

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



FALL HOME & Health

p. 14-27

Nancy Schlichting Shares
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2016 PROGRESSIVE VOTER GUIDE INSIDE

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FALL HOME AND HEALTH

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2016 ELECTION COVERAGE



BTL will be reporting on election results online starting at 7 p.m. Tuesday night.

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at *Hodges*...

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PrEP STUDY

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For more information, please contact:

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NEWS



Laura Pittiglio is an associate professor in the School of Nursing and coordinator of the free HIV and syphilis screening program held on Oakland University's campus in Rochester every Thursday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

OU Partners with UNIFIED to Offer Free HIV/AIDS, Syphilis Screenings

ROCHESTER – Not knowing one's HIV/AIDS status is dangerous. HIV/AIDS is a persistent problem, with nearly 50,000 cases diagnosed annually according to the Centers for Disease Control. Three decades ago, such a diagnosis was considered a death sentence. Today, with early detection and proper adherence to medications, people who are HIV positive are able to live long, full lives.

To help with diagnosis, Oakland University and UNIFIED have partnered to offer free HIV and syphilis screenings on Oakland's campus every Thursday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

"Even though screening is on campus, members of the community are also invited to come in for screening," said Laura Pittiglio, associate professor in the School of Nursing and coordinator of the program. "Rest assured, testing is either confidential or anonymous. Individuals who choose to be tested anonymously are given an identification

number so they don't have to provide their name."

Pittiglio adds that for those who do test positive, counselors are available to provide referrals and other needed services. Since there currently is no cure or vaccine for HIV, prevention is critical for reducing rates of infection.

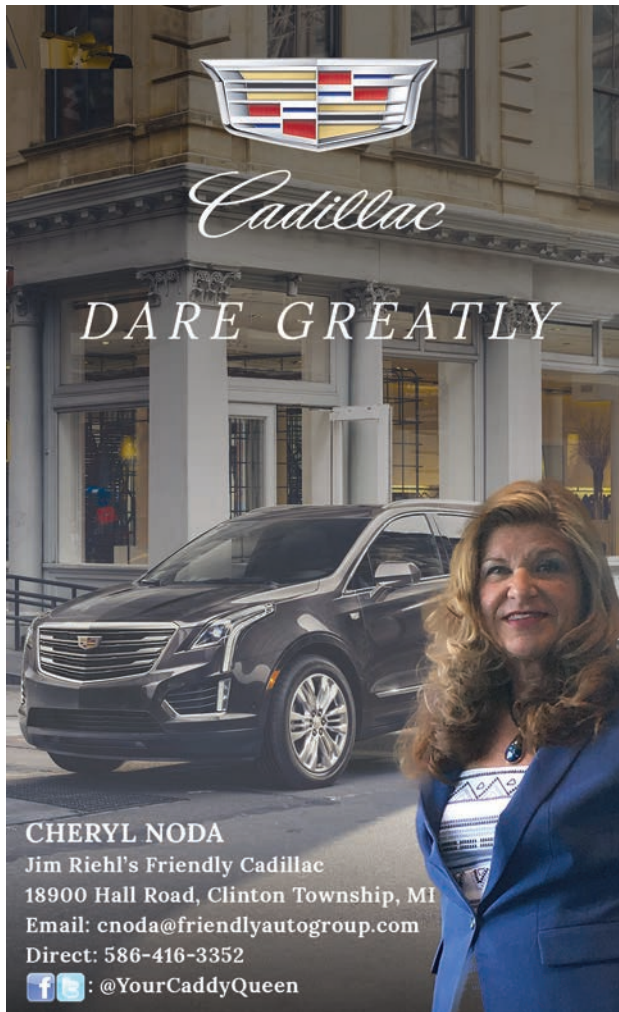
UNIFIED is an organization dedicated to the promotion of HIV health and beyond. UNIFIED provides the resources, as well as an additional supportive counselor, for the launch of the screening clinic – all certified by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Screenings take place at 2059 Human Health Building, 433 Meadow Brook Road in Rochester. There are plans to offer evening hour appointments later this semester. To set up an appointment or for more information, contact Laura Pittiglio at 248-364-8756.

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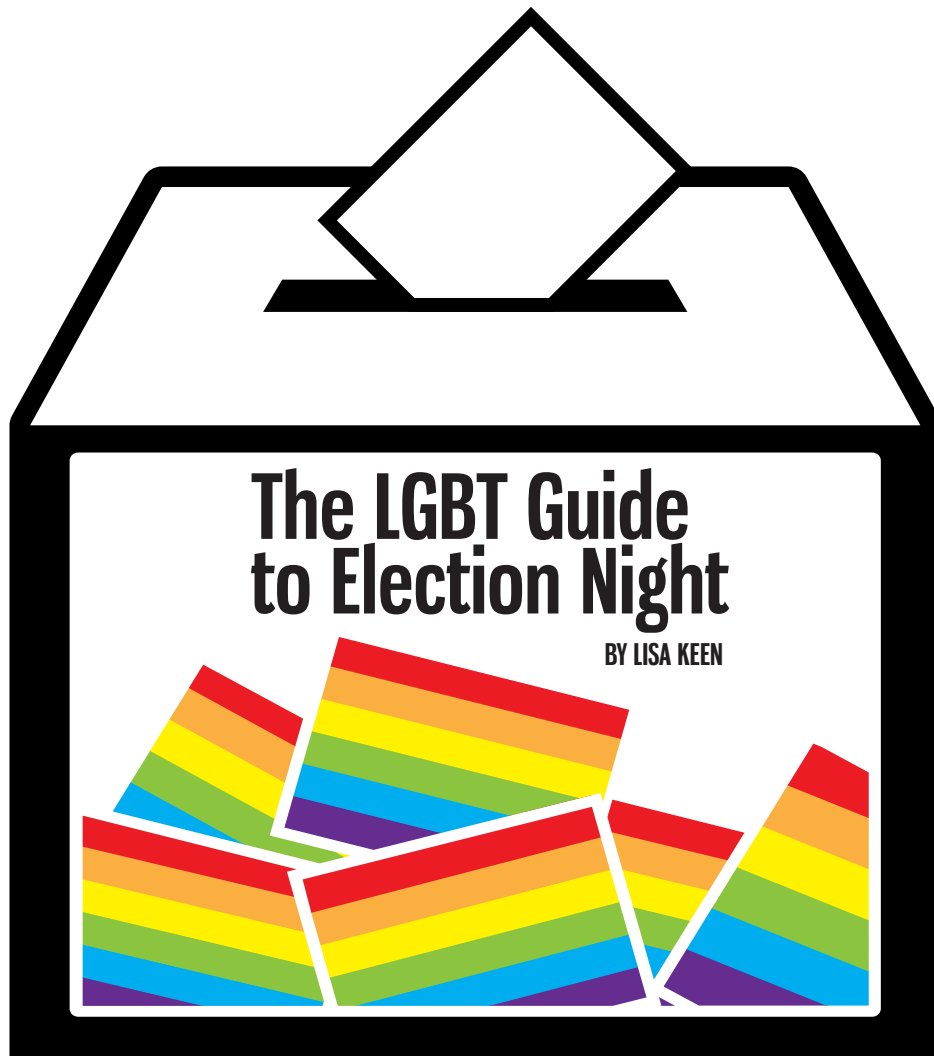
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Polls were predicting Democrat Hillary Clinton would almost certainly win the White House Nov. 8 – up until a few days ago. But that nearly unanimous consensus was thrown into question October 28, after a letter from FBI Director James Comey to several Republican House leaders became public. The letter said that, in working on an unrelated matter, FBI investigators had come across some emails they believe were “pertinent” to an investigation into Clinton’s use of a private server as Secretary of State. Comey said his investigators would be assessing these new emails to determine whether they “may be significant,” but he gave no hint of when that might be.

The news hit the presidential campaign like an earthquake, making every poll to date out-of-date, and sending pollsters scrambling to gauge the impact of something that Comey’s letter failed to define.

By Saturday, some news organizations were saying that various unidentified sources said the new emails were neither to nor from Clinton, but were to or from one of her closest aides, Huma Abedin, and her husband, former U.S. Rep. Anthony Weiner. The “unrelated investigation” reportedly was one looking into his sending sexually related emails or texts to a 15-year-old girl. The likelihood of their having some pertinence in the Clinton-server matter seemed a relatively remote possibility.

But Republicans, including presidential candidate Donald Trump, seized on the remote possibility in hopes of rescuing their hopes for

the White House. And even the most casual observer could grasp the possibility that Americans hearing only the loudspeakers and not reading the news reports with the important context and details could easily walk into the voting booth on November 8 and balk at voting for someone who they thought might still be under investigation over her handling of classified material.

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, whose campaign has been crippled by a videotape of him bragging about his own sexually aggressive behaviors, hailed the release of Comey’s letter. Clinton demanded that Comey produce the evidence publicly that led to it. But the bottom line going into next week’s election is that nobody knows how much impact this late-hour development will have on the vote or what else might happen that could have a dramatic impact on the race. And it may take until late this week for polls to provide any hint.

But the whole world will be watching November 8 as the American electorate weighs in on one of the most contentious and dramatic presidential campaigns in modern history. The Human Rights Campaign has estimated the LGBT voting bloc to be more than nine million strong. HRC endorsed Clinton, as did the Lesbian PAC. The Log Cabin Republicans group chose to withhold making an endorsement for president in this election.

