rejected by their families, have a safe place to learn, grow, and be celebrated for who they are, just as they are, is one of the most powerful experiences I have ever had the privilege to share in.”

A a VIP reception from 6-7 p.m. is followed other festivities from 7-10 p.m. Guests can enjoy a strolling dinner, complimentary wine, beer and cocktails, a silent auction, short program and more. Tickets, from \$175-275, are available at www.RuthEllisCenter.org

Individuals, business owners, and corporations wishing to support Voices through event sponsorship are encouraged to contact Erwin-McCormick at Mark.McCormick@ruthelliscenter.org for more information.



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HIV/AIDS Organizations to Address Barriers, Disparities at AIDS Walk Detroit

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

In the past 25 years, AIDS Walk Detroit has evolved into the largest grassroots HIV/AIDS fundraiser in Michigan, raising more than \$3.8 million to benefit HIV/AIDS services in the state. Just as AIDS Walk Detroit has progressed, so have the many local HIV/AIDS organizations that provide access to high quality, life-extending care, free from stigma and discrimination.

Coming off a milestone last year, AIDS Walk Detroit Development Coordinator Carissa Rys said HIV/AIDS is “still something that needs attention.”

There is still an HIV epidemic, and it remains a major health issue for the U.S. as reported by the Obama Administration in the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, updated in July 2015 to reflect the accomplishments and the lessons learned since the original strategy was released in 2010. But there is a lot of work to be done. There are 50,000 new diagnoses each year. That rate has held steady since the mid-1990s, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, so the number of people living with HIV continues to rise. Looking ahead, the strategy details the principles and priorities to guide the collective national work to address HIV in the U.S. by the year 2020.

So the goal now, Rys said, is to “get back to making sure we increase awareness and continue to support those people locally who are affected by and infected by the virus. We want everybody to come out and support the cause and make those donations which go directly to HIV/AIDS organizations to fund their programs and services.”

Both at-risk youth and other people living with HIV can benefit greatly from these kinds of fundraising events which attract organizations such as the Horizons Project, a highly-acclaimed program of the Wayne State University School of Medicine.

Representatives from the Horizons Health Center in Detroit will create awareness at AIDS Walk Detroit about the resources young people have available to them at the clinic.

Dr. Elizabeth Secord, who sees up to 25 patients a day, warned young people to use condoms and talk about sex in a recent article by *The South End*.

“It’s important to speak to healthcare providers, HIV workers or someone who can tell you how to increase pleasure with



AIDS Walk Detroit 2016, presented by Delta Air Lines, challenges its supporters to help raise \$225,000 through this year’s event on Sept. 25 at the Royal Oak Farmers Market.

sex using lubricants and condoms and still decrease your risk,” she said.

Secord told TSE that it can be difficult to have conversations about safe sex, and she is “very concerned” about the increase in numbers and lack of education.

New Infections

“It’s 2016 and we still get phone calls from people asking if it’s safe to be around people with HIV,” she said. “Hello...you are around people with HIV. Whether you know it or not, we have an epidemic.”

Secord said that while needle-swapping is risky, college students having unprotected sex are much more likely to contract HIV than intravenous drug users.

In 2015, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services estimated that 18,800 people in the state were living with HIV. Of all teens diagnosed in the last five years, 82 percent are African-American, of which 64 percent are gay or bisexual, according to the MDHHS.

It could be that HIV and AIDS have fallen off young people’s radars.

“It’s so commonplace. The hype is gone. We have more tests and treatments. We know more about the virus. We don’t see commercials or magazines stories like we did ten years ago,” said Bridget Leonard, a registered nurse and director of Patient Care Services, Nursing Office Operations at the Detroit Medical Center’s Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan.

As president of the newly-formed Detroit chapter of Black Nurses Rock, Leonard organized a team for their first AIDS Walk Detroit in support of family members and friends who have been affected by HIV/AIDS.

“Today, everyone knows someone who has it or had it. We are walking for them,” she said, adding that she is proud to have 139 members already in their group of nurses as of April 2016 that are committed to giving back to their community.

When having “the talk” with her 17-year-old son about HIV, Leonard said he referred to Magic Johnson, someone who acquired the disease more than 20 years ago and appears to

be healthy today. So his perception, she said, is that the disease is not serious.

While people living with HIV have a much better chance of surviving and living a higher quality of life now, Leonard said, “please be informed about who you’re with and get the appropriate testing.”

But not enough people get tested, either because they don’t know they should, or because they can’t access the tests. That’s why AIDS Walk Detroit brings public health groups together to help improve people’s understanding of the disease and to provide information about how and where to get tested.

Those that do find out they’re HIV-positive sometimes can’t or won’t take the medicine that keeps the virus in check. Like PrEP, for example. If the prescription drug is taken daily it reduces the risk of contracting HIV via intercourse by more than 90 percent and more than 70 percent via intravenous drug use. But without insurance, it can cost more than \$1,000 a month.

When an HIV positive individual takes medication as prescribed, they can reach

a point when they have an “undetectable viral load.” This means that there is no active virus in their blood and if an HIV test was administered, their infection would be undetectable. This has contributed to changing HIV from a death sentence to a manageable condition, and drastically reduces the risk of transmission. Several studies have shown that the risk of passing on the virus when a person’s viral load is undetectable is near zero.

Status and Treatment

Right now, one of the biggest barriers is the cost. HIV/AIDS organizations nationwide are advocating to make medications more affordable and available.

People living with HIV/AIDS can no longer be discriminated against on the basis of their HIV/AIDS status or other pre-existing health conditions when seeking healthcare coverage because of the Affordable Health Care Act. Thousands more people living with HIV/AIDS have access to Medicaid or a Marketplace health insurance plan. And for people who already have healthcare coverage, there are new limits on out-of-pocket spending and other protections to make coverage more secure.

But in the fast-changing insurance environment, Teresa Roscoe, Executive Director of Health Emergency Lifeline Programs in Detroit, said they see ongoing challenges for people with HIV/AIDS to manage their health insurance needs.

“Having good coverage is vital for people to stay in care and remain adherent with medications. Many of our clients also have financial hardships and struggle to meet their basic needs,” Roscoe said. “Finally, we encounter among some people, particularly in younger age groups, a reluctance to get treatment due to concerns about stigma, feeling overwhelmed with their diagnosis and the burdens of managing a chronic illness.”

In an effort to reduce stigma, UNIFIED – HIV Health and Beyond launched a Status Sexy campaign.

“We believe that there is nothing more sexy than confidence. Confidence in yourself, in your partner and in the bedroom. One way for us to gain that confidence is to know our HIV status,” according to the campaign website.

In 2015, AIDS Partnership Michigan and The HIV/AIDS Resource Center brought together more than 60 years of experience and expertise in a merger that created UNIFIED, which services 10 counties in Southeast

Michigan.

UNIFIED President and CEO William VanHemert points to a number of positive things happening to reduce disparities, to raise awareness and educate elected officials at the local, state and federal levels about the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the community.

MFierce (Michigan Forward in Enhancing Research and Community Equity), a coalition working to reduce the burden of STIs among young gay and bisexual men and transgender women, launched UNIFIED’s new Health Access Initiative this year. The three-year project by the University of Michigan’s Center for Sexuality and Health Disparities is funded by the CDC’s Community Approaches to Reducing STIs Grant. MFierce provides training and technical assistance to local health centers and clinics to provide culturally-responsive care to LGBTQ+ youth.

An MDHHS reports that as of July 2015 there were 146 transgender people ever diagnosed with HIV in Michigan, 113 of whom are living. Of the 113, 44 percent had a diagnosis of stage 3 HIV infection, or AIDS.

U-M is leading a national study, Affirming Voices for Action, to learn more about how transgender and gender non-conforming youth navigate the healthcare system for HIV prevention services and care. The study will help identify optimal HIV services to teens and young adults ages 16-24 who have a gender identity or gender expression that differs from the sex they were assigned at birth.

VanHemert said UNIFIED has hosted house parties, for example, which seems like a “natural fit” to bring together transgender people to increase PrEP distribution within the MSM community.

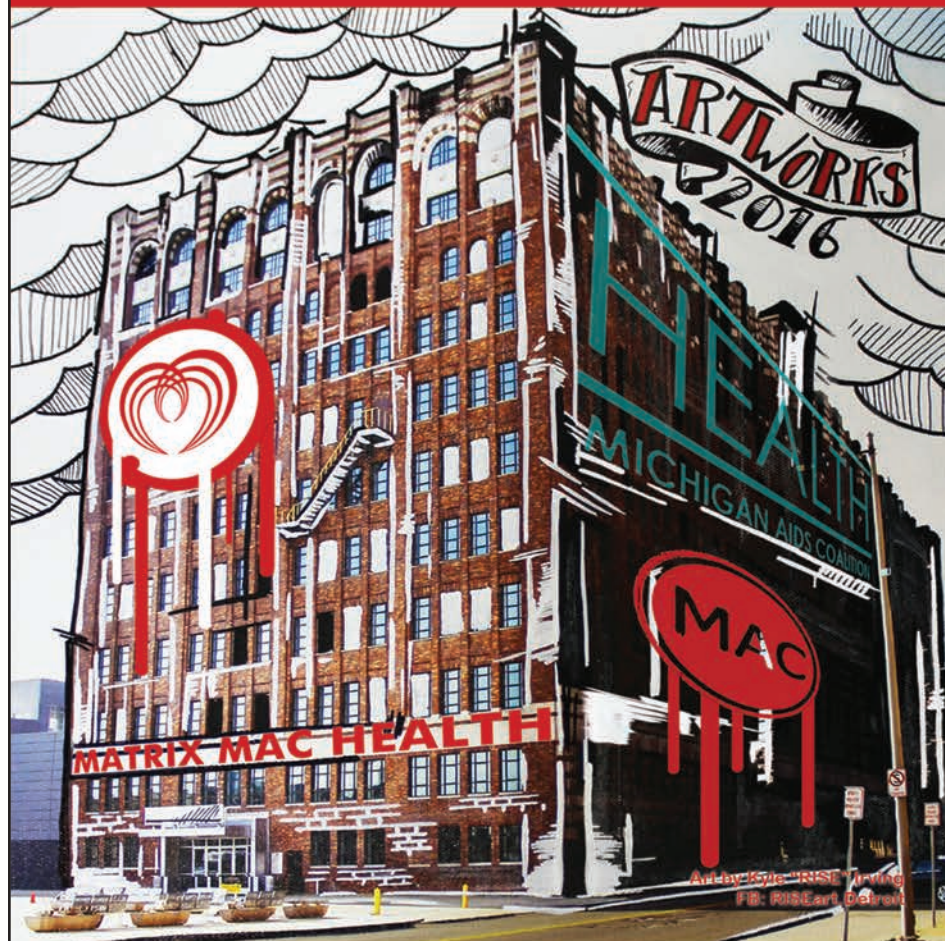
UNIFIED is also working with the Michigan Coalition for HIV Health and Safety talking to legislators about a modernized HIV criminalization bill. In Michigan, a person living with HIV can go to prison for up to four years for not disclosing their status before any sexual activity, even if there is little or no risk of transmission. HIV is the only virus in Michigan that has a felony to which it is attached. Studies have shown that these laws don’t deter behavior or increase disclosure but deter HIV testing, accessing treatment for those living with HIV and increase stigma and discrimination.