Much of the news Tuesday night will have significant impact on LGBT people and the guide below will help readers know what to watch and when.

What ‘results’ will be available? Actual vote tallies in each state won’t be available Tuesday night. Instead, major media outlets will announce “projections” of who will win based on data they have gathered at exit polls and through telephone interviews with people who have voted early or with mail-in ballots.

What specifically are the milestones? For president, the winner must accumulate at least 270 electoral votes to win. For the Senate, the key question is which party will control. At a minimum, the controlling party must have 50 senators and the White House (with the vice president’s vote breaking any tie). For the current Senate to change party hands, Clinton must win and Democrats must pick up four new seats and not lose any existing seats. If Trump wins, Democrats would need to pick up five new seats. In the governors’ races, political observers will be eager to learn whether North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory will lose his job over his enthusiastic support for the anti-LGBT HB2 law this year.

What’s the best channel to watch? Any of the five major television networks (ABC, CBS, CNN, Fox News, NBC) will have the latest news quickly because they, plus Associated Press, are participating in the exit poll data collection. Three networks have openly gay commentators who improve the chances that discussions of LGBT issues take place during the evening. CNN has two, possibly three: Anderson Cooper, Hilary Rosen, and Don Lemon. MSNBC has Rachel Maddow and possibly Thomas Roberts. And Fox News has Shepard Smith.

When’s the best time to watch? Political junkies who don’t want to miss any part of this historic election will tune in by 7 p.m. EDT, when the first poll result predictions will come. Specifically, this is what will come in and when: (All times listed below are EDT.)

7 p.m. Electoral votes 60

States with polls closing: GA, IN, KY, SC, VA, VT

Presidential: Polls prior to Comey’s letter were indicating that Clinton would win VA and VT (16 electoral votes), Trump would win IN and SC (28 electoral votes), and GA was a toss-up. If the typically Republican Georgia swings to Clinton, commentators may start predicting an historic landslide for Clinton.

Senate races to watch: IN and KY: Democrats are expected to pick up their first new Senate seat in Indiana, with former Senator Evan Bayh, who had Human Rights Campaign scores between 84 and 90 for his voting record on LGBT issues in Congress. If Clinton wins, Democrats will need to pick up three more new ones to take control of the Senate. And in Kentucky, openly gay candidate Jim Gray is making a tough bid to unseat incumbent Republican Rand Paul.

Governors races: IN and VT: These are very tight races for the open seats in Indiana and Vermont. In Indiana, Democrat John Gregg has promised to issue an executive order prohibiting discrimination against state employees based

on sexual orientation and gender identity. Republican Eric Holcomb says he doesn’t plan to focus on the issue. In Vermont, Republican Phil Scott spoke against civil unions when that was under consideration by the legislature in 2000 but, by 2009, he was voting for marriage equality. Democrat Sue Minter was a sponsor of the state’s marriage equality bill, added gender identity to the state’s transportation regulations, and promises to help fight bullying of LGBT youth.

7:30 p.m. Electoral votes 38

States with polls closing: NC, OH, WV

Presidential: West Virginia’s five electoral votes will go to Trump, but polls at deadline could not predict who would take Ohio’s 18 and North Carolina’s 15. Some number-crunchers believe Trump must win both to win the White House, but most believe he has to win Ohio.

Senate races to watch: NC, OH: Democrats would really like to pick up the Senate seat in North Carolina with Deborah Ross, but Republican incumbent Richard Burr has hung onto a tiny lead at deadline. And in Ohio,

Republican incumbent Rob Portman, endorsed by Log Cabin, holds a sizeable lead at deadline.

Governors races: NC, WV: North Carolina's Republican Governor Pat McGory has been in political hot water since he helped usher through the state's HB2 law –restricting use of public restrooms by transgender people and prohibiting local governments from passing laws to prohibit discrimination against LGBT people. The controversial law has cost the state millions of dollars in lost revenue and jobs, as corporations and big sports tournaments have pulled out in protest. At deadline, polls showed him slightly behind Democratic challenger Roy Cooper, the state's attorney general. Cooper has refused to defend the constitutionality of HB2 and has earned the endorsement of LGBT groups. In West Virginia, Democrat Jim Justice opposed a so-called "religious freedom" law; Republican Bill Cole voted for it.

8 p.m. Electoral votes 172

States with polls closing: CT, DE, DC, FL, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, PA, RI, AL, IL, MS, MO, OK, TN

Presidential: D.C. and 16 states hold the evening's largest block of electoral votes: 172. All eyes will be on Florida, with 29 electoral votes, and Pennsylvania with 20. Once again, Trump needs both to have any chance of winning the White House. Before the Comey letter, Clinton had a five-point lead in Pennsylvania and less than a one-point lead in Florida. If Clinton does pick up Florida and Pennsylvania, she'll take the lead, with at least 143 electoral votes and she will have enough electoral votes in the remaining true blue states to run well past the 270 she needs to secure the White House. But if she's having a bad night, she'll end the 8 o'clock hour with only 94 votes and will need to pick up either Texas (a long shot) or both Arizona and Nevada in the coming hours.

Senate races to watch: FL, NH, PA, IL, MO: Democrats are poised to pick off a second Republican-held Senate seat in Illinois, with Rep. Tammy Duckworth. Duckworth got the backing of most LGBT groups, though the Human Rights campaign initially gave its endorsement to incumbent Mark Kirk as the lone Republican willing to endorse the Equality Act. But HRC announced Saturday that it was "revoking" its endorsement of Kirk due to the "deeply offensive and racist" remarks he made during his debate last Thursday. Kirk has apologized for saying to Duckworth, "I had forgotten that your parents came all the way from Thailand to serve George Washington." Democrats have a chance of picking up a third new seat in New Hampshire and/or Pennsylvania but polls are too close to call. New Hampshire Governor Maggie Hassan, a strong supporter of LGBT equality, has been trading the lead with incumbent Kelly Ayotte, whose HRC scorecard has run from 15 to 60 to 80 in the past three sessions. In Pennsylvania, where the race is also very tight, Democrat Katie McGinty has been taking a high-profile pitch for the LGBT vote. Incumbent Pat Toomey's last HRC score was a 16.

House races to watch: CT, NH, OK, RI: Openly gay candidates are running for U.S. House seats in these states, though incumbent David Cicilline in Rhode Island is the only sure winner. Openly gay challengers are also running in Connecticut (Clay Cope), New Hampshire (Shawn O'Connor), and Oklahoma (Al McAffrey).

Governors races: DE, NH, MO: New Hampshire's long-time lesbian activist Mo Baxley endorsed Democrat Colin van Ostern early in the race, saying he is a "trusted ally in the fight for equality." Republican Chris Sununu said he would have "a real problem" with businesses denying services to LGBT people based on the businesses' religious beliefs, but he said, in a separate interview, that he'd be willing to take a look at a law that enabled that. Polls show a very tight race.

9 p.m. Electoral votes 158

States with polls closing: AR, NY, LA, MI, MN, WI, AZ, CO, KS, NE, NM, SD, TX, WY

This is potentially the Waterloo hour. If Clinton has won Pennsylvania, Florida, and Minnesota, she'll be at 235 and the race is all but over because she can reach the magic number of 270 by simply taking California – and that's a given.

Presidential: This is potentially the Waterloo hour. If Trump has been able to pull Ohio, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania into his column, the race will still be alive at 9 p.m. when results from another 14 states holding 159 electoral votes will become known. His best case scenario would be to win 280, so he can afford to lose 10 electoral votes along the way, but at 9 o'clock, he'll still need to see Arizona (11 electorals) and Texas (38 electorals) in his column or the race is likely over.

If Clinton has won Pennsylvania, Florida, and Minnesota, she'll be at 235 and the race is all but over because she can reach the magic number of 270 by simply taking California – and that's a given. But if Clinton's having a bad night, she'll need Texas or Arizona this hour.

Senate races to watch: WI, AZ, CO: Democrats are expecting to keep their Democratic Senate seat from Colorado and pick up a new seat from Wisconsin. If they have already won Indiana, New Hampshire, and Illinois, then Russ Feingold, a strong LGBT equality supporter, makes four and – if Clinton wins the White House – Democrats will take over control of the Senate. If Trump wins, Democrats will still need to pick up one more Senate seat. But no celebration can begin until Democrats secure the existing Democratic seat in Nevada next hour.

House races to watch: AZ, CO, MN, NY, WI: Watch for Minnesota's 2d Congressional District: Voters are leaning towards openly gay businesswoman Angie Craig, and last week, the Minnesota Star Tribune endorsed her over the "outsized personality" radio talk show host running on the Republican side. Two other openly gay congressional candidates –both in Arizona (Paul Babeu and Matt Heinz) –have tough but possible chances of success. And in Colorado, newcomer Misty Plowright, is making a longshot Democratic bid to unseat a Republican incumbent for Colorado's 5th district. Four incumbent gay/bisexual Democrats are expected to enjoy easy re-elections: Jared Polis in Colorado, Sean Patrick Maloney in New York, and Mark Pocan in Wisconsin, and Kyrsten Sinema in Arizona.

Governors races: None



10 p.m. Electoral votes 21

States with polls closing: IA, MT, UT, NV

Presidential: Montana's three electorals are going to Trump, but the other three states each have six electoral votes and polls prior to the Comey letter showed them each to be a toss-up state. And each could become critical to reaching 270, depending on how the evening has been going so far.