At AIDS Walk Detroit, UNIFIED will showcase and present to the community what the organization is all about, still rooted in HIV, but focusing on ‘and beyond.’

VanHemert said, “We are excited to make Detroit known for the great work that we do.”

AIDS Walk Detroit on Sept. 25 starts around 8:30 a.m. at the Royal Oak Farmers Market. For more information, visit the website www.aidswalkdetroit.org or call 248-399-WALK (9255).

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Champ or Chump?

Find out everything you need to know about which Michigan legislators support Women's Rights by reviewing the advocacy arm of Planned Parenthood's 2016 Choice Status Sheet. PPAM identifies the Champs, a state legislator that stands up for women's health. No matter what. And the Chumps, a state legislator who attempts to undermine women's health by introducing policies that harm women and families.

For more information about how to contact local Champs and Chumps, visit PPAM's website <http://miplannedparenthood.org/champs-and-chumps> to give them important feedback about the bills that they are supporting in Lansing. By sending an email or making a phone call, you're making your voice heard and influencing future policy decisions.

Trans Pregnancy and Abortion Rescue

TPAR is an online hub that provides inclusive, relevant information on a full range of reproductive options for transgender people. This includes, but is not limited to gender-neutral pregnancy and abortion information, trans-specific pregnancy and abortion information, and information on trans-friendly providers in Michigan.

TPAR is working with the Michigan Abortion and Pregnancy Network to ensure safe and inclusive environments for LGBTQ+ individuals, and is in the process of checking out every clinic listed on the MAP Network website to make sure they're safe and welcoming places for everyone, including trans people. The MAP Network is already committed to trans-inclusive funding for abortion care, trans-friendly transportation and lodging, information about Michigan providers, information on STI's and STD's, birth control, abortion, healthy sex, pregnancy, pregnancy testing and more. Visit t-par.tumblr.com for more information.

'Out of Silence' Tickets

Tickets for the performance can be reserved in advance online at outofsilencemi.splashthat.com. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per ticket and \$5 for every additional ticket reserved. Proceeds will go toward show expenses and other reproductive justice organizations in Michigan. Find out more on the Out of Silence Facebook event page at bit.ly/outofsilencemi.

Grassroots Movement Starts New Conversation About Controversial Social Issue

MOASH Presents 'Out of Silence: Abortion Stories from the 1 in 3 Campaign'

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Many of us have heard about a woman's right to choose, but how many of us have heard a woman's personal story about her abortion experience? Members of the community will have the opportunity to hear and react to real abortion stories during "Out of Silence: Abortion Stories from the 1 in 3 Campaign," a unique performance presented by the Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health in collaboration with the Students for Choice group at the University of Michigan.

"There's a human element that the performance emphasizes which you don't always find in other activism spaces, where it's easy to get caught up in divisive political rhetoric. A theatre storytelling project like this offers a different format and perspective, and one that promotes empathy and a sense of connection with audience members. I personally think that this kind of performance-based activism is the most powerful. After all, you can argue definitions, statistics, etc. all day but you can't argue a story. You can't argue with someone's lived experiences. And that's what we need to listen to a lot more," said Brittany Batell, project organizer for the performance in her capacity as an intern with MOASH.

The show, on Sept. 16 at 8 p.m. at the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre in Ann Arbor, consists of nine vignettes, eight of which are from the official Out of Silence script through Advocates for Youth and the 1 in 3 Campaign, and one is an original work written by a MOASH cast member. There will be a talkback panel following the performance so audience members can hear from organizers, researchers, health professionals and others working for abortion access in the state. This will also allow audience members the opportunity to reflect on their own thoughts, feelings, and experience with the show.

"We are giving young people a way to talk about the extremely politicized and controversial issue. The strategy is to shift the narrative around abortion on campus, but also on a national level. Theatre has been an integral part of cultural change historically," said Shomya Tripathy, Youth Activist Network Manager for AFY. The non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C. has championed efforts since 1980 to help young people make informed and responsible decisions about their reproductive and sexual health.

Tripathy coordinates the Campus Organizing



The Out of Silence vignette titled "Charlie" features actors Shanya Blass and Celeste Jones portraying a lesbian couple needing abortion care. Photo courtesy of Lloyd Wolf

Team and the 1 in 3 Campaign student activists. "It's kind of incredible what happens when you create a space that is safe, welcoming and supportive," she said. When the campaign organized in 2012, they collected around 40 stories from individuals throughout the country. In 2015, the campaign launched its campus rollout of Out of Silence, making the play available for students to perform for free on their own campuses. Since then, 83 campuses have signed up and there have been 25 performances under the guidance of playwright Jacqueline E. Lawton. As of today, Tripathy said they have a total of 1,100 stories, many of which are used as source material for the scripts which explore situations, relationships, emotions and logistics that contextualize a woman's decision to seek abortion care. At times these stories, which affect women of all ages, are heartbreaking, funny, and even commonplace, but are always thought provoking and honest.

"That's what is great about storytelling. We don't have to theorize about why people need abortions. We can just see for ourselves the plentiful reasons why they do," she said. "Sometimes these stories are as simple as I got pregnant and didn't want a child and had an abortion. Sometimes they are incredibly complicated."

LGBT-Inclusive Abortion Care

"The message of Out of Silence is certainly

one promoting women's rights and reproductive justice, but we are intentional about including many sexual orientations and gender identities in an effort to show how safe access to abortion services is important for everyone. Our goal is to highlight the range of circumstances and the complexities involved in the decision to seek abortion care, in order to deepen our audience's understanding of the issue and perhaps inspire them to engage in sexual and reproductive health advocacy," Batell said.

This includes transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals that also opt to terminate pregnancies.

"We have at least one story that we know of as part of our collection from someone who identified themselves as trans. We might have other stories from trans storytellers, but they did not self-identify in the story. And that's okay. Though our campaign takes its name from the statistic that '1 in 3 women will have an abortion...', what roots the campaign is honoring people's lived experiences, whoever they might be," said Rachel Cooke, associate director of communications at AFY. "We try to be as inclusive as possible in our language, defaulting to 'people' rather than 'women' whenever possible...we include stories from the trans community, stories from the religious community, stories in Spanish, etc. This campaign wins and culture is changed when all those stories are shared."

Such as the the powerful vignette, "Charlie," which opens with the line, "Lesbians don't

have abortions. Because we don't have 'unplanned' pregnancies. Our pregnancies are very 'planned.' Painstakingly and inescapably 'planned.'"

Cooke explains this story is a bit more heartbreaking than some others because this is a wanted pregnancy, but unfortunately they are not able to continue the pregnancy for the health of the fetus.

"It's not always easy or affordable for same-sex couples to conceive a child. There is great cost, and more than a few indignities that come with it," she said. "It's important to talk about all of our experiences with abortion, and to be as inclusive as possible. Abortions happen, and people need them, and that includes same-sex couples."

Planned Parenthood of Michigan, a leader in the state for reproductive and sexual health care services, strives to be sensitive to the individual needs of every patient, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

"We care for all men, women, and teens, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, at 20 health centers throughout the state. Our clinicians receive specific training on the potential health needs and concerns of LGBT patients, and how those may differ from heterosexual patients. PPMI offers unbiased, accurate information about the options available for continuing or terminating pregnancy. Medical protocols for abortion services do not vary due to one's gender identity," said PPMI spokesperson Julie McKeiver, adding that the organization supports the 1 in 3 Campaign and its effort to destigmatize abortion.

McKeiver said, "Our hope is that all women can feel safe and secure in making the best decisions for themselves and their families, without government intrusion into their personal lives."

Why now?

"Those who are anti-abortion are really pushing a lot of bans and restrictions... they can't make it illegal, so they make it inaccessible," Cooke said.

Cooke points to the June 2016 U.S. Supreme Court decision in Texas, *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt* when the justices ruled 5-3 that HB 2, a law restricting abortion access, was unconstitutional after it forced more than half of the abortion clinics in the state to close. Following that decision, the court refused to hear cases involving similar laws in Mississippi and Wisconsin.

This case represents the most significant victory for abortion rights at the high court since the turn of the century, as states have scrambled to pass and defend similar laws across the country, in an effort to chip away the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision, which made abortion legal in the U.S. in 1973.

"This hopefully will wake up some minds about what it means to access abortion in this country and the challenges that people are facing and how it really is harming women,"

Cooke said. "That these restrictions are the things that are harming women and families, not abortion itself, which is a very safe and common procedure."

Fewer than 0.5 percent of women obtaining abortions experience a complication, and the risk of death associated with abortion is about one-tenth that associated with childbirth, according to research reported by the Guttmacher Institute.

Michigan Restrictions

The following are Michigan abortion restrictions in effect as of December 2015:

- A woman must receive state-directed counseling that includes information designed to discourage her from having an abortion and then wait 24 hours before the procedure is provided.

- Abortion is covered in private insurance policies only in cases of life endangerment, unless an optional rider is purchased at an additional cost.

- Health plans that will be offered in the state's health exchange under the Affordable Care Act can only cover abortion in cases when the woman's life is endangered, unless an optional rider is purchased at an additional cost.

- Abortion is covered in insurance policies for public employees only in cases of life endangerment.

- The use of telemedicine for the performance of medication abortion is prohibited.

- The parent of a minor must consent before an abortion is provided.

- Public funding is available for abortion only in cases of life endangerment, rape or incest.

In 2015, 27,151 induced abortions were reported by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Further restrictions will apply as Gov. Rick Snyder passed additional laws in June 2016 backed by Right to Life Michigan. HB 4787 will add to the state's current anti-extortion/coercion provisions by making coercion to abort a specific crime, and HB 4830 will make violations punishable with fines of up to \$10,000. Abortion facilities in Michigan now will be required to screen women for coercion and post a notification that coercion to abort is illegal.

Many critics note that the Michigan laws do not include language that protects people forced into carrying a pregnancy to term and only focuses on those who are forced into terminating a pregnancy.

So the goal then, Tripathy said is "to never have to ask 'why now?' We don't want to be responding to restriction after restriction. We want to create a culture where these restrictions can't exist. We want young people to lead this movement, care about this topic, and give them the opportunities and the tools to continue this fight."

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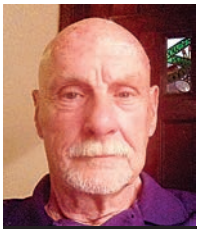
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September 15, 2016 | BTL 9



Memory Goes Back to School

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Thirty-five right. Twenty-five left. Fifteen right. Click! After 60-plus years I can still recall my locker combination at Harry Burns Hutchins Intermediate School, located on Detroit's west side.

I can also rattle off 30 names of my Homeroom 223 classmates: Lenore Abramowitz, Roland Anderson, Judith Berkowitz, Lois Carmichael, Thomas Diamond, Henry Gonte (forever combing his blond hair), Kenny Lenseski (my persistent – and most welcome – gym wrestling buddy), Ella Maxwell, the Wassermans, Melvin and Saul...

Most classmates were Jewish; a few, black. Hutchins, built in 1922 as a model intermediate school, was located near three synagogues, and when the high holidays fell, only a few "goyim" attended classes. We gentiles looked forward to these celebrations, wishing our Jewish buddies mitzvahs.

Hutchins wasn't my neighborhood school. My mom got Detroit Board of Education permission for me to attend. She felt nearby Jefferson Intermediate was too rough for me.

Each morning for three years, 15 cents plus bus card, I rode safely two miles to Woodrow Wilson and Blaine.

Coming from a poor family, I found prototype Hutchins palatial. Up-to-date library. Wood and print shops. Two gyms. Two swimming pools. Ample auditorium. Staffed cafeteria serving 30-cent lunches. A string orchestra. (I learned to play cello.) A school song. A "Hutchins Handbook," with rules of conduct to be loyally and strictly followed. Or else! Face no-nonsense Ass't. Principal Luther Hale.

Along with academic subjects, I learned to type, balance business ledgers, write for the Hutchins Star (as contest editor), speak some Spanish, shoot basketballs, do woodwork and soldering, practice public speaking, act, and explore my nascent art talent with two gifted art teachers.

My homeroom teacher, who also taught math, was Miss Harriet B. Gaston. (I can still forge her hall pass initials.) "What's under the crust of a cherry pie?" "Who's buried in Grant's tomb?" she'd prompt when I was on the verge of answering the yet unrecognized obvious answer during remedial sessions.

I got A's in gym, not because of any sports prowess, but because I printed well and wrote out attendance slips for two classes. I had swimming once a week. We swam naked, and were shyly curious in the shower to see who had pubic hair status. (I was a washout on that score.)

My most embarrassing moment: the day the girl's gym teacher caught me whistling above as the girls passed carefree by an open second-floor window. My punishment – concocted with HBG's stern, but amused, approval – was to spend one full gym period in my pristine white gym shorts among the girl's gym class.

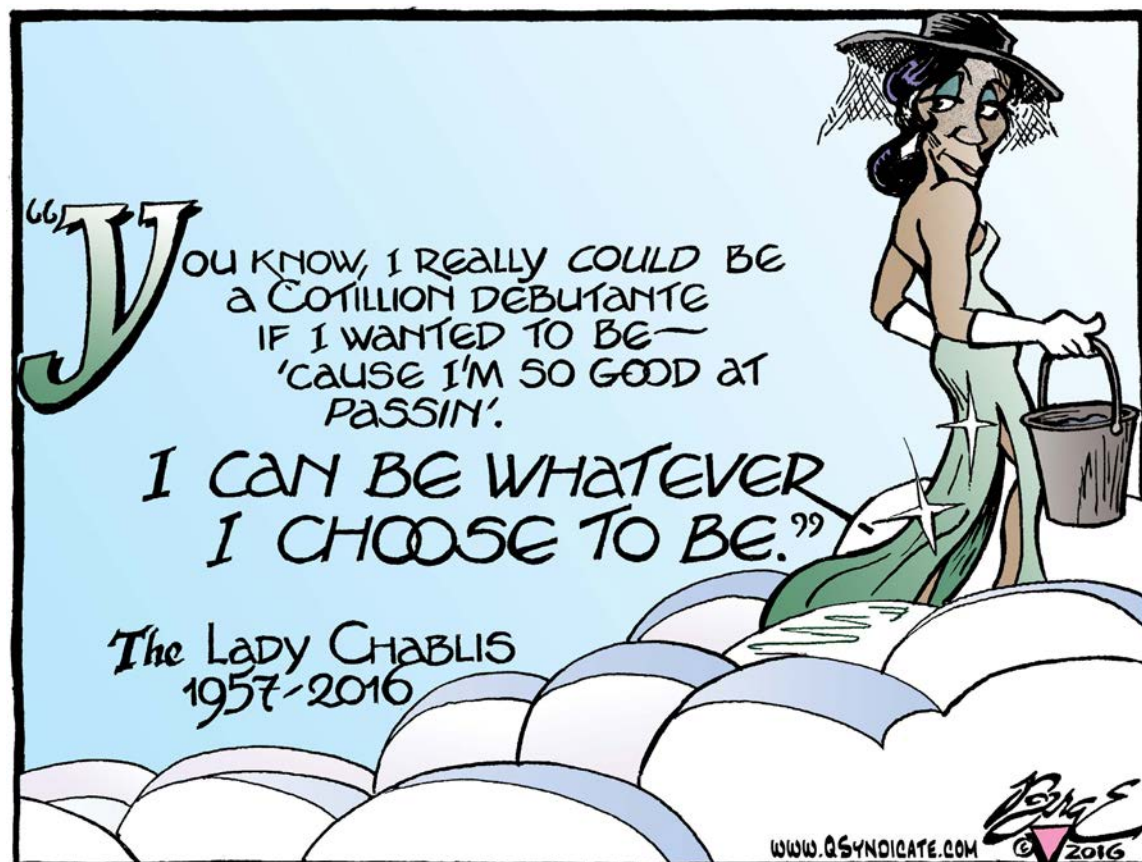
"Girls: young Mr. Alexander, who was impolite enough to ogle you, is our embarrassed guest today," said Miss Reba Kelly. "I suggest you politely ignore him." And ignore me they did, 'til a fire alarm sounded, and I had to march out onto the sports field, where staff, students, God (and surely all Orthodox Detroit) bore amused witness to my offense. (That's why I'm gay.)

My last day at Hutchins was sweetly sad. I had many close friends, gotten exceptional groundwork in place for Cass Tech High School art training, and later Wayne University, and took initial and confident steps in exploring my writing, music and artist creativity.

Our Hutchins graduation song: "School Ever Glorious." It was.

As we crossed the stage to receive our diplomas to say goodbye, I tried vainly to hold back tears to no avail: 35-25-15!

Charles@pridesource.com



Transmissions

Unseen on the Silver Screen

BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

Living in a time that's supposedly beyond the "Transgender Tipping Point," as Time magazine declared in May of 2014, can be strange.

While movies with transgender characters seem increasingly commonplace, the main roles are still given to non-transgender male actors who are somehow showing their compassion and speaking out for our marginalized community while taking jobs from actual transgender performers.

In late-2013, Dallas Buyer's Club hit the screens. The film is a story about AIDS-patient Ron Woodroof smuggling drugs for himself and his friends through the eponymous Texas city. In it, actor Jared Leto plays "Rayon," a fictional trans woman named for a fabric. She dies before the final reel, but not before helping to redeem the main character and keep the club going. Leto won an Academy Award for his portrayal. He accepted his award in white tux and full beard.

When criticized by transgender people about being a non-trans male in a trans role, he opted to defend it, claiming in a Huffington Post interview that actors being able to "play roles that are outside themselves" opens up the opportunity for trans people to play non-transgender roles. Not that this seems to be happening either.

Two years later, Roland Emmerich's film Stonewall, hit theaters, with its clean white kid protagonist and straight-friendly retelling of the Stonewall rebellion. It includes Jonny Beauchamp as Ray/Ramona - a mash up of Sylvia Rivera and other trans-identified people at the uprising - and Otoja Abit as Marsha P. Johnson. Unlike Dallas Buyer's Club, Stonewall was not on anyone's

Oscars list, and failed both critically and financially.

Two months after Stonewall, The Danish Girl hit theaters. This told a strongly fictionalized account of the life of Lili Elbe and her partner, Gerda Wegener. The film, veering from Elbe's own biography and history, also presents its audience with a trans story that will be unfamiliar to most trans people, while fitting assumptions by the non-transgender that trans people are little more than hyper-feminine fetishists.

In the wake of the success of Dallas Buyer's Club - and the disappointments that were Stonewall and The Danish Girl - comes yet another "wretched transgender sidekick played by a non-transgender white male." This time, it is Matt Bomer as a trans sex worker in Mark Ruffalo's upcoming feature film Anything. The story, based on Timothy McNeil's play of the same name, focuses on Early, a suicidal widower who meets Freda, a trans woman who shows up on his doorstep beaten and bloody. The story ends up being about their relationship in spite of their varied backgrounds.

As word spread about the film in trans circles, Mark Ruffalo took to Twitter to defend the casting, pointing to work he did with Bomer on The Normal Heart. Yet actress Jen Richards noted that she was one transgender actress who did try out for the role, but was apparently not "trans enough" for the part.

"I told them they shouldn't have a cis man play a trans woman," said Richards. "They didn't care."

As the debate intensified, Ruffalo again spoke out about the movie, saying on Twitter, "To the Trans community. I hear you. It's wrenching to you see you in this pain. I am glad we are having this conversation.

See next page

Don't Just Sit There: Do Something About the 2016 Election, Use MiVoterGuide.com

The 2016 BTL Progressive Voter Guide will help you vote for candidates who share our values.

It's natural to feel anxious about the upcoming election. After all, there's a lot at stake. But there's one thing every single American can do to make a difference: VOTE.

To help you vote for candidates who will represent you and fight for the things you care about most, Between The Lines is putting together the 2016 Progressive Voter Guide. A project of Between The Lines since 1996, this year we are working with a variety of progressive partners, making the Guide even bigger and better than those for previous elections.

This year, Between The Lines is working with more organizations to bring you a comprehensive list of key endorsements for candidates who will fight for progressive values like equality for the LGBT community, women and people of color, and will stand up for unions, be good stewards of the environment and more. Plus, the guide identifies candidates who are actively anti-LGBT, anti-choice and anti-union, or would otherwise seek to trample the rights of Americans if elected.

Equality Michigan and KAFE (the Kalamazoo Alliance for Equality political action committee) are already on board as key partners again this

year, along with other partners to be announced. Plus, the Between The Lines questionnaire that's sent to all Michigan candidates has already received more responses than in any previous year, so this year's Guide will be chock-full of details.

Here in Michigan, we have a solid opportunity to win back the State House and break the stranglehold Republicans have on our state. Plus, we have great potential to win more seats in the U.S. Congress and hold on to the White House. But to make that happen, everyone who cares about Progressive values must vote for the candidates who will represent us.

While you're at it, you can support the candidates who share our values by donating to their campaigns or volunteering to get out the vote. Sharing this resource is another great way to make a difference. But if you do nothing else, go to the polls on November 8 and cast your ballot.

The 2016 Progressive Voter Guide will make voting for the right candidates easy. The online Guide (www.mivoterguide.com) will be updated now through Election Day, and it's easy to find the candidates in your area. All you have to do is enter your zip code. The printed Guide will be published in early October.

When we vote, we win. Together, we can make a difference.

► Transmissions

Continued from p. 10

It's time."

It's well past time.

In 1970, 46 years ago, The Christine Jorgensen Story hit the silver screen. It featured John Hansen as the title character. At the time, Jorgensen attempted to get a restraining order against Edward Small who owned the film rights, trying to avoid the film from becoming an exploitative "B-Movie."

Five years later, a trans actress was passed over for Chris Sarandon, who played Al Pacino's trans lover in Dog Day Afternoon. Five years more, and Brian De Palma's Dressed to Kill features a transgender murderer played by Michael Caine.

There's plenty more. 1980s The World According To Garp and John Lithgow's supporting actor role as trans woman Roberta Muldoon, Ted Levine's portrayal of killed Buffalo Bill in The Silence of the Lambs, Jaye Davidson's trans portrayal in The Crying Game, Chris Williams in The World's Fastest Indian, so on, and so on.