Senate races to watch: IA and NV: If Democrats haven't won five new seats by now, Nevada is the last chance for a Democratic majority in the Senate. Plus Democrats have to retain this seat –currently held by Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid. The Democrat's nominee, Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto has the endorsement of the Lesbian PAC and the Human Rights Campaign. The Republican Rep. Joe Heck has a zero score on LGBT issues in Congress.

House races to watch: MT and UT: For Montana's one at-large Congressional seat, lesbian Native American Denise Juneau has the backing of HRC and the Lesbian PAC but the Republican incumbent is expected to win. In Utah, transgender newcomer Democrat Misty Snow is running against incumbent Mike Lee who had a 35-point lead in the polls mid-October.

Governors races: Montana's Democratic Governor Steve Bullock signed an executive order in January, prohibiting discrimination against LGBT state employees. He's urged support for programs that help homeless youth to include LGBT kids and he's presided over a same-sex wedding. His Republican challenger, Greg Gianforte, is opposed to marriage equality and has given more than half a million dollars to the anti-gay group Focus on the Family. Polls show the race leaning toward the Democrat. In Utah, the Democratic challenger Mike Weinholtz is pro-LGBT but far behind the incumbent Republican Gary Herbert, who is opposed to legal protections for LGBT people.

11 p.m. Electoral votes 85

States with polls closing: CA, HI, ID, ND, OR, WA

Presidential: Most of the electoral votes this hour will go to Clinton (78 of the 85), California being the biggest prize of them all with 55 electoral votes.

Senate races to watch: CA: The California U.S. Senate seat held by Barbara Boxer is not in danger of being taken by a Republican. In fact, only Democrats have survived to run in the general election: State Attorney General Kamala Harris and U.S. Rep. Loretta Sanchez. Both are strong supporters of equal rights for LGBT people, but Equality California and LPAC have endorsed Harris.

House races to watch: CA: Incumbent openly gay Democrat Mark Takano is expected to win his re-election to California's 41st Congressional district easily.

Governors races: OR, WA, ND: Openly bisexual Governor Kate Brown is running for re-election in Oregon. She's a Democrat in a blue state and a safe bet. Washington State's Democratic Governor Jay Inslee is a safe bet there, too. He supports marriage equality; his Republican opponent does not. And in North Dakota, polls indicate a Republican win, but Republican candidate Doug Burgum bucks the common trend on LGBT issues. He's said there should be no discrimination based on sexual orientation and that he would work with the legislature to address the problem. On the transgender bathroom issue, he's said he's for both religious liberty and tolerance. He's also in support of marriage equality. Democrat Marvin Nelson has spoken out strongly against anti-LGBT discrimination and for the rights of transgender people to use public restrooms.

Results from Alaska, with three electoral votes, are not expected until after 1 a.m. EDT. All three are expected to go to Trump.



JFK, Nixon, Ford, Sipple and Me

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

I was working at a discount records shop in downtown Detroit in 1959, the year two ill-fated contenders – Sen. John Fitzgerald Kennedy and Vice President Richard Milhous Nixon – campaigned for the 1960 presidency.

I stood about 50 feet from the red, white and blue podium in Campus Martius when J.F.K. spoke that memorable sunlit summer. I was impressed by his youthful good looks, his commanding speech delivery.

For a moment, I thought he specifically pointed in my direction – “Why me, God?” I joked to myself – and I pledged him my vote. (I also wondered if a Roman Catholic could become our president.)

Later that campaign season, I took a coffee break and walked to a coffee shop just down the hall from my discount records sales job.

Gathered at the Washington Boulevard entrance of the Sheraton Cadillac was a noisy crowd. I stood in line, and moments later Nixon began shaking hands. He reached out to take my hand. I stepped back. Reluctant. But pleased to reject his offer.

I was also aware that Nixon looked directly at me and our eyes locked intensely for seemingly milliseconds too many. To this day, I wonder if it was a “gaydar moment.” (Believe it or not: I was quite a looker at 23. Nixon, however, wasn’t my type. Politically or otherwise.)

My fleeting impression was not far-fetched. Nixon, elected in 1968 as our 37th president, was palsy with gay Cuban wheeler-dealer Bebe Rebozo, and closeted queer J. Edgar Hoover, head of the FBI.

A 2011 Nixon biography by Don Fulsom, veteran Washington reporter, suggests gay intimacies between Nixon and Rebozo.

It’s also recently come to light that President Nixon held – by Republican, conservative standards – flexible attitudes about homosexuals. A published collection of Nixon’s confidential discussions with advisors – “The Nixon Tapes” – contains passing, offhand remarks on gays.

Comments were made in 1972, three years after the Stonewall Riots. (Tape conversations began in 1971 and end in ‘73, when word of the tapings became public knowledge).

“Let me say something before we get off the gay thing. I don’t want my views misunderstood. I am the most tolerant person on that score of anybody in this shop. They have a problem. They’re born that way. You know that. That’s all. I think they are. Anyway, my point is, though, when I say they’re born that way, the tendency is there.

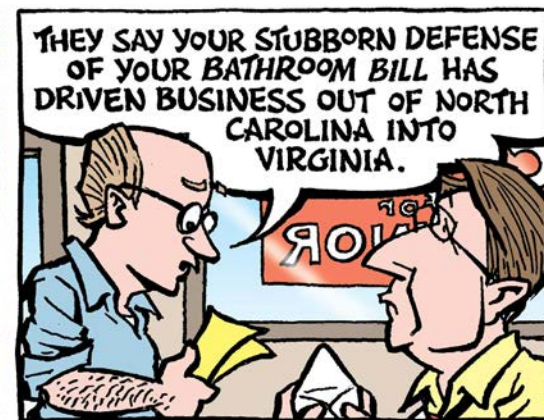
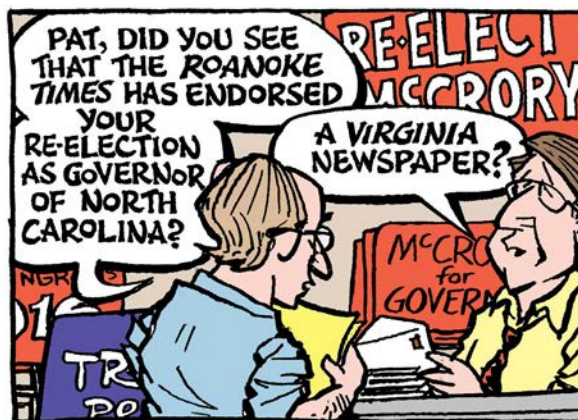
“And, if you look over the history of societies, you will find of course that some of the highly intelligent people – Oscar Wilde, Aristotle – were all homosexuals. Nero, of course, was in a public way, in with a boy in Rome.” Nixon’s caveat: “Once a society moves in that direction, the vitality goes out of that society.”

Both Nixon and J.F.K. were ill-fated. Kennedy was assassinated – murdered, many now believe, by a multifaceted conspiracy – three years after defeating Nixon in 1960. Nixon was elected in 1969. His hit-and-miss presidency ended in 1974 for his nefarious part in equivocating about a Watergate “Deep Throat” Break-In.

In 1975, an assassination attempt on Nixon’s vice president and successor Gerald Ford was successfully thwarted by Detroit-born, Vietnam veteran Oliver “Billy” Sipple. The heroic act outed gay Sergeant Sipple, closeted to family, friends and service buddies.

Sipple sued seven San Francisco newspapers for \$14 million for outing him as one-time lover of Harvey Milk. Sipple died penniless and mostly forgotten in 1989. The rest is history. (Time marches on. Sometimes gun in hand.)

Charles@pridesource.com



10 Reasons to Vote November 8

1. Donald Trump will no longer be BTL’s Top Contender for Creep of the Week
2. “Flip” the Michigan State House of Representatives so Michigan’s Elliott Larsen Civil Rights Act can be amended to include LGBT people.
3. Keep Trump from rescinding President Obama’s executive orders that currently extend equal protections for LGBT people to federal employees and contractors
4. Repeal Religious Freedom Restoration Act
5. Protect over 20 million Americans, including millions of young adults, from losing their subsidized health insurance
6. Keep nuclear weapons away from the unstable, megalomaniacal, narcissistic Donald Trump
7. Keep far-right justices out of the Supreme Court who will overturn marriage equality and a woman’s right to choose
8. Maintain separation of Church and State by restricting federal funding to religious-based organizations
9. Protect Planned Parenthood from partisan attacks
10. Rededicate ourselves to fighting HIV/AIDS by increasing research and expanding the use of medications

Viewpoint

BY AUSTIN WILLIAMS

Last week after Charles Pugh took a plea deal, the victim in that case identified himself to the media. This is his own story in his own words.

The accusation that Charles Pugh is a sexual predator has been in the public's conscious for three years. But for the many young men he has accosted, it has gone one for much longer. It has caused multiple families heartache, cost tax payers thousands of dollars and brought up from the depths memories and pain for those of us Charles exploited and victimized.

I never thought I would turn Charles into the authorities and take him on within the legal system. I was going to deal with this by myself. I was going to hide it. Act like it never happened.

At 17 I left the state to pursue an education and thought I wouldn't have to face Charles, or his influence, ever again.

I thought I was special to Charles. After all, that's what he told me. He wanted my trust. He wanted me to feel like I had a choice in this. Then, later, he wanted me to feel shameful of what we had done. And it worked.