This notion of a transgender character - particularly as a "sympathetic" supporting character for the straight, white male main character - is ages old. That the character is typically played by a straight white male actor

in favor of a trans woman - or for that matter, any woman - is even more played out.

As an aside, I feel as if many of these - Dallas Buyer's Club, Anything, Stonewall, and earlier stories like The Crying Game and others - are simply using trans as a way of presenting an exotic and "damaged" character to play against their "straight man" main character. The transgender character is simply the sympathy character that helps our main character learn and grow the transgender Hooch to their Turner.

Of course, these are not stories being made for transgender people. These are stories for non-transgender people to consume, and are made for them to feel as if they are redeemed by their acceptance of the trans character as the star of the film is redeemed through their friendship with same.

There are trans actresses out there, and they are plenty competent. I already mentioned Jen Richards, but she is only one of many. They aren't getting these roles, however. They're not seen as "trans enough," which judging from the characters we have seen means that they're not apparently masculine enough for the part.

Indeed, these are not made with transgender people, nor made for us, and not even really telling stories about us. These are fairy tale versions of trans people.

Gwen Smith deliberately name-checked a Tom Hanks movie. You'll find her at gwen-smith.com

Creep of the Week

Ken Paxton

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI



Paxton doesn't want people he deems perverts to pee next to "normal" Texas children.

LGBT people have heard the phrase, "Come out, come out, wherever you are" over and over again for decades now. The idea, of course, is that coming out of the closet is the only way to change hearts and minds about who and what LGBT people are. After all, it's hard to hate, say, lesbians, if you find out that your favorite aunt or your sister or your favorite coworker is playing for Team Lez. You've got to at least take a step back and rethink all of the terrible assumptions you made and ideas you've had about lesbians, right?

Ideally, yes. And truth be told, the fact that the closet door is no longer the major barrier it once was for so many people (but not all people. We've got a long way to go still) has been key in advances in LGBT rights, especially over the last five to ten years.

But then there are always going to be people who have their minds made up and no amount of people meetin' is going to change their minds no sir no how.

And one of those people is Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton.

On September 1st, Paxton had dinner at the home of a transgender boy. Now, in case you didn't know, Paxton is not a big fan of trans folks. In fact, he's pretty much a mosquito-bitten taint about the whole thing. He recently, along with attorney generals from other states, filed a lawsuit over the Obama Administration's recommendations that trans students be treated like human beings while at school, for example. Paxton doesn't want people he deems perverts to pee next to "normal" Texas children.

The family extended the invitation to Paxton hoping that meeting a real trans kid would "soften" his anti-trans stance.

And so Paxton went over to their house, broke bread with them, and had

a come-to-Jesus moment where he wept about what a shit head he'd been and vowed to change his ways.

Ha ha ha. Just kidding. In reality, he went over to their house, ate their food, and then continued to be a trans-phobic prick.

He shows no sign of slowing his roll on the anti-trans lawsuits, for example. He wants Texans to be able to discriminate against trans people whether it's in the bathroom or the doctor's office. In his twisted morality play, it's cool for doctors to be able to refuse to treat trans patients, and for trans men and women to stay out of public restrooms.

Which is why he's in a fight with Target ever since the retailer announced that its trans guests and employees could use whatever restroom they deemed appropriate. Not in Paxton's Texas! He warned in May that "allowing men in women's restrooms could lead to criminal and otherwise unwanted activity." Because he totally gets it!

And so Paxton must have been just thrilled to have his warnings come to fruition in the form of reports that on at least two different occasions, men in different Target stores were trying to take cell phone video of women in changing rooms.

The only logical conclusion: must be those trannies!

"After this latest incident, I hope Target finally recognizes the importance of protecting its customers, especially in environments where they can be at their most vulnerable," Paxton said in a statement, alluding to his earlier "warnings" that trans men and women are perverted heathens who should have to cross their legs and be chained to their home toilet forever and ever amen.

But hey, at least he ate blueberry cobbler with a trans kid. What a hero.

West Shore Aware Raises Money, Helps Local Organizations in Need

BY BTL STAFF

Since its inception in 2003, West Shore Aware has raised more than \$600,000 to benefit non-profit community groups and student scholarship programs. Another successful fundraising gala, the “White Party with a Sparkle of Yellow Citrine,” on Aug. 20 helped raise an additional \$49,000. The 13th annual sold-out event brought together the philanthropic organization of gay men, women and their supporters at the Laketown Conference Center in Saugatuck.

The WSA board of directors voted in June to award six out of 15 organizations that applied for funding this year. The recipients were the Aware Scholarship Fund, the Chamber Music Festival, the Out Center, Sylvia’s Place, the Wings Home and the Wishbone Pet Rescue.

As an agency that relies heavily upon community support and organizations such as WSA to provide vital assistance to those fleeing abusive situations, Sylvia’s Place is “very excited” to receive a portion of the proceeds.

“These funds will aid in the 24/7 operation at our shelter and provide basic needs items to survivors entering shelter. Often those fleeing domestic abuse are forced to escape hastily and enter shelter with nothing but the clothing on their backs. Items that most take for granted...a toothbrush, deodorant, shampoo, a gallon of milk, a pair of socks...is out of reach for some in their current situation,” said Executive Director Heather Forrest.

Sylvia’s Place provides safe shelter and supportive services to victims of domestic violence and their dependent children. The shelter is capable of housing up to six families simultaneously and is at or near capacity year round. State and federal grant funding allocates approximately 47.9 percent of their annual budget.

“In turn, needs vary for each individual



Photos courtesy of Thomas White (www.thomaswhitemedia.com)

client and our ability to assist must adapt to each unique situation,” Forrest said. “With funding to meet these needs, survivors have a much greater chance of effectively leaving an unhealthy situation and progressing towards an independent lifestyle free from abuse.”

This gift allows the Wings Home “to continue to provide supportive care to individuals who may have no one else to take care of them or who cannot afford a traditional facility for end of life care,” said Executive Director Theresa Lynn about the four-bedroom ranch home in Allegan where Wings of Hope hospice patients can stay in their last weeks of life free of charge. “Most of our caregivers are volunteers, but we do have paid staff at night. We are so appreciative of the gift from West Shore Aware because it will help support the cost of night staff.”

WSA recognizes that not just humans need assistance. Their generous contribution to the Wishbone Pet Rescue will fund two vital medical needs to serve the impoverished communities in Allegan County and the ever-rising homeless pet overpopulation. President Susan Smith said new surgical instruments and a microscope will replace the used surgical instruments that were donated from another animal shelter when Wishbone established in 2011. This will allow the rescue to safely continue controlling the feral cat population through their Trap-Neuter-Return Program.

Any remaining funds will be used to sponsor animals from families in need so their pets can receive vaccinations and other veterinary services in the Fennville and Pullman communities.

As a result of their success, the WSA fundraising event has gained the reputation of being one of the best parties held within the west lakeshore community.

For more information about West Shore Aware, please visit their website www.westshoreaware.org.

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Convictions Tossed, New Trial Ordered in Rutgers Webcam Case

BY DAVID PORTER

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) – A new trial was ordered Friday for a former Rutgers University student whose roommate killed himself after being captured on a webcam kissing another man, with a New Jersey appeals court throwing out his 15-count conviction.

The three-judge panel dismissed four bias intimidation counts against Dharun Ravi because of a change in state law since Ravi's 2012 trial after the death of Tyler Clementi, who jumped off the George Washington Bridge.

The judges ordered a new trial on other counts including invasion of privacy, tampering with evidence and hindering apprehension because, they wrote, the evidence prosecutors used to prove the bias charges "tainted the jury's verdict on the remaining charges, depriving defendant of his constitutional right to a fair trial."

Ravi faced up to 10 years in prison but was sentenced to 30 days in county jail plus three years' probation and community service. He ended up serving 20 days.

Prosecutors had argued before the appeals court that the sentencing judge overstepped his authority by imposing a sentence that was too lenient. Friday's ruling rendered that argument moot.

The case against Ravi prompted a national conversation about anti-gay bullying and teen suicide, and highlighted the pervasive effects and potential harm of social media. Friday's

ruling strongly criticized the acts that led to the charges against Ravi.

"The social environment that transformed a private act of sexual intimacy into a grotesque voyeuristic spectacle must be unequivocally condemned in the strongest possible way," the judges wrote. "The fact that this occurred in a university dormitory, housing first-year college students, only exacerbates our collective sense of disbelief and disorientation."

The Middlesex County prosecutor's office, which tried the case and argued the appeal, didn't immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

Clementi's parents, who formed a foundation that addresses bullying and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues, said in an email that the ruling "shows us how much more work there is to be done, and will push us forward with stronger determination to create a kinder, more empathic society where every person is valued and respected."

During Ravi's three-week trial, jurors heard that in September 2010 Ravi used a friend's computer to view a few seconds of live streaming video from his own dorm-room webcam and saw his roommate, Clementi, and another man kissing.

He told others about it in person, in texts, instant messages and tweets, and alerted others again two days later that Clementi, 18, wanted the room to himself again. That time, the camera did not operate.

A night later, Clementi jumped off the bridge into the Hudson River.

Parents, Student Sue Over Transgender Bathroom Policy

VIRGINIA, Minn. (AP) – A school district in northeastern Minnesota is facing a lawsuit over its transgender restroom and locker room policy.

Attorneys for a group of parents and students filed the federal lawsuit against Virginia Public Schools, the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Justice over a federal rule that says transgender students in public schools must be allowed to use restrooms that correspond with their

gender identity.

Virginia parents and students formed the group Privacy Matters to challenge the school district's policy. One of the group's attorneys, Gary McCaleb from the nonprofit Alliance Defending Freedom, says no child should be forced into an intimate setting such as a locker room with someone of the opposite sex.

The plaintiffs have asked for a permanent injunction against the district's policy and the federal rule.

LGBT Rights Group Appeals Denial of Transgender Name Change

ATLANTA (AP) – An LGBT rights group is asking an appeals court to step in after a Georgia judge declined a legal name change for a second transgender man.

Lambda Legal says it filed an appeal Sept. 8 of a June order by Columbia County Superior Court Judge J. David Roper rejecting a petition from the 21-year-old transgender man seeking to legally change his name to Andrew Baumert.

Lambda Legal in June appealed a similar March ruling from Roper in the case of another transgender man, Rowan Feldhaus, whose birth name was Rebecca Elizabeth Feldhaus.

Lambda Legal says in both cases Roper said he would allow a transgender person to choose a gender-neutral name. But he said allowing a transgender man to choose a male name would "confuse or mislead the general public."

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Clinton Remarks at LGBT Fundraiser, Trump Promises Religious Liberty

BY LISA KEEN

Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton had to back off some remarks she made before an LGBT fundraiser last Friday, but her poor choice of words there is now being overshadowed by reaction to concerns that she appeared to collapse while getting into her Secret Service van on Sunday morning.

Meanwhile, there has been little scrutiny of Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump's promises to religious conservatives Friday.

"[In] a Trump administration, our Christian heritage will be cherished, protected, defended, like you have never seen before.... And that includes religious liberty," said Trump to the Family Research Council's "Values Voter Summit" in Washington, D.C.

"Religious liberty" has become a frequent code phrase for many politicians to promote the idea of allowing people the liberty to discriminate against LGBT people by claiming they are exercising their religious beliefs.

Trump said the Johnson Amendment has prevented clergy from speaking from the pulpit about politics. The tax law states that non-profit groups can receive a 501(3)c (non-profit group) tax break if they do not "participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements) any political campaign on behalf (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office." The purpose of the law was to ensure that taxpayer money is not used to subsidize partisan political activity.

"I will repeal the Johnson Amendment, if I am elected your president. I promise," he told the audience. The line elicited loud applause even though a president cannot repeal an existing federal law.

Trump appeared to use a teleprompter during most of the speech, but he looked away from the teleprompter to add that he had

“ [In] a Trump administration, our Christian heritage will be cherished, protected, defended, like you have never seen before.... And that includes religious liberty.”

Presidential Candidate Donald Trump to the Family Research Council's "Values Voter Summit" in Washington, D.C.

learned about the Johnson Amendment from a group of pastors he had invited to one of his Manhattan buildings to solicit their support. He said the pastors clearly wanted to support him but told him the Johnson Amendment prevented them from doing so. He said he learned that President Lyndon Johnson had unilaterally created the law to punish a church in Houston with which he was having "problems."

"Can you imagine that this man single-handedly – he was having problems with churches and there was a church in Houston that was giving him a hard time – maybe for good reason – and he put in an amendment that basically stopped our great pastors and ministers and others from talking...."

He repeated calls for repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act, promised to bring forth a "new civil rights agenda for our time," and said he would fight for "family values." That "civil rights agenda," he said, is "the right to a safe community, a great education, and a secure job."

He praised anti-Gay right-wing conservative Phyllis Schlafly, who endorsed him, as one of the great champions of family values. Schlafly, who died September 5 at the age of 92, was

best known for leading the opposition to an Equal Rights Amendment to the constitution. In doing so, she claimed the ERA would lead to allowing gays to teach in schools, marry, and adopt children. Her Eagle Forum group was a frequent contributor of legal briefs opposing equal rights for LGBT people.

Neither FRC nor the Trump campaign posted his speech on their websites, but the full address can be watched via a "Right Side Broadcasting" youtube post.

But media attention since Friday has been riveted on only two things: Clinton's characterization of many Trump supporters as "deplorable" and Clinton's physical health.

On Friday night, before an LGBT fundraiser in Manhattan, Clinton said this:

"To just be grossly generalistic, you could put half of Trump's supporters into what I call the 'Basket of Deplorables,' right? The racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, Islamophobic - you name it. And unfortunately, there are people like that. And he has lifted them up. He has given voice to their websites -that used to have only 11,000 people, now have 11 million. He tweets and retweets their offensive, hateful, mean-spirited rhetoric."

"But that other basket of people are people

who feel the government has let down, the economy has let them down, nobody cares about them, nobody worries about what happens to their lives and their futures. And they're just desperate for change." (An incomplete video of these remarks can be seen at CNN.)

Throughout the weekend and into Monday, media reports replayed Clinton's characterization of some Trump supporters as a "basket of deplorables." (They did not include her comments about those who feel "let down" and "desperate for change.") The Trump campaign also seized on the "deplorable" comment.

Trump vice presidential candidate Mike Pence claimed the word was aimed at "Americans, farmers, coal miners, teachers, veterans, and members of our law enforcement community."

By Saturday, Clinton issued an apology, saying, "I regret saying 'half' – that was wrong." But she said it is deplorable that Trump has hired, for his campaign chief, a man (Steve Bannon) who heads up a right-wing media site (Breitbart News) that shows support for anti-Muslim, anti-immigrant sentiments. The statement said she "won't stop calling out bigotry and racist rhetoric in this campaign."

"I also meant what I said last night about empathy, and the very real challenges we face as a country where so many people have been left out and left behind," said her statement.

Clinton's remarks Friday and her apology Saturday have been characterized by some political commentators as potentially as damaging as Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney's private fundraiser remarks, characterizing most of President Obama's supporters as "47 percent of Americans" who "pay no income tax."

Then, Clinton was hit Sunday with what appeared to be a near fainting spell as she left a

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memorial service for 9/11 in New York. A bystander's video of her getting into her Secret Service van shows her appearing to almost collapse as aides hold her up and help her into the van. Initially, her campaign said she had become overheated at the event; by nightfall, it said she was suffering from dehydration and pneumonia. And late Sunday night, it announced she would cancel campaign events for Monday in order to recover.

The incident has prompted a constant media review of Clinton's health ailments – which have included a 2012 fainting spell as Secretary of State, attributed to a stomach virus, which led to a concussion and blood clot. Breitbart News stirred up concern about Clinton's health last January when it quoted anonymous sources as claiming Clinton's prolonged bathroom break during a debate was related to the previous concussion. Since then, Trump has been urging that Clinton “doesn't have the strength and stamina” to serve as president. Trump told Fox News Monday that he thinks “something's going on” with Clinton's health and that it will “be an issue.”

The Clinton developments have overshadowed nearly every other important development in the presidential campaign during the past few days, including:

- the prospects for Libertarian presidential candidate Gary Johnson taking a major plunge Friday after he appeared to be completely uninformed about the refugee crisis in Aleppo, Syria. (When MSNBC Morning Joe panelist asked Johnson what he would do as president “about Aleppo,” Johnson responded, “What's Aleppo?”) Aleppo has received a flood of media attention lately because it is the focal point of the Syrian civil war and because Russia recently staged air strikes against the city in support of the Syrian government. Hundreds of thousands of civilians are said to be trapped inside the city and in dire need of food and water.

- Democratic vice presidential candidate Tim Kaine spoke to the Human Rights Campaign's annual Washington, D.C. dinner Saturday night. Kaine said he first felt support for LGBT people while witnessing violence against LGBT demonstrators on his college campus in Missouri. “That was a moment of consciousness-raising for me,” said Kaine. “I was changed by it. It made me angry. And it made me even more convinced I wanted to stand up for what is right.” He acknowledged that, as a devout Catholic, he was less supportive of marriage equality at first. But he said he opposed members of the Virginia legislature who sought to amend the state constitution to ban marriage for same-sex couples. Kaine ended by saying “the LGBTQ vote in so many of our battleground states can be the difference between victory and defeat.”

Prior to Clinton's double stumble last week, gay electoral data guru Nate Silver estimated that Clinton has a 71 percent chance of winning Nov. 8, compared to Trump's 29 percent. By Monday afternoon, he changed that to 69 percent to 31 percent. Other media polls suggest the race is tightening, with the lead overall in the polls vacillating between Clinton and Trump.

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Photo: Pamela Littky

KT Tunstall on Why Kissing Girls Wasn't Just a Phase, Admiring Gender-Fluid Teens and Channeling Her Masculinity

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Is she or isn't she? Truthfully, KT Tunstall understands the confusion regarding her sexuality – she's responsible for it, after all. Tunstall, whose breakthrough song, "Suddenly I See," became every dreamer's anthem after it was prominently featured in "The Devil Wears Prada," opened up about those rumors – and why kissing girls was "a really important part of my formative years" – on the heels of her latest album, "KIN."

How do you explain your big lesbian following?

Listen, I've been super well aware of that from day one and have been so grateful for it.

How did you become aware?

From day one of releasing an album where I have fucking rainbow suspenders on! (Laughs) The British album cover for "Eye to the Telescope" was an homage to Patti Smith's "Horses" album and I loved "Mork & Mindy" too, and so we didn't think about it. It wasn't me pretending to be gay, but I'm on the front of my album with these bright rainbow suspenders on. All the gay community thought I was gay – and they still think I'm gay! They're just waiting for me to figure it out.

Have you figured it out?

Not yet! (Laughs) Listen, I am absolutely all about no boundaries and no labels. I'm

gender fluid. (Laughs)

Is that how you'd describe your sexuality?

No, I wouldn't. I am hetero, but you know, I've certainly – I did theater studies at college for Christ's sake; of course I had fun with girls. It was weird in that community *not* to. And I get the feeling that it's weird now for people to be kind of hung up about it – certainly in younger people I've met, which is such a beautiful shift. There are amazing people spearheading that, like Cara Delevingne, Kristen Stewart and Eliot Sumner – she's fucking awesome. It's not even really an issue (for them), and I'm so glad.

How do those people inspire you?

I look at them as someone from the older generation and I just am so relieved that there isn't as much angst. I feel less angst in this new generation of young people. It feels that there are less and less shackles on young people to adhere to old norms and that inspires me just to be brave in everyday life and to honor how confident and self-assured they are becoming at a much younger age than I did. I feel like I'm keeping up with teenage confidence here.

Tell me about studying theater.

I wanted to be an actress when I was younger, so I started in a theater group when I was 8 years old and started performing when I was

quite young. By the time I was 15, I went on this really amazing theater course called Scottish Youth Theatre and it was the first time I left home. We were living in a kind of dorm room situation, and it was people who were into all sorts of music that I hadn't been subjected to. I didn't go to my first show until I was 15. I grew up at a very sheltered time in Scotland.

What was your introduction to the gay community then?

It was during that time when I went to live in Glasgow. I had lived in St. Andrews – very, very straight up academic. When I went over to Glasgow for the theater course, many of the lecturers were gay, and it wasn't that it was surprising – I wasn't shocked by it. It was much more that I realized that there was this whole world of life that I hadn't known about. And there was definitely a very open attitude: If you like this person, then kiss them and that's completely normal. That's how fucking life should be, quite frankly. Why on earth would anyone have any problem with someone enjoying themselves? It doesn't make any sense.

And you were kissing girls then. Would you call that a phase?

No; I think it would be disrespectful to call it a phase. It was part of life. It was learning about love and learning about lust and desire and sexuality and becoming an adult and experiencing people. It was a really important

part of my formative years.

What's interesting now is the gender fluidity issue, I think. That's really exciting and something that I just personally would relate to much more had that been talked about when I was 17, 18. That's what I would be leaning my ear into because, I mean, when I get on stage something quite masculine happens to me. I think this is also why people have questioned my sexuality. There's definitely a kind of masculine energy, and I've always felt that way and that comes through me when I perform.

I think it's also playing a guitar! (Laughs) I feel like I have a cock! The guitar is basically like a strap-on. But then it depends how you play it, because I don't know if Joni Mitchell felt that way. There's definitely something that happens when I take to the stage, and it's definitely much more prevalent than when I'm walking around buying eggs in the supermarket. (Laughs)

I read a really great article with Eliot Sumner – Sting's daughter – and I was quite envious thinking, "Wow, imagine being in my youth and it not really being an issue what gender you are," because I always felt so tomboy. I grew up with brothers, and when I was younger I always had lots of male friends – mostly male friends. Actually, now, I have mostly female friends, and I think that I've kind of inhabited being a woman. I really love my femininity, but I felt like a stranger to it before.

Which track on the album do think your LGBT fans might enjoy most?

Maybe "Hard Girls" because that song is really about being vulnerable and not wearing an entire tub of hair gel on your head and all the makeup in the world and just being you, authentically you and not worrying. That song is totally meant to be a celebration about just fucking not worrying too much about that stuff and letting people get to know you for who you are.

What went through your head the first time you heard "Suddenly I See" in "Devil Wears Prada"?