At 14, I did think I knew what I was doing. I thought that since I wanted to be around Charles so badly and learn what he knew about making it in life as a successful black, gay Detroit, I had to give him what he wanted or he wouldn't want me around. I was never in a relationship with him. I worked for him, and so I looked up to him as a boss.

I had my first job when I was still a kid. I sold items from a Disney catalog and picked out soda cans from garbage bins at West Side Cubs home games. At 13, I was employed by the Detroit Golf Club as a caddie, walking in the sun for hours with bags on my back. I understood the virtue of work and the value of money. I understood that if I wanted to buy things, I had to earn them. At 14, I still held that determination to learn and grow and I was not scared to ask a local celebrity if he could help me. He could only answer yes or no. And I had always been taught that closed mouths don't get fed.

I looked up to Charles. He was a successful, black, gay man from my hometown. He held esteemed positions as a well known news personality and, later, led the city as president of the Detroit City Council. For years I never imagined I'd take him on and expose him as the child predator he really was.

The running joke around town was that Charles liked them young. It was common knowledge, something people seemed to

Why I Took on Charles Pugh

So why come forward now?

Well, I am not ashamed anymore to share my experience – not if it keeps others from being manipulated by him or others like him. I truly believe it was the right thing to do.

know but never said how they knew. At 16, when I confronted him about what I had heard, asking him if he liked to have sex with underage boys, he was visibly angry. When I inquired whether he was having sex with the 17-year-old ward he had taken in because the boy's family had put him out, Charles became practically livid and denied any wrongdoing.

I believed him. I think because I wanted to believe he did not go after teen boys. I did not want to think I had been taken advantage of. I had no proof that he had engaged in sex with anyone else underage, and I didn't want to be known as the kid who had sex with Charles Pugh.

I hoped my situation had been unique. I didn't think he wouldn't risk his career by having sex with young boys. In my head, I allowed him a pass because he was Detroit's first representation of a successful black gay man. I gave him a pass because I believed if Charles liked me, he would teach me the lessons I needed to know to become a successful black gay male myself. He would teach me how to move in a world that did not like me based on who I was.

I worked for Charles. Just like if you hire a neighborhood teen to cut your lawn and trim your bushes or clean out your garage. Charles had my mother's permission to take me on work assignments and to employ me as, basically, a gopher. Did my mother know he was gay? Not until he came out publicly in 2004. At that point, she promptly forbade me from having contact with him.

Did I listen? Well, did you do everything your parents told you to as a teenager? I didn't either.

My parents were not at fault in any way for what happened to me. They did what they believed was right with the information they had. I continued to see Charles infrequently until the point in my teenage life that I realized I was being used and could not change our dynamic. Eventually, I cut off all communication

with him for many years.

Then, in 2013, the proof of who Charles really was and the way he really thought was shown to me and all of Detroit in the text messages revealed by the media. When Khody Sanford came forward, Charles stepped back. And he ran – right out of the state.

Suddenly, it was obvious to me that Charles preyed upon Khody while he was still a senior in high school. It became clear that he did this on a regular basis, enticing young men with whatever they really needed in exchange for sexual gain. I knew what Charles was and I knew what he had done to me and now at least one other. Then, as the case moved on, others came forward and I could no longer deny the truth.

So why come forward now? Well, I am not ashamed anymore to share my experience – not if it keeps others from being manipulated by him or others like him. I truly believe it was the right thing to do. I have been living my life with a new perspective. I am trying to actually be the change I want to see, and that means speaking out. It means doing right in the face of wrong.

It means protecting my community from a predator that shows no remorse and no regret for the damage he has done. It means letting the world know that Charles is a sexual predator and that he has, without a doubt, preyed on many young black gay men in the city of Detroit. It was vital for me to ensure the physical and mental safety of my young black gay brothers growing into adulthood in Detroit, New York, Atlanta or wherever else he may have ended up. It was only right to bring some sort of justice for the countless boys Charles had sexually exploited and to those he would likely do the same to in the future.

This, I believe, is what community policing is. This is how we protect ourselves and neighborhoods – by speaking out against injustices when we see them. By speaking up and breaking the silence of shame, the silence of neglect, the silence of self-hate and deception, we are helping our own communities and growing social trust with one another. This is how we bring the crime rate in our communities down, by speaking out against those that commit them. This is how we come together as a community, by trusting that we care about each other's lives and that it's not just every person for themselves.

So that's the answer to the question I've been asked a lot since I came forward last week. That's why I took on Charles Pugh: because somebody had to. And now, finally, I was strong enough to be that someone.

Pugh Hits Rock Bottom in Fall from Grace

Former City Council President accepts plea deal; faces 5.5-15 years in prison

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

DETROIT – Former City Council President Charles Pugh avoided a potentially damaging trial and possible life sentence Wednesday by accepting a deal. Pugh plead guilty to two counts of criminal sexual conduct in exchange for three counts of the more serious first degree criminal sexual conduct charge being dropped. He now faces 5.5 to 15 years in prison at his sentencing next month and, upon his release, will have to register as a sex offender for life.

"I'm glad there was an opportunity for Charles to take the offer that was given to him by the prosecutor's office," said LGBT Detroit Executive Director Curtis Lipscomb, who has known and worked with Pugh for years. "This reduced sentence will definitely give him opportunities to serve his sentence and still see freedom at some point."

Others, however, were not quite so kind.

"I'm not only disgusted by the now confirmed accusations, I'm also disgusted by his actions afterward," said Johnny Jenkins, a community activist and former Hotter Than July – Detroit Black Gay Pride board president who has known Pugh since long before the time he began a sexual relationship with a 14-year old in 2003. "He essentially abandoned the community that always had his back, providing him with the space to be an openly black gay man in his hometown. All the work and support he received from our community has been undermined."

"But at the same time our community is the epitome of resilience and continues to prosper in spite of short-term setbacks."

The relationship Pugh had with his victim, who identified himself to the media following Pugh's court appearance as now 27-year-old Austin Williams, himself a community activist involved with HTJ and other causes, took place during a period between 2003 and 2004. In 2004, Pugh publicly came out. In an interview with *Between The Lines* that same year, at the same time the relationship with a teenage Williams was taking place, Pugh said, "I've worked hard to make myself a role model for young men in this city, and young people in general."

Shortly after coming out, and still during the course of the relationship, Pugh acted as a moderator for a historic town hall meeting on homophobia in Detroit that took place at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History.

"That was the moment his profile was raised to LGBT advocate with his peers and within our community," Jenkins said. "As far as I know, there's been no apology to our community for the abandonment or for putting us in such a disheartening position. So there are a lot of reasons why I take this so personally. He owes Detroit's black LGBT community a public apology."

But if he didn't receive a personal apology, Williams

See Charles Pugh, page 10

Nancy Schlichting Shares Secrets of Success

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

DETROIT - The Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce welcomed Nancy Schlichting, CEO of Henry Ford Health System, to their monthly event on Oct. 24 to discuss the lessons she learned as an LGBT leader of the largest employer in the city of Detroit.

"She is a huge pioneer in the LGBT community when it comes to leadership. Someone that everyone in the community can look up to," said Kevin Heard, chamber president, about the decision to invite Schlichting to speak.

"Her story, which has been replicated across the nation, about being discriminated against because of her sexual orientation ... to face that adversity and persevere was a huge reason why we wanted her to come in front of these professionals."

In the William H. & Patricia M. Smith Crystal Gallery at the Detroit Institute of Arts, Schlichting spoke to around 60 representatives from around 30 companies and organizations such as Comerica, PNC, Dow Chemical, Wayne State University, Equality Michigan, Flagstar, Affirmations, Gannett, Michigan.com, Ford Motor Company, and General Motors.

"I have had some interesting challenges along the way that have been important in my life and frankly, character building and sometimes career building," said Schlichting, who is credited with leading HFHS through a dramatic financial turnaround and for award-winning patient safety, customer service and

diversity initiatives. HFHS is a nationally recognized \$4 billion health care organization with 23,000 employees.

"It's not always the good things that happen to you that make you who you are, but it's often the things that are challenging that give you the strength to try and overcome them," she said.

Other leaders, such as Comerica Bank Manager Jeremy Grant, wonder how Schlichting found the strength to be open at work.

"As a leader with your sexual identity, where would you give us encouragement to be who we are in the workplace as a leader?" he asked.

Schlichting said she always asks leaders, "What do you stand for?"

"And I think it's so important because leadership is really a privilege ... the ability to impact other people to create change in an organization. I ask myself," she said, "What do I stand for?" ... I was looking for people in the organization all the time who could help us advance our diversity. Diversity is in our DNA, it's who we are, it's who we serve ... not waving flags all the time, but just being who we are. I change people. We all do by having the courage to be open. People who struggle with discrimination are stronger than anyone else. It's why diversity is so important."

Schlichting, who plans to retire from HFHS in December, read passages from her book, "Unconventional Leadership: What Henry Ford and Detroit Taught Me About Reinvention and Diversity." In the book,

she offers advice based on her 35 years of experience so that readers can apply it in their lives, not only as business builders, and as women and men at work, but also across the wider spectrum of situations people face as employees, parents and citizens.

Modern Healthcare magazine recently named Schlichting for the fourth time to the "Top 25 Women in Healthcare" and also listed her for the eighth time as one of the "100 Most Influential People in Healthcare."