I was floored! As an artist, having your song used in a movie – you never get the whole song used and you never get your song used without there being dialogue over the top of it. And the whole three-and-a-half minutes of the opening of the movie is just my song, unadulterated! I remember my manager saying to me, "Enjoy this because it's probably never going to happen again."

How did you feel about Hillary Clinton using "Suddenly I See" as her 2008 campaign song?

It was great. I'm not American, I can't vote, but I would always want to see the Democrats in power, so I was really happy to be able to contribute in any way to try and make that happen. I don't know what (a campaign) song would sound like right now – it's crazy times. I wouldn't even know where to start. It's like watching a game show. It's like watching "The Hunger Games" or something. It's just

completely bonkers. But seeing a woman in the position of President of the United States would be an amazing thing.

And Donald Trump – many artists aren't appreciating the fact that he's been using their songs.

Yeah, he used one of my songs. I can't remember where but someone tweeted that he used it. It was just fucking abhorrent and it just makes you want to have a wash. I want my work nowhere near that disgusting man.

I don't want to classify the last album, "Invisible Empire," as having a "lesbian folk" sound but...

(Laughs) Listen, I was playing folk music and I was buttoning up the top button of my shirt – that's all I need to say.

When I listen to your latest album, it sounds like a kindred spirit to your debut, "Eye to the Telescope." I hear similarities between the two.

Me too! It feels like the spiritual follow up to the first album. It feels like it's taken three records to write my second album! And it's not to disrespect the other albums, because I love them and they've been really important and I'm really proud of them. But I think from a personal point of view there's a lot of familiarity in terms of where I was at when I wrote this record, where I'm really very unselfconscious and I totally love the music

See KT Tunstall, page 23

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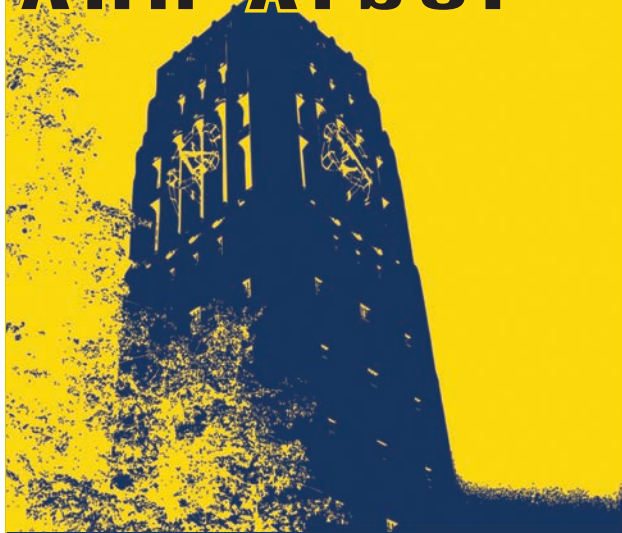
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Ann Arbor To Raise Tobacco Purchases To 21

ANN ARBOR – Beginning on Jan. 1, 2017 Ann Arbor will be the first city in Michigan to join the national Tobacco 21 movement and ban the sale of tobacco to people under 21.

The ordinance was introduced by Council Member Julie Grand, D-3rd Ward, to raise the minimum age to purchase tobacco products in the city from 18 to 21. The City Council approved the measure Aug. 4 in a 9-2 vote.

City officials have told MLive that they don't care if the new ordinance conflicts with state law and might cause the city to end up in court.

Supporters of the new ordinance argue that it will make it harder for teens to get their hands on cigarettes and will help prevent early tobacco addiction and save many lives within the Ann Arbor community.

"The tobacco lobby has inflicted enough misery on this country and I'm happy to do anything we can to play a leadership role on this effort in Michigan," Council Member Kirk Westphal, D-2nd Ward, one of the co-sponsors of the ordinance said at the Aug. 4 meeting.

City officials hope that more Michigan communities follow Ann Arbor's example and adopt Tobacco 21 and that it eventually becomes state law. However, Tobacco 21 has many barriers before it can be completely implemented into state law.

The Michigan Tobacco Products Tax Act of 1993 directly states that local governments "shall not impose any new requirement or prohibition pertaining to the sale or licensure of tobacco products for distribution purposes."

Executive Director of Tobacco-Free Michigan, Angela Clock, testified Aug. 4 and said that Michigan's Tobacco Products Tax Act of 1993 actually places limits on how tobacco distributors are regulated, not on retail sales.

Council Members Jack Eaton and Jane Lumm voted against the ordinance citing concerns that the new ordinance and Tobacco 21 contradict state law and worry that the change will land the city in court.

Council Member Sumi Kailasaphathy, D-1st Ward, stated that if the city is going to end up in court, that it's a fight worth having. She said that after careful consideration of the legal risks to the ordinance, she decided that it's morally and intellectually the right thing to do.

Earlier this year in an effort to end nicotine and tobacco addiction for LGBT Michigan residents, LGBT community centers across the state teamed up to provide a multitude of programs and cessation techniques to help smokers quit.

While overall rates of consumption have been slowly reduced over time, rates in certain target groups, such as the LGBT community, remain higher than average.

Twenty-one percent of Michigan residents continue to engage in tobacco consumption and nearly 30 percent of LGBT individuals in the state consume tobacco, making tobacco use a leading cause of excess, preventable mortality among LGBT people.

In 2013, Affirmations partnered with the Michigan Department of Community Health, Perceptions in Saginaw and the Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, to produce a study on smoking rates among LGBT living in Michigan. Results from the study found that smoking rates amongst the Michigan LGBT community remain significantly higher than rates for the state at large.

Opponents say that regardless of the new ordinance, those under 21 who want to purchase tobacco products will just drive to nearby communities.

The new ordinance repeals penalties for underage possession of tobacco products. Instead, penalties are limited to retailers, who could be assessed up to \$500, allowing for discretionary actions including education and warnings.

Transportation companies and vending machine operators are exempt from the new city regulation.

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Happenings

Editor's Pick

OUTINGS

Thursday, Sep. 15

Gender Non-Conformists 7 p.m. A social and support group for genderqueer, genderfabulous, transgender, gender-exploring folks and all those who transgress gender binaries. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Friday, Sep. 16

Red Hot Fridays 9 p.m. No cover charge before midnight. Password "Red Hot." Red Door Night Club, 22901 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. 248-541-1600. info@reddoornightclub.com [www.reddoornightclub.com](http://reddoornightclub.com)

Saturday, Sep. 17

15th Annual Tour de Troit 9 a.m. A 25.6 or 60 mile ride with police escort; sweeper- and SAG-support; three mechanic "pit stops," and one rest stop that includes a snack and mechanical support. Tickets: \$60. Tour de Troit, Vernor Hwy, **Detroit**. <http://www.tour-de-troit.org/tourdetroitride>

Faith Allies for Trans Lives: Stand Up For Justice Conference

9 a.m. Conference and training to build statewide faith network dedicated to justice and the full inclusion of LGBT people in congregations. Tickets: \$20-\$40. Inclusive Justice, 200 W. Paul St., **Brighton**. 301-512-9632. <http://www.inclusivejustice.org/>

Jeffrey Montgomery Memorial Service 11 a.m. Equality Michigan, Wayne State University, **Detroit**. <http://equalitymi.org/>

Memorial for Jeff Montgomery 11 a.m. Event is free. May need money for parking. Equality Michigan, 495 W. Ferry Ave., **Detroit**. 313-537-7000. <https://www.facebook.com/events/553110648226137/>

Foundations of Herbalism Food as Medicine 1 p.m. Herbalist Joey Landis, Mycologist Mara Fae Penfil, and Detroit foods activist Kevin Hood. Tickets: \$30-50. Preregistration required. Female and Fungi, 974 Trowbridge Street, **Hamtramck**. femaleandfungi@gmail.com www.eventbrite.com/e/foundations-of-herbalism-food-as-medicine-tickets-27280227896

Sunday, Sep. 18

Northville Heritage Festival 10 a.m. Live entertainment, games, pancake breakfast, parade and more. Visit website for full activity list. Northville Chamber of Commerce, 195 S. Main Street, **Northville**. 248-349-7640. tracisincoc@northville.org <http://www.northville.org/>

Tuesday, Sep. 20

Care To Dance? 7 p.m. Learn to urban ballroom. Sisterhood Social Excursions, 8670 Grand River Ave., **Detroit**. www.meetup.com

Wednesday, Sep. 21

Fostser Care and Adoption Orientation 9 a.m. Informational meeting. Orchards Childrens

Services, 24901 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 601, **Southfield**. 248-530-5370. smarks@orchards.org www.orchards.org

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

Thursday, Sep. 22

Detroit Design Ball I DDF 2016 5:30 p.m. Fashion shows, green carpet bike experience, DJ Thornstryker, dance performances, creative market, craft cocktails and wine, aerialist performers and more. Tickets \$15-\$19. Detroit By Design, 2934 Russell St, **Detroit**. 734-658-9248. www.eventbrite.com/e/ddf-2016-detroit-design-ball-ballet-of-the-streets-tickets-27354025627

All Genders Film Night 6:30 p.m. A social group to view and discuss films that relate to the unique challenges in the LGBTQ community. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Parent Support Group 7 p.m. Dr. Melissa Farrell, LCP and Roz Keith facilitate ongoing group for parents of trans youth to better understand what it means to be transgender. Event is free. Stand With Trans, 5725 Walnut Lake Rd, **West Bloomfield Twp.** 248-661-5700. laura@temple-israel.org

on June 10 online. Check back for a special guest announcement. Lear Corporation, 130 Atwater St., **Detroit**. 313-656-6000. www.ruthelliscenter.org/voices

Saturday, Sep. 24

Smart Recovery 10 a.m. Smart Recovery offers people with any type of addiction a place to learn how to change unwanted behaviors through cognitive based methods. This is a non-12 step program, led by Smart Recovery trainers, and does not require abstinence. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Coming Out Over Coffee 10:30 a.m. A casual discussion group covering all aspects of coming out and the effects it may have on your life. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Transgender Health Fair 1 p.m. Exhibits, vendors, speakers and panels dedicated to the health of the transgender community. Event is free. Transgender Michigan, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. <http://www.transgendermichigan.org/events/health.html>

Alcoholics Anonymous Brownbaggers 1:30 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Editor's Pick



New Member Night For Out Loud Chorus

Come join Out Loud Chorus, Washtenaw County's original mixed-LGBT chorus! Out Loud Chorus will celebrate its Fall New Member Night at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Ann Arbor. There is no auditioning and any interested

party will be inducted into the choir if they have a passion for community and a desire to sing. Those interested in joining Out Loud Chorus do not have to have sight reading skills nor a history of singing with other choirs.

During new member night, music will be distributed, the group will go over the handbook and there will be social time to ask questions and get to know current members.

Each season Out Loud Chorus produces shows for the general public typically held on two successive weekend nights in both mid-January and mid-May. Come see if Out Loud Chorus is the right group for you! All LGBT and allies are welcome to join. New Member Night will begin at 7 p.m. Sept. 19. Trinity Lutheran Church is located at 1400 W. Stadium Blvd in Ann Arbor. For more information call 734-265-0740.

Voices 2016 7 p.m. Guests will enjoy a strolling dinner, complimentary drinks, a silent auction, and short program. This signature event provides critical funding to support Ruth Ellis Center's annual operations while also celebrating their dedicated and generous supporters. The Center serves runaway, homeless and at-risk LGBTQ youth. The VIP reception begins at 6 p.m. Tickets will be available for purchase

Smear Lipstick 3 p.m. A discussion group for self identified feminine lesbian women to identify issues specific to them. The group also does a monthly community service project to increase their visibility in every community. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups



New Verse Chamber Ensemble, Out Loud Chorus, Girlnoise, UMSMTD Campbell Trumpet Trio, Yost Handbell Choir and pianist Kathryn Goodson. Proceeds from this year's event will benefit the Jim Toy Community Center.

The Concert 4a Cause organization works to help Washtenaw County's most vulnerable neighbors with what they need most and highlights the work of those organizations that provide help.

The Concert will begin at 4 p.m. Sept. 18. The event is free and open to the public.

Northside Community Church is located at 929 Barton Dr. in Ann Arbor.

Men's Discussion Group 6 p.m. Group for gay, bisexual and transgender men ages 18 and up. This group frequently offers holiday parties and outings such as movie nights in addition to regular meetings. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Retro Fevre Saturdays 9 p.m. Music from 80s, 90s, and today. Red Door Night Club, 22901 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. 2485411600. [events@reddoornightclub.com](http://www.reddoornightclub.com/events/) <http://www.reddoornightclub.com/events/>

Sunday, Sep. 25

Spelling Bee 2 p.m. Barefoot is also sponsoring a clothing drive for the Ruth Ellis Center in Detroit. Tickets \$20. Barefoot Productions Theatre, 240 N. Main St., **Plymouth**. 734-404-6889. www.justgobarefoot.com

MUSIC & MORE

Benefits/Social Events

Saugatuck Center for the Arts and West Shore Aware "Award-winning documentary, Tab Hunter Confidential" Benefit for scholarship and intern programs. Tickets: \$25. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. 6 p.m. Sep. 17. <http://bit.ly/2bV8vu4>

Comedy

AEG Live "Comedian Jim Jefferies" The Unusual Punishment Tour. Tickets: \$39.50-\$49.50. All ages welcome. Masonic Temple, 500 Temple St., Detroit. 6 p.m. Sep. 23. 313-832-7100. www.themasonic.com

Cobb Great Hall "Whose Live Anyway?" Tickets: \$30. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. Sep. 15. 800-WHARTON. www.whartoncenter.com

Live Nation "Lewis Black" All ages. Tickets: \$39.50-69.50. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. Sep. 16. 734-668-8397. www.Michtheater.org

Concerts

AEG Live "Jake Bugg" Tickets: \$25. Majestic Theater, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Sep. 21. 313-833-9700. <http://tktwb.tw/2bo2lBo>

AEG Live & React "Yellow Claw Barong Family Tour" Ages 16 and up. Tickets starting at \$25. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 8 p.m. Sep. 22. 248-399-2980. www.axs.com/events/311111/yellow-claw-tickets

AEG Live and React "Yellow Claw" With Wiwek, LNY TNZ, and Mike Cervello. Tickets: \$27-\$35. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 8 p.m. Sep. 22. 248-399-2980. www.romtlive.com

20th Concert 4a Cause

Northside Community & 1st Baptist Churches are to present the 9th Season Fall Concert "This Is My Song," in a celebration of the Jim Toy Community Center and the Washtenaw LGBT Community.

This year's 20th Concert 4a Cause will highlight the high-energy performances of sopranos Caroline Helton and Kayla Hill, saxophonist Lisa Keeney, the

Blind Pig "The Slackers" Tickets: \$15. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9 p.m. Sep. 24. 734-996-8555. www.blindpigmusic.com

Blind Pig "Gold Panda" Tickets: \$15. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9 p.m. Sep. 15. 734-996-8555. www.blindpigmusic.com

Good Show "of Montreal and Ruby The Rabbitfoot" Tickets: \$15. Majestic Theater, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Sep. 16. 313-833-9700. www.majesticdetroit.com

Live Nation "Dark Star Orchestra" Tickets: \$25-\$45. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 6:30 p.m. Sep. 24. 734-668-8397. www.michtheater.org

Live Nation "Eric Hutchinson" Tickets: \$20. Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress St., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Sep. 23. www.saintandrewsdetroit.com/

Live Nation "Pink Droyd" Tickets: \$12. Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress St., Detroit. 9 p.m. Sep. 16. www.saintandrewsdetroit.com/

Live Nation "Tycho" With Com Truise and Heathered Pearls. Tickets: \$29.50. The Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Sep. 22. www.thefillmoredetroit.com

Live Nation "Laith Al-Saadi" Tickets: \$25-\$49.50. The Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Sep. 17. www.thefillmoredetroit.com

Live Nation "Amanda Shires" Tickets: \$15. The Shelter, 431 E. Congress St., Detroit. 8:30 p.m. Sep. 17. 313-961-8961. www.livenation.com

Majestic Theater "The Growlers City Club Fall Tour 2016" Tickets: \$17. Majestic Theater, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Sep. 22. 313-833-9700.

Masonic Temple "Explosions in the Sky" Tickets: \$25-\$27. All ages welcome. Cathedral Theatre, 500 Temple St., Detroit. 8 p.m. Sep. 15. www.themasonic.com

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by Helen Murray




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Hear Me Out

'Trio,' Britney Spears

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

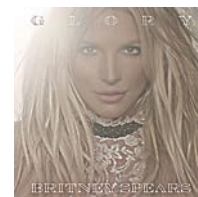


"Britney Jean" tanked fast and hard on the charts because her team thought the world needed a "personal" album (WTF with the shlocky EDM and chipmunk-level vocal manipulation and religious innuendo?) from someone so aloof that we all breathe a sigh of relief when she actually appears to be having a good time. The reception to "deep" Spears was ill-received, and that's something her ninth studio album, "Glory," recognizes and thankfully forgoes, opening with an ethereal lead-in that piggybacks off Selena Gomez's hypnotic latest. As it eases into its own urban flavor, "Glory" delivers almost purely on the basis that Britney is best when she's merely hawking her brand of elusiveness, writhing over suggestive come-hithers. And oh, is there writhing. From slow and sustained ("Invitation" and "Just Luv Me") to the floor-dropping kind ("Do You Want to Come Over?" and "Clumsy"), Spears has a one-track mind. This girl just wants to have fun, y'all. That giggle at the end of the swinging classic Britney romp "Private Show"? There's actual joy present. And personality! And she's singing! Work, bitch? This time, you bet she is. When all's said and done, when "Liar" storms in and she's taking that chorus to the sky, you realize the Holy Spearit has risen once again. *Grade: B+*

'The Complete Trio Collection,' Dolly Parton, Emmylou Harris and Linda Ronstadt

Nowhere in the backstory notes to the "The Complete Trio Collection" does it say that when Dolly Parton, Emmylou Harris and Linda Ronstadt finally found time to unify their voices in perfect harmony that lives were healed and Jesus wept. If you've heard even pieces of this landmark collaboration, though, you know this to be only a slight exaggeration. After all, we are talking about three singing supremes working their magic on 21 songs across two glorious albums. And now, in addition to both 1987's "Trio" and 1999's "Trio II," Rhino Records has collected an additional 20 songs from the ladies' Grammy-winning sessions, some unreleased, some alternate takes of already-released "Trio" tunes. Among them: "Wildflowers," Parton's autobiographical outsider anthem split equally among the three singers, with Parton on the first verse, Harris on the second, and, finally, Ronstadt on the third (Dolly takes lead on the original, included here on the first "Trio" disc). "Calling My Children Home" is transcendent, as their voices unite in splendid harmony for a rich vocal experience on this previously

unreleased a cappella track, a gut-wrenching song by bluegrass band The Country Gentlemen. Top to bottom, "The Complete Trio Collection" is a body of staggering beauty. Ronstadt will break your heart as her voice glides through "The Blue Train." Emmy's breathtaking lead on "When We're Gone, Long Gone" will lighten your load. All their voices in collective grace on the stunning "Farther Along" will have you feeling thankful that this project, despite the years it took to get these gals together, has finally seen the light of day. *Grade: A*



Britney Spears, 'Glory'

We love a good comeback or five, don't we? And since burning out in the mid aughts and then blazing back with 2007's "Blackout," the indestructible institution known as Britney Spears has made a career out of comebacks, releasing a rollercoaster of peak- and plummeting-career albums throughout her two-decade reign. Perhaps her biggest music slump came just a few years ago, in 2013, when

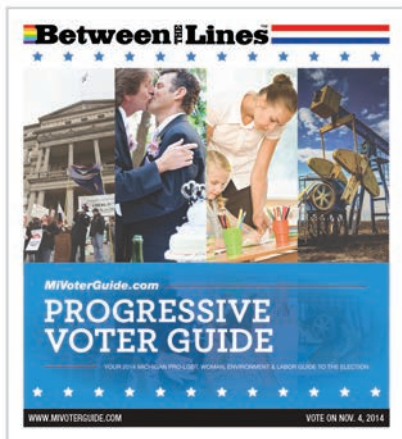


Carly Rae Jepsen, 'E•MO•TION Side B'

What a time to be alive: Carly Rae Jepsen has released more sonic jewels from "E•MO•TION," the best pop album of 2015. And you know the "Call Me Maybe" singer is the real deal when even her b-sides sit atop most of the current pop landscape, with the chipper opener "First Time" tapping into vintage Madonna (think "Borderline" meets "Holiday") and "Store," a unique fusion of what seems like two songs written at different stages during the "E•MO•TION" sessions. Tapping into the odd sweetness of stealing your boyfriend's bike just before he breaks up with you, "Fever" employs a catchy synth-smacked chorus and, thanks to rippled drum effects, verses that are beautifully executed for maximum melancholy.

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Continued from p.17

and I'm just having fun. I think it's taken me a long time to get away from that incredibly powerful gaze of millions of people looking to see what you're going to do next. It's hard.

When did you start feeling "that gaze"?

I think after the success of the first record. Making the second record, I was just fucking exhausted. I was so tired. I'd been literally touring solid for two years and you're in the studio trying to make a record and it's just like... you're just burned. And there's a low possibility of you being able to make the best follow-up record that you can. I actually

really loved that second record; I was just bummed because I wanted to do it garage band-style live and the record company really didn't want to do that, so we ended up making a slicker record than I was intending on making. But you know, I'm proud of it. I think I listen back and I love it, but I was definitely feeling the effects of becoming famous. It was very weird.

How would you describe fame?

You just feel like you're in a bit of a glass box. And I'd been fairly shy when it comes to interacting with the tabloid press. I absolutely kept my fucking head down because that side of it can be quite frightening in terms of your lack of control of how you're perceived by everybody. I really just kept my head down and didn't really engage. I just didn't want to do it; I didn't want to go there. I'd actually feel much more comfortable with it now than I did then.

“ I think from a personal point of view there's a lot of familiarity in terms of where I was at when I wrote this record, where I'm really very unselfconscious and I totally love the music and I'm just having fun. I think it's taken me a long time to get away from that incredibly powerful gaze of millions of people looking to see what you're going to do next. It's hard. ”

Funny enough, (this album) was made in quite a similar way (to the first album). It was made in Tony Hoffer's studio and he has this really cute, cool DIY homemade studio and – same as the first record – I played a lot of the stuff myself and I think that was important for

me, for this record. I put just as much of my undiluted self into this record because that's where the joy comes from.