The chamber will host their next monthly event at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 8 at Union Street, 4145 Woodward Ave., Detroit. The event, sponsored by Flagstaff, features Jill Ford, who heads the city of



BTL photos: Kate Opalewski

Detroit's innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives, and Portia Roberson, an appointee of Mayor Mike Duggan who serves as the city's group executive for human rights.

For more information, visit the DRLGBTCC website www.detroitlgbtchamber.com.

► Charles Pugh

Continued from p. 9

said it was Pugh's admission in open court to being in essence a sexual predator that brought closure to him.

"The shame that he put on myself and the countless other young men who have dealt with him - he now has to deal with that for the rest of his life," Williams said. "And that's justice."

But not everyone believes Pugh deserves such a lengthy prison sentence, even if it's what sentencing guidelines call for. Williams admitted he knew he was gay at the time he met Pugh and that the sex he had was consensual, though in the state of Michigan the age of consent is 16 and therefore Williams could not legally consent to it at the time.

"My lens is markedly different," said John



Charles Pugh when he won the Detroit City Council race in 2009. BTL file photo.

Trimble, a community activist and deputy executive director of the Trans Sistas of Color Project. "I don't know what being molested or being 'groomed for sex' looks like. I've never experienced it in my life. To tell the truth on

myself, any time that I engaged in sex with an older man when I was younger I knew what I was doing. All I know is Charles Pugh is my friend and I have supported him and I will continue to support him and love him despite the fact that this has happened. If the law said that he is guilty, then it is what it is. But I'm not going to vilify him.

"The reality is that he's my friend and I just want my friend to be well, whatever that looks like," Trimble continued. "And I hope that when he comes out the other side he has healed and is able to go on with his life."

Lipscomb said the same.

"I really hope to see Charles once he completes his sentence, and my wish is that he'll be a changed man," he said. "I think from this point on we need to look at those who self-identify as role models and just take a step back and ask, 'How do you actualize that commitment?' It pains me to know that

All I know is Charles Pugh is my friend and I have supported him and I will continue to support him and love him despite the fact that this has happened. If the law said that he is guilty, then it is what it is. But I'm not going to vilify him.

- John Trimble

evidence shows that during the time he self-confessed as a role model he was also engaged (in sexual activity) with a teenager. It's really about us taking care of one another, holding leaders and people of significance accountable and making sure that everyone is safe. As much as this doesn't bring me happiness there's something we can learn from it."

Creep of the Week

Gordon Klingenschmitt

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI



Everybody already knows that the reason LGBTQ people (or “the gay crowd” as Klingenschmitt says) get sick is because they’re sickos. End of study. Thanks, Dr. Klingenschmitt!

is a stronger country and everyone deserves access to health care, right?

Not so believes Klingenschmitt, an actual elected official in the Colorado House of Representatives. During his Oct. 28 “news” program he scoffed, “You mean they’re segmenting out, for study, an entire group of people who behave a certain way that has corresponded now to a decline in their health? Could it be that their behavior and their health are connected? The federal government’s gonna study this. Oh my gosh! As if we already didn’t know.”

Right? Everybody already knows that the reason LGBTQ people (or “the gay crowd” as Klingenschmitt says) get sick is because they’re sickos. End of study. Thanks, Dr. Klingenschmitt!

Klingenschmitt’s focus on the “behavior” is interesting, especially since Pérez-Stable wrote, “Progress has been made in recent years, with gains in legal rights and changing social attitudes. However, stigmatization, hate-violence, and discrimination are still major barriers to the health and well-being of SGM populations. Research shows that sexual and gender minorities who live in communities with high levels of anti-SGM prejudice die sooner—12 years on average—than those living in more accepting communities.”

Huh. It sure does seem like someone’s behavior has something to do with it. Maybe Klingenschmitt should examine his own if he’s really so concerned with LGBTQ lives.

Klingenschmitt continues, “I always worry a little bit when they say these people are under-served because what that means is they’re going to start pouring out more government handouts to people who behave a certain way. So now they’re going to get bonus pay to treat the diseases which they bring on due to their behavior. Your taxpayer dollars at work.”

Take that, taxpayers! Getting sick to get that sweet bonus pay is the life! Granted, I haven’t gotten my check yet, but I’m sure it’ll be huge! I can’t wait! (Seriously. I can’t wait. I couldn’t work for nearly a year. Please send the check ASAP along with my Obama phone, thanks).

Whenever people ask me why I decided to get breast cancer last year, I try to evade the question. Maybe I just like spending time in hospitals. Maybe I have a surgery fetish. What I never admit is that I did it for the bonus pay.

You might be wondering, what’s this “bonus pay” you speak of? Well, up until Oct. 28 it was definitely a TOP SECRET part of the Gay Agenda.

But then LGBTQ hate scholar Gordon Klingenschmitt had to go and reveal the plan to the world.

It all started with an announcement from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (part of the National Institute of Health) that they had formally designated “sexual and gender minorities (SGMs) as a health disparity population for NIH research.”

“The term SGM encompasses lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender populations, as well as those whose sexual orientation, gender identity and expressions, or reproductive development varies from traditional, societal, cultural, or physiological norms,” wrote NIMHD Director Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable, M.D.

“Mounting evidence indicates that SGM populations have less access to health care and higher burdens of certain diseases, such as depression, cancer, and HIV/AIDS,” Pérez-Stable continued. “But the extent and causes of health disparities are not fully understood, and research on how to close these gaps is lacking.”

In other words, the SGM designation is fairly broad, intended to catch people who often fall through the cracks in the health care system and try to, you know, stop that from happening. Because a healthy country

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- Louis Pietzman, BuzzFeed

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US Supreme Court Takes Up Transgender Student Case

BY LISA KEEN

In a development that could worry LGBT legal activists, the U.S. Supreme Court on Friday (Oct. 28) announced that it would hear an appeal that challenges a lower court decision in favor of a transgender student who was denied access to a school bathroom consistent with his gender identity.

The case, *Gloucester v. Grimm*, asks the court to decide the validity of a U.S. Department of Education interpretation of a federal law prohibiting discrimination based on sex in education. The department says the law also prohibits discrimination based on gender identity.

The case comes to the high court from the 4th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals which had ruled in April that Title IX of the federal Education Amendments Act of 1972 – which prohibits discrimination based on sex by federally funded educational institutions – also prohibits discrimination based on gender identity.

The ACLU, which represents the transgender high school student in the case, put a positive spin on Friday's announcement, saying it would give the group an opportunity to "tell the Supreme Court who Gavin and transgender kids are throughout the country."

Gavin Grimm is a senior at a public high school in Gloucester, Virginia. Although identified as female at birth, he has felt since age 6 that he's a male. A psychologist diagnosed

Grimm with gender dysphoria, a condition in which a person strongly identifies as a gender different from his or her physical gender attributes. His parents helped him change his name, secure treatment to transition to a male identity, and inform and seek help from school officials. Grimm sought use of the boys' restroom because he said girls reacted negatively to his presence in the girls' restrooms because they perceive him to be a boy.

ACLU senior staff attorney Josh Block said the school's refusal to let Grimm use the boys' restroom is "not only humiliating but also affects his education and his ability to participate in school life."

In accepting *Gloucester*, the Supreme Court said it would address only two of three questions that the school district attorneys posed: First, they ask whether the courts should give "deference" to the Department of Education's interpretation of the law, given that it came in an "unpublished agency letter." And, second, they ask whether legal effect should be given to the Department's interpretation of Title IX.

In its petition to the Supreme Court, the school district's primary argument was that, when Congress passed Title IX, it intended the word "sex" to mean "nothing more than male and female, under the traditional binary conception of sex consistent with one's birth or biological sex." It says the U.S. Department of Education's interpretation of "sex" to include "gender identity" amounts to creating new law.

ACLU senior staff attorney Josh Block said the school's refusal to let Grimm use the boys' restroom is "not only humiliating but also affects his education and his ability to participate in school life."

Block says the high court won't necessarily reach the question of whether "sex" should include "gender identity." It could stick to a very narrow ruling on whether the courts should defer to the Department's interpretation of "sex."

"The argument the other side is making," said Block, "... is the unambiguous meaning is biological sex. In order to apply deference (to DOE), the court must first determine the regulation is ambiguous and then that (the Department's interpretation was) a reasonable construction."

"The court could decide in a broad or narrow way but, at a minimum, it would reject the idea that one and only one meaning of the word sex is chromosomes or reproductive anatomy."

Block said the court's eventual ruling could have far reaching applications – impacting not only the sex discrimination language in Title IX affecting education but also in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, affecting employment.

"It potentially has implications for any statutes protecting on the basis of sex," said Block. "It could decide on narrower grounds, but since 2000, the (lower) courts have kept up a steady drumbeat that discrimination against transgender people is discrimination based on sex. And this might be the opportunity for the U.S. Supreme Court to join that chorus."

The high court does not typically jump at chances to make sweeping decisions and, to some extent, it is unusual that the court took this case because the ruling under appeal was a preliminary one, not one on the merits. The 4th Circuit's ruling was issued in response to a preliminary motion in Grimm's lawsuit. The preliminary motion requested that Grimm be able to use his public high school's boys' restrooms until his overall lawsuit – arguing that Title IX does cover gender identity – can be resolved. The 4th Circuit's decision sent the case back to the district court with instructions to reconsider the preliminary injunction in light of the appeals court's ruling that Title IX prohibits discrimination based on gender identity.

The Gloucester school district appealed that preliminary ruling to the Supreme Court and, in August, the Supreme Court agreed to stay the 4th Circuit's decision until it – the Supreme Court – could decide whether to take the case for review. Attorneys for Grimm argued against the court taking the appeal, saying that this case was "the wrong case at the wrong time" and noting that there are no conflicts – yet – among the various federal appeals courts.

Grimm said in a telephone press call that he was disappointed that the Supreme Court accepted the appeal, "But I'm not afraid and not discouraged."

While he said he feels like he has a "target on my back" and things are "very difficult and stressful," he hopes his case means that "no other transgender student will have to go through what I've gone through."



PORTRAIT OF MYSELF AS MY FATHER NORA CHIPAUMIRE

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Friday, November 18 // 8 pm
Saturday, November 19 // 8 pm
Sunday, November 20 // 2 pm
Downtown Boxing Gym (6445 E. Vernor, Detroit)

She never knew her father. Now she will invent him. Within a boxing ring and surrounded by spectators, she will tether him to her, as he becomes all that she envisions a man to be. In a makeshift boxing ring, under the harsh glow of halogen worklights, the three trade jabs steeped in Chipaumire's contemporary African movements. They teeter between combat and play, exploding and exploiting stereotypes of black manhood with the subject a man who can embody the ancestral as well as the modern, a man both strong and fragile. "Ms. Chipaumire is an artist of ferocious intensity." (*New York Times*)

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#FoodPorn Stars to Follow on Instagram

Three Metro Detroit **Gourmet Gays** Share Their Passion for Food

FALL HOME & Health

BY EMELL DERRA ADOLPHUS

Jared Peña on learning to throw the cookbook out the window

Jared Peña likes to cook from cultural experience. He's traveled to more than 50 countries, including India, Peru, Thailand, Burma, Morocco – most recently Russia, where he fell in love with “anything with caviar.” And he follows a simple philosophy when it comes to expanding his palette for different foods: Ditch the cookbook. Get to the country.

“That’s where all this cooking comes from, my past travel,” says Peña, 30, who regularly feeds his social media followers with snapshots from his food adventures abroad and at home in Detroit. “I think you take back a bit from each place.”

Peña comes from a longstanding generation of cultured men. His Mexican-American father lived what Peña calls a “semi-nomadic”

lifestyle, following the harvest and traveling around the U.S. in between migrant camps. His grandfather was a cowboy (vaquero), a “very old school one at that” he says, and would travel with groups of men across the country to work on ranches.

“In the vaquero lifestyle it isn’t uncommon for the men to stay at a ranch for months on end, away from their families, doing all their own cooking,” he says of the tradition. “So, the men were heavily involved in cooking on that side of the family and watching them care deeply about it and how food was handled really fascinated (me).”

Learning the value of knowing how to prepare a good meal from his father, Peña worked in kitchens from ages 16 to 25, but felt cooking was too personal for him to do it professionally.

“Truthfully, cooking (in a restaurant) is physically draining and not that rewarding,” he says. “The hours are horrendous and the pay is usually pitiful. When I was in college, I watched a lot of my friends really go all in on culinary school and cooking jobs. Watching them fail and have massive debt from some of those for profit schools was really a deterrent for me.”

Peña chose to go into finance over food — he works as an FHA underwriter at Quicken Loans, — and he says it was the best decision

because it means only cooking for the people he loves.

“Food for me is all about sharing it with others and creating a moment or experience,” he says. “Other than a few events I’ve done, I really don’t care to cook for people I don’t know or have a connection with. For me, it’s a labor of love that is an added perk for my relationships.”

Follow him on Instagram at @JaredTPena

Kevin Sharp on growing great food

From his childhood spent grazing U-pick farms, baking bread from scratch and snapping beans in front of the TV, Kevin Sharp learned that great tasting food starts in the ground.

“My father taught me to grow food. Each spring, he’d till a little 3 or 4-inch square patch of dirt, and we could choose whatever we wanted out of the seed catalog to plant,” remembers Sharp, 55. His parents grew up during the Great Depression and were excellent food producers out of necessity he explains. What his dad grew, his mom spent the summer preserving.

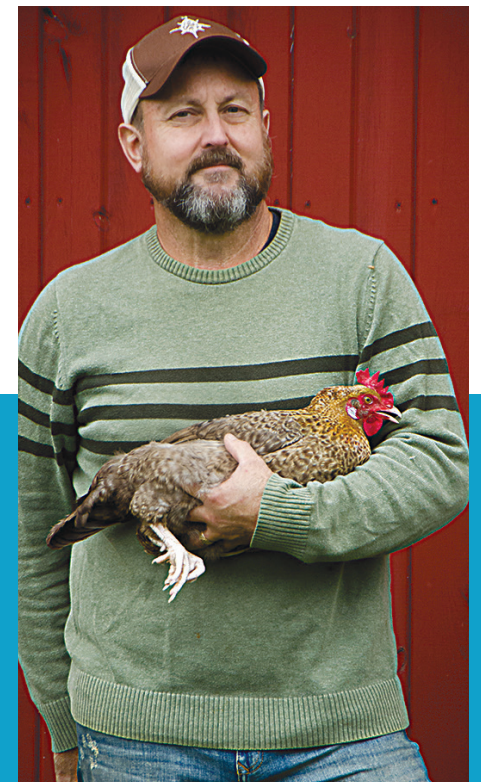
“That was magic to me,” he says. Now, Sharp spends most of his time cooking up some magic of his own and has attracted a local following of other foodies from sharing the fruits of his labor in photos.

“We eat with our eyes first’ as they say,” Sharp says, who is a professional photographer. On the picturesque land he shares with his partner, Rusty, located just outside of Ann Arbor, he grows a seasoned list of photogenic fare, including blushing red tomatoes, wild blue grapes, glossy eggplants, green garlic and summer squash.

“We have a couple of big vegetable gardens and some fruit trees and raise nearly all our own poultry,” says Sharp, explaining that he and his partner are committed to sustaining the land in its natural state. “Rusty and I are committed to being good stewards of the land, so about a third of the property we’re restoring back to (its) native habitat we’ve dubbed the ‘Gay Prairie.’”

And when you grow your own food, your favorite dish to make tends to depend on the season, he says.

“Autumn is a great time because we’ve got the end of the summer crops overlapping with winter squashes and apples and root vegetables,” says Sharp. “So, maybe a gratin with apples and fennel and rutabaga.



Favorite dish

“I guess if I had to pick just one favorite dish it might be a rustic fruit tart of some sort; maybe an apple galette. They’re easy for me to toss together and everyone loves a good galette.”

Dream dinner guests

“As with any successful dinner party, the mix is important. I guess for starters I’d go with Ta-Nehisi Coates. I’d love to hear more of his perspective on current events and he’d help us all keep it real and keep the conversation going. Next might be British food writer Nigel Slater. Third, I’d invite filmmaker Julie Dash. She did “Daughters of the Dust,” about three generations of a Gullah family off the coast of South Carolina. Fourth might be Diego Rivera. He’d be the only not currently living person, but I doubt he’d let that get in the way of a good time. I’d love to hear his take on art and politics and learn more about his time in Detroit, painting the frescos at the DIA. Last is another food person, Michael Twitty. He’s a black, gay, Jewish food historian whose work fascinates me. His blog “Afroculinaria” is totally worth checking out. I’d have him in the kitchen with Nigel and me, or maybe we’d just make it a big potluck affair and everyone can bring a dish to pass, family style. I’m all about casual entertaining and I think this crowd would really go for it.”

Peña’s Recipe: Camarones y Quinoa al Ajillo + Salsa Criolla con tomates

1 lb. Shrimp – important this is unpeeled and raw a count between 18-25 per lb. is the ideal size

2 cups Quinoa

2 Red Onions

4 Limes

6 cloves Garlic

1 bunch Cilantro

Sea Salt

White vinegar

Olive oil

½ tsp cumin

Agave nectar or sugar

Avocado (optional)

Thai Fish sauce (optional)

Visit PrideSource.com for the complete recipe instructions.



See #FoodPorn, page 18

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Continued from p. 14

In winter, I make a lot of savory tarts and pies and of course hearty stews.”

Sharp says he got his penchant for cooking from his mother. “During family gatherings and church get-togethers, I was always drawn more to whatever was going on in the kitchen,” he says. “The men were always watching a game on TV, but in the kitchen there were aromas and good food being created and there was talking and laughter.”

Seeing the kitchen as a hub for laughter is why it was the selling point in his home.

“It was the selling point when we first looked at our house,” he says. Although his kitchen includes an impressive view – “rolling hills and fields and woods” – the best view is the kitchen table full of family.

“I’ll trade that for amenities any day. It’s true everyone always gravitates towards the kitchen, don’t they? Whenever we have friends and family over I vow we’ll use more of the rest of the house, but we always all end up around the kitchen table.”

Follow him on Instagram @Kevmsharp

Phillip Rivera on learning to love cooking as a hobby

Phillip R. Rivera was just shy of his 30th birthday when he decided he wanted to be more than a food enthusiast. He quit his corporate career to become a chef.

“Much of my early adult life, I dreamed of becoming a chef and owning my own restaurant,” he says. “As I was turning 30, I had what I refer to as an early mid-life crisis and decided to abandon a corporate career to go to cooking school.”