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

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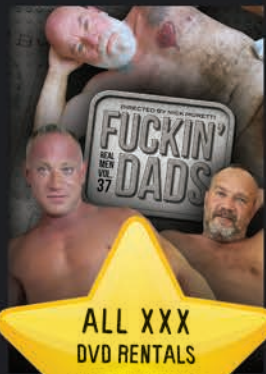
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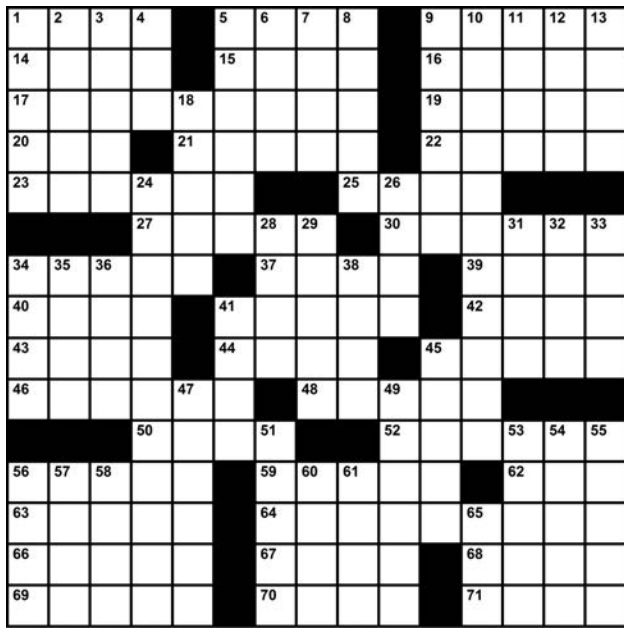
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Q Puzzle



"Aww thank you"

Across

- 1 Knight in the saga of Miff Mors
- 5 Put your rear in gear
- 9 Bring shame to
- 14 Early AIDS play
- 15 Hot stuff that gets shot off
- 16 "The Wizard of Oz" producer Mervyn
- 17 Character played by 10-Down
- 19 Story about busting some Trojans
- 20 Dig it

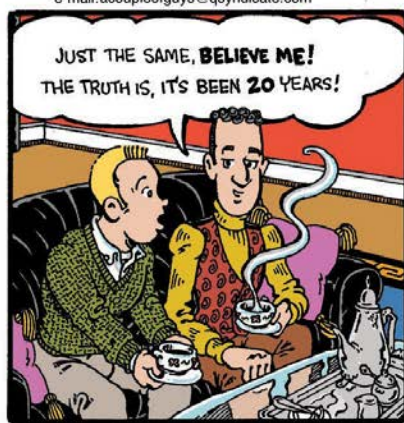
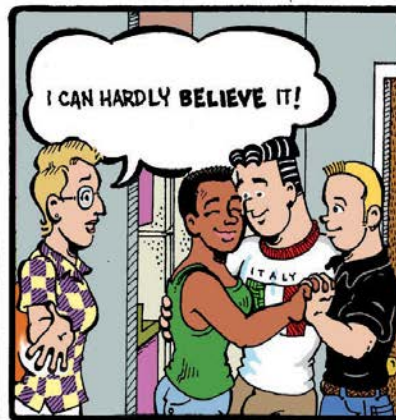
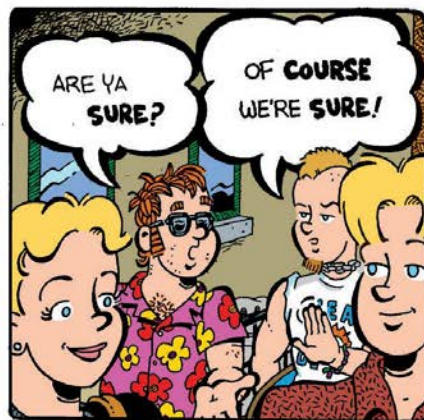
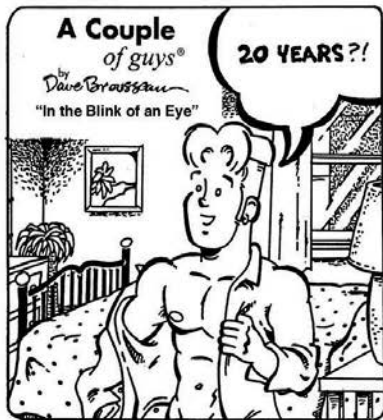
- 21 Remove a slip, perhaps
- 22 Danes of "Romeo + Juliet"
- 23 "People" person
- 25 Future queen of "Star Wars"
- 27 Start of a legal conclusion
- 30 Like "Beauty and the Beast"
- 34 Like Oscar of "The Odd Couple"
- 37 Direction for seamen
- 39 Achilles' weak spot
- 40 Sheltered on the sea
- 41 "Growing Up Gay in the South" author James

- 42 "___ Upon a Mattress"
- 43 Glenn's "Fatal Attraction" character
- 44 Hathaway of "Brokeback Mountain"
- 45 Check out, in a fitting room
- 46 Book about autoeroticism?
- 48 Megan's "Will & Grace" character
- 50 Comedian Johnson
- 52 Britten's "Billy Budd" and others
- 56 Soup scoop
- 59 Pasolini's sweet
- 62 Eighth mo. for Caesar
- 63 On the other hand
- 64 Disney series with 10-Down
- 66 He comes once a year
- 67 Land of Sinead O'Connor
- 68 Chance beginning
- 69 Deuce toppers
- 70 Like a generation, to Stein
- 71 Singer Fure


Down

- 1 Father in "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"
- 2 Former NFL player Tualo
- 3 Tool for cutting carrots
- 4 Expert ending
- 5 Pansies and similar groups
- 6 Chloe's role in "Boys Don't Cry"
- 7 Plumb, and others
- 8 O'Keeffe's stand
- 9 Cher's portrayer in "Clueless"
- 10 Actress who just came out and tweeted "Aww thank you..." to supportive fans
- 11 Aida solo
- 12 Fly like an eagle
- 13 London park name
- 18 Herman of "Hello Dolly" fame
- 24 Orientation of 10-Down
- 26 Screws up
- 28 World War II carbine
- 29 Do an Oscar winner's job
- 31 Start of a selection process
- 32 Style of many South Beach buildings
- 33 Narrow valley
- 34 Way to address a dominatrix
- 35 Scat queen
- 36 In view
- 38 Part of San Francisco's BART
- 41 Highsmith's "The Price of ___"
- 45 Erection on the Great Plains, once
- 47 "Spartacus" venues
- 49 Type of man in an Elton John song
- 51 Ford flub
- 53 Turner that goes either way
- 54 Penetrating
- 55 Ire. patron
- 56 Bringing up the rear
- 57 Mold medium
- 58 Hamlet, for one
- 60 John Goodman's "Normal, ___"
- 61 "Gay Cosmos" author Eighner
- 65 IRA increaser

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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

'Supergirl' gets her Maggie

"Supergirl" is going deep for its second season. The series, rather than stay self-contained, is going to expand its reach into the DC TV Universe, connecting the plotlines to other shows, just like the DC movies and DC's arch-rival, Marvel, have already done. There will be a lot of complex connection to sort out for faithful viewers at home, but for our purposes the new development that matters the most is Maggie Sawyer. Florian Lima has been cast as this new addition, a detective character introduced by DC Comics in the late '80s, and one of the first characters to identify as a lesbian. Sawyer is an advocate for alien rights, which makes her an important friend for Supergirl, and, in the comics at least, she also becomes a romantic interest of Batwoman. It all gets underway on Oct. 10. And dear Marvel, catch up with the queer characters, please.



Britney Spears. Photo: Starfrenzy

Disco lives in the Paradise Garage movie

If you saw the legendarily butchered "54" in its theatrical run, it means you care. It also means you won't need anyone to explain Paradise Garage to you. Equally important if less well known at the time, Paradise Garage was cooler, funkier, blacker, and more queer than Studio 54, and its musical influence extends deeper into house music and club culture today. Legendary DJ Larry Levan was the man who created the clubs trademark sound, and people like Frankie Knuckles honed their skills there, too. It counted Keith Haring and Madonna as early patrons. And now there's a movie, currently set to be called "Paradise Garage," and it will tell the story of the beloved club's rise to nightlife fame. "Paradise" will be directed by Jonathan Ullman, based on his short documentary, "What is Paradise Garage?" British actor Kobna Holdbrook-Smith will take the role of Levan. Rayniel Rufino will portray Joey Llanos, who worked at the club and who will also serve as a consultant. Associate producer David Depino was one of the club's DJs, so this is starting to feel like a real family affair. We want this one to hurry up and get itself on a screen somewhere so we can dance to it.

Britney baby one more (Life)time

Lifetime, the network that brought you unauthorized biopics of Aaliyah and Brittany Murphy, have found their next subject. The difference this time is that their subject is still very much alive, with a career in similar healthy circumstance. Britney Spears, who just keeps on keeping on, a woman who is probably more powerful and culturally popular at this point in her career than ever before, whose longevity in

the fickle music industry makes her a legend-in-the-making, will be the subject of what is currently known as "Britney." Directed by Leslie Libman ("Manson's Los Girls") and starring Natasha Bassett ("Hail, Caesar!"), the movie will cover the entertainer's teenage rise to the pop charts, her troubled relationships with men such as Justin Timberlake and Kevin Federline, and her equally troubled relationship with fame. The good news? She's got a really popular show in Vegas right now, so the happy ending is built in. Maybe they should call it "Stronger Than Yesterday."

Netflix series 'Dear White People' sets cast

The main cast has been set for 2017's Netflix series, "Dear White People," based on filmmaker Justin Simien's hilarious 2014 college comedy. Antoinette Robertson ("The Haves and Have Nots"), John Patrick Amedori ("The Vatican Tapes"), Ashley Blaine Featherson - who appeared in the original film but played a different character - and newcomer DeRon Horton will take the lead in the Lionsgate-produced sitcom about a small group of black students navigating academic, social and political paths through a predominantly white Ivy League university. The characters in the series will hew close to those in the film, and Simien himself will write for and direct episodes of the show. Great idea we just had: ask Spike Lee to direct at least one episode with a musical number in it for that vintage "School Daze" vibe. That's a free great idea, Netflix/Lionsgate, because we're generous around here. You're welcome.

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Affirmations

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F A L L

Fling 2016

Please join us October 8th for a celebration of Metro Detroit's LGBTQ community and its allies.

Live Entertainment. Cocktails. Hors D'Oeuvres. Dessert.

Fall Fling will be held inside the Affirmations' 17,000 square foot, state-of-the-art, Allan Gilmour and Eric Jirgens Community Center. The money raised will support Affirmations' life transforming programs and services.

Only \$50 per ticket. Includes live entertainment, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and dessert.

Purchase tickets at <http://goaffirmations.org/fall-fling-2016>

Sponsorship Opportunities are Available.

Contact Katie Koch for more information:
248-677-7227 or email kkoch@goaffirmations.org

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