After a year of culinary school and working in restaurants, Rivera decided he wasn’t meant to live a chef’s life. “I had lost all interest in cooking, subsisting on a diet of Hot Pockets and Goldfish crackers,” he remembers fondly. “It takes a special person to cook for a living, and I was not that person.” But that experience did open the door for Rivera to really appreciate his culinary cooking as a hobby and make food fun again.

Rivera’s Instagram page is peppered with homemade pies, food preserving, pickling, and other Filipino-inspired recipes, like Ube Bundt Cake with coconut milk icing, that celebrate his family’s roots, which is where his love of food began.

“Growing up in a Filipino household, food played a huge part in my upbringing. As in many cultures, food equals love to most Filipinos,” says Rivera, 44, who lives in Ferndale with his partner, Todd. “Traditionally, our first question after greeting each other is ‘Have you eaten?’ I grew up with my grandmother living with us, so she often prepared dinner weeknights while my parents took over the kitchen on weekends. We ate almost every dinner together, in and out of the home. Even today, most of our family gatherings



Dream dinner guests:

“My culinary heroes: Julia Child, Lidia Bastianich and Jacques Pepin. First Lady Michelle Obama, for obvious reasons, as long as she’d be willing to suspend her healthy eating campaign for the duration of dinner. And Patti LaBelle for entertainment ... and her pies.”

center on eating.”

In a Filipino household, Rivera says he started sharpening his cooking skills at an early age from craving American food.

“Most meals cooked by my family were Filipino or other Asian-inspired, but my brother and I often craved ‘American’ food, so we would sometimes experiment if we didn’t want what my parents and grandmother had prepared,” he remembers. “One of my earliest masterpieces was this mysterious dish I’d only heard about on TV ... tuna-noodle casserole. I used to borrow cookbooks from the library weekly and page through them for inspiration, something I still do to this day.”

Rivera spends most of his day surrounded by historic creativity as the director of volunteer services at the Detroit Institute of Arts and makes a point to carry that creativity into the kitchen.

“It’s where I get to exercise my creativity and express my love of family and friends through food,” he explains, and says there is a lot of truth to “the way to the heart is through the stomach.”

“I think there’s a lot of truth in this saying. As I mentioned earlier, food equals love in my culture and I think it’s the best way I know to show someone I care. When someone cooks for me, it means infinitely more to me than they could know.”

Follow him on Instagram @Philebutante

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FALL HOME & Health



Mitchells, Jeff and Dimitrius, have turned their Hamtramck home into a destination for visitors and a staycation spot for themselves. BTL Photos: Andrew Potter.

Couple Beautifies Hamtramck Home, Has Unique Connection to Area

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

It was never Jeff Mitchell's intention to move to Hamtramck, but he found and fell in love with a "hidden gem" on Yemans Street.

The Chicago-style home was built in 1999 from the ground up after the previous home burned down. Designer and builder Scott Kosick purchased the lot at a city auction for \$1,500. In Hamtramck, the lots are small – so the only place to build is up. The 2,500-square-foot home is 20-feet wide, 35-feet tall, and about 50-feet long.

Turns out Jeff's great-great-grandfather, Hisa Mitchell, and his great-great-grandmother, Elizabeth, settled in Hamtramck from Germany.

"Hisa's son, great-grandpa Henry, and his siblings attended Hamtramck schools. He only made it to eighth grade. One of Henry's brothers – so my great uncle – was city treasurer and Mitchell Street is named

after him," said Jeff about his unexpected connection to the area.

There was something different about the home he purchased in 2004, which has become quite the attraction with airy, sunlit living space spread over three stories. Jeff realized just how different when grabbing the paper in his pajamas one morning.

"There were like 30 people standing there with cameras," he said. "It's become a point of interest. It doesn't look like any other house in the neighborhood. Cars stop. People stop. Walking tours come by in the summer months."

It was quite the transition for Dimitrius when he first moved in six months after he started dating Jeff in September 2012. The couple married this year in August.

"Every time we are outside, members of the community ask questions. Whether they want to know more about the house or they want advice or ideas," said Dimitrius, who is not shy about his passion for home decorating.

"When he arrived, things changed. He started redesigning the kitchen and the guest room right away," said Jeff.

The grand tour begins with first-floor ceilings that rise 10 feet. A dumbwaiter in the kitchen is one of many fun secrets and surprises in the home as is the instrumental music played throughout which creates a relaxing ambiance. The Mitchells decorate on a budget, designing Oriental and Egyptian themed rooms with unique pieces of furniture and artwork.

One might think they spend a fortune, but, "We are thrift store shoppers. IKEA is our friend," said Jeff, adding that a majority of the work is do-it-yourself.

"Just go for it," he said. "I never knew how to lay a floor, but I laid the entire bamboo floor by watching TV shows or internet videos. We say let's try it and sometimes it doesn't work and you have to redo it, but don't be afraid to try."

Upstairs are two second-floor bathrooms,

one for each bedroom, and Dimitrius's favorite: the home theater room. He said, "I love watching movies. I'm transported" in the space that seats 14 people, features a 3-D projector and a 13-foot wide screen.

The color scheme varies throughout the house with different shades of brown, black and white, and gray – all accented with Tiffany blue, as blue is their favorite color.

"Jeff is more modern and edgy. I am more 'blingy' and 'queeny' and girly, but he tones me down. The yin to my yang. We complement each other," said Dimitrius.

The third floor aerie functions as a lounge area and greenhouse – where their tropical plants are stored during the colder months. "They remind us of vacation," said Jeff.

Following a trip to Holland a few years ago, the couple had a "fabulous" experience at a bed and breakfast. Considering all the attention their Hamtramck home receives, it made sense to the Mitchells to welcome guests into their space through Airbnb. Their "luxury

home with a modern twist” can be found on the peer-to-peer online community marketplace which connects people looking to rent their homes with people who are looking for accommodations.

Having company is perfect for the couple that enjoys entertaining, which makes the “party deck” on the third floor the perfect spot for their outdoor dining room where guests can indulge in Jeff’s cooking, his other passion.

“We cook a lot and we try to take turns, but Jeff cooks so well,” emphasizes Dimitrius.

Each floor is complete with an outdoor deck. Jeff’s favorite spot is the rooftop deck where he takes advantage of peaceful treetop skyline views.

“We get together with maybe around three couples for manageable and intimate parties and movie nights. For larger parties, different groups of people hang out on different floors,” said Jeff, adding that keeping the house clean can be a challenge. “It’s three floors of fun. We are always running around with a vacuum and duster.”

The Hamtramck community has welcomed the Mitchells, including their “great neighbors” who enjoy a little friendly



competition with saws and power tools from time to time. The couple has settled in and plans to stay for a while.



When asked what’s next on their list of things to do, Jeff said, “Overall, we’re really happy.”

“We are?” said Dimitrius, who has plans to install a second sink in the master bathroom, maybe add a gazebo next year and fill it up with roses. He might even increase the size of their outdoor pond where beautiful Koi live. He said, “There’s always something.”



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Midtown Detroit Inc. Details Redevelopment Plans

FALL HOME
& Health

BY BTL STAFF

DETROIT – Midtown Detroit is undergoing some changes with major construction to revitalize the downtown area. There has been a push to bring new life into the Midtown neighborhood known for its loft and apartment communities, restaurants and nightlife. Some of the projects are expected to break ground as early as 2017.

Detroit's New Center Residential Complex

A \$52 million Third and Grand development is expected to open in spring 2018 at the northwest corner of Third and West Grand Boulevard. The development will be a six-story, mixed-use building with 231 units and A 21,000-square-foot commercial space on the ground floor. In addition, the development will feature a 330-space parking garage.

Trendy Hotel Set for Midtown

Brooklyn-based West Elm, an international retailer of modern furniture and home decor, declared it was going into the hotel business and that Midtown Detroit was one of the five U.S. locations that would be part of the new venture. West Elm announced plans for a 120-room boutique hotel and a new West Elm store to be built in Midtown with an expected opening in 2018. The hotel will be situated on the northeast corner of Cass and Canfield to be part of a larger development that will include housing and more retail space.

Boutique hotels — small, stylish lodgings that tend to locate in trendy neighborhoods — are part of a global trend. Detroit is part of the wave as the hotel occupancy rate has been steadily rising for years — currently at 67 percent — even as the number of hotel rooms grows in the downtown area, according to Michael O'Callaghan, executive vice president at the Detroit Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Mexican-Inspired Restaurant to Open

Bakersfield, a Mexican-themed restaurant, will fill the remaining ground level commercial space in the Crystal

Lofts development located at the corner of Woodward and Watson between Midtown and Brush Park neighborhoods. The restaurant, in the former Ye Olde Butcher Shoppe space, is anticipated to open in early 2017. Bakersfield will serve up authentic, Mexican street fare and a selection of more than 100 tequilas and American whiskeys.

Bakersfield will join existing tenants Grey Ghost Detroit and New Order Coffee Roasters. Grey Ghost opened in late July and New Order Coffee Roasters is set to open in December. For more information, visit the Bakersfield website www.bakersfieldtacos.com.

Neighborhood On the Rise

More details of one of the most sweeping development plans in greater downtown in recent memory were in September on the city of Detroit's website.

In all, the effort to redevelop the property — best known for being the home of the Brewster-Douglass housing projects — and three sites in Eastern Market and Brush Park has increased from \$267 million to \$416.6 million, a 56 percent spike.

As part of the plan to bring 1,037 residential units to the approximately 25 acres the four sites encompass, the city also plans things like enhanced health, education, workforce development and youth services; a new one-acre public park called Douglass Park at the Brewster-Douglass site; and improvements to and restoration of the street grid and pedestrian access from Brewster-Douglass/Brush Park into Eastern Market over I-75.

The city is awaiting word on whether it has received up to \$30 million in federal funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Choice Neighborhoods Program.

If the HUD grant funding is received, 340 units are expected to be built within the first two and a half years.

To explore Midtown further, visit the Midtown Detroit Inc. website www.midtowndetroitinc.org.

Midtown Detroit is undergoing some changes with major construction to revitalize the downtown area.

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FALL HOME
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BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Dr. William Powers, DO, is well ahead of many practitioners in the state of Michigan when it comes to understanding and supporting LGBTQ healthcare issues. Specifically, he is addressing the biggest deficit - comprehensive care for transgender patients.

“People forget that trans people are people, and people get sick,” said Powers, 31. “Not every visit involves hormones. Trans people come in with sinus infections. They have high blood pressure. Trans women die of breast cancer because they take high levels of estrogen their whole lives and no one ever gives them a mammogram or a DEXA scan, a bone density test. Trans men get cervical cancer. Doctor’s assume trans men are lesbians and are only sexually active with females, so they don’t do any usual testing they would do for a heterosexual female. That is not the case. They need pap smears. As long as they have the organ, they still need to have the test.”

Powers added, “If you have testicles, I need to do an annual testicular exam and hernia check. I have to do that and these patients who are terrified to go into their doctor and tell them who they are don’t get the care and preventative screenings they need. So it’s not so much what trans patients walk in with. They walk in with the same stuff that everybody else does, but no one really thinks about that.”

The Journey Here

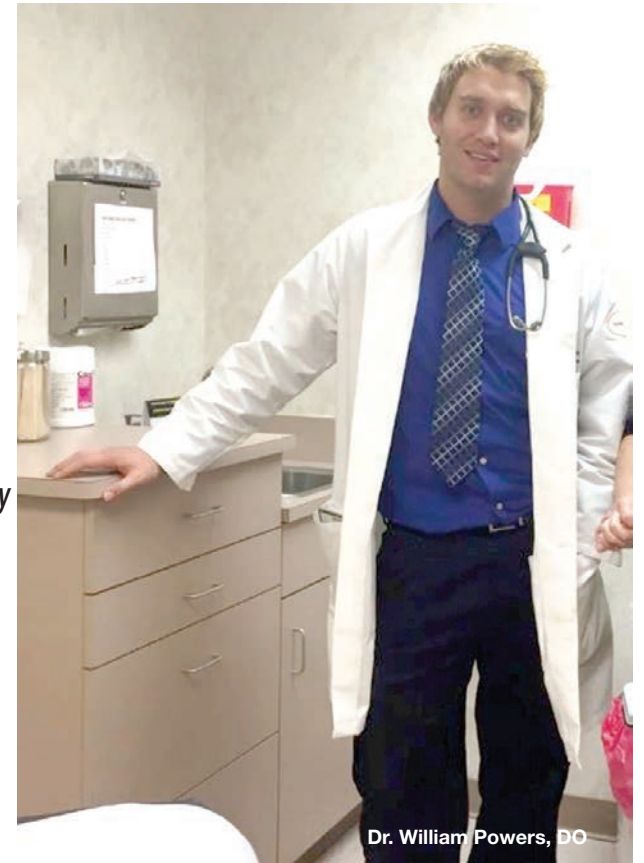
Powers started thinking about it four years ago when a transgender man was referred to him by another patient during his residency with the Detroit Wayne County Health Authority at the Family Medical Center of Michigan in Carleton, a rural community where secrecy was a huge barrier when treating LGBTQ patients.

Powers graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 2007 with a B.S. in Neuroscience. He attended medical school at the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.

His attending physician, Dr. Jessica Sharon, DO, was supportive, which Powers said was “super cool. The idea of a resident doing this kind of thing in that area was unheard of. She said, ‘If you get the training to do this and are certified to do it, I will oversee it and we can do this here.’”

Powers caught on quickly to the process of treating transgender patients with hormones in compliance with

“It’s not really my business what people want to do with their lives. I just want them to do it safely and live happy, healthy lives. That’s my job as a doctor. It’s not my job to decide how people choose to spend their 70-plus years on Earth or judge them for it.”



Dr. William Powers, DO

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the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) guidelines and with a transgender class certification from Affirmations in Ferndale.

“After the first patient, they just kept coming and from places as far away as Traverse City and Kalamazoo. Literally across the state in search of a doctor willing to do this,” he said. “When I planted the flag outside, and they knew it was a safe space to go, then I couldn’t stop them. This deluge of people who started pouring in out of nowhere – it just exploded.”

His staff was “wonderful” and critical to his success as they helped him develop a way within their computer system to create pop-up notifications so they could address transgender patients with their preferred name or pronouns.

Powers established relationships with about 40-50 transgender patients by the time he graduated from FMC, where he was chief resident and was nominated for Michigan Osteopathic Association resident of the year for his transgender medicine clinic. During his third year in residency, out of 75 cases he was the winner of the MOA 2016 Outstanding Case award for discovering Median Arcuate Ligament Syndrome in a young girl who was misdiagnosed with anorexia after seeing 15 different gastroenterologists and racking up around 40 emergency room and hospital visits.

“I had a great application. In my curriculum vitae it said, ‘I do this, and this is the thing I’m going to do and I’m going to bring these people with me,’” said Powers who believes this is the reason he could not get a job.

“Weeks went by. One place said, ‘We don’t feel comfortable with that happening here.’ The other place said, ‘We just don’t really want those people in our office. They have a lot of social problems, they have crappy insurance and we don’t want those people in our lobby.’ And they are allowed legally to do that because in Michigan trans people are not protected under our

See Unique Care, page 24



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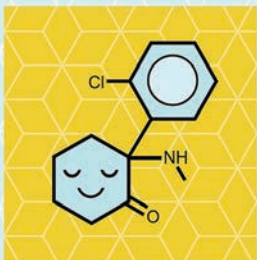
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Continued from p. 22

laws,” he said.

“So I went to Affirmations and told Kelsey Hug – who worked their at the time - basically listen, you guys always ask for LGBTQ providers to treat people and treat them well. I did this and now I’m being punished for it. Help me. I can’t find a job. No one will hire me.”

Powers’ intention of helping the LGBTQ community has always been met with resistance until now. For the last two months, he has been working at the Be Well Medical Center in Berkley.

Breaking Down Barriers

Powers had eight transgender patients in one day, for example, out of the 20 or so he typically schedules.

“Everyday I see more and more patients coming from other providers who offer really poor care,” he said.

“People who have been on estrogen for a year or longer with no blockers. People who are on a subtherapeutic dose of testosterone. People who have polycythemia that hasn’t been checked or monitored in forever. People from the street who didn’t have access to care and are self-treating. I’m cleaning up their regimen and getting them safe.”

And while he is not yet board certified, Powers is slowly becoming an HIV specialist, treating a lot of patients for HIV under the

supervision of Dr. Paul Benson, DO, at BWMC.

“I have mentored medical students and physicians in training since I opened my medical practice in 1980, especially to those having an interest in serving the LGBTQ community,” said Benson.

“It’s also been fulfilling educating and exposing those trainees naïve to our community. It was a different world back then with so much stigma, especially to HIV. All of my providers have benefited from my years of experience by discussing care plans, telling personal experiences, developing cutting edge therapies especially in the area of HIV, and from having a large base of grateful patients. We really work together as a team with lots of communication, education and a touch of humor. This unique combination, especially with the diversity of the practice, has made it beneficial for all people served.

Powers said he regularly treats members of the BDSM community that frequent the Detroit House of Pain, for example.

“They don’t feel like they can go to a doctor when they suffer injuries during play. They don’t get treated because many doctor’s assume they are under abuse. They can’t just explain, ‘Hey, we did this hook thing and we need to be stitched up.’ They risk infection and don’t get care because they are embarrassed,” he said, adding that he is also registered with the National Coalition for Sexual Freedom to better connect with the polyamorous community.

“I just don’t care. I’m so shocked that it’s hard to find a doctor,” said Powers, a happily married heterosexual man with three cats - a Savannah named Arcturus, a Maine Coon named Cignas and a Bengal named Sirius.

“It’s not really my business what people want to do with their lives. I just want them to do it safely and live happy, healthy lives. That’s my job as a doctor. It’s not my job to decide how people choose to spend their 70-plus years on Earth or judge them for it. It’s so silly to me that that’s been a problem. I know I’m probably the irrational, weird one,” said Powers, who is a self-proclaimed “geek” that loves electronic dance music, plays video games, and hangs out at the Catfe Lounge, part of the Ferndale Cat Shelter where he is president.

“I’m a regular person. People have this idea that doctors are robots in white coats that aren’t humans that are approachable.”

To show he cares further, Powers works diligently to find ways to save money for patients.

“I use a sliding fee scale for cash payers with no insurance. We have a nurse care manager on staff to help try and set patients up with Medicaid or other forms of insurance based on their situation.”

The treatment for acne, for example, which transgender men oftentimes need while taking testosterone, is a third of the cost at BWMC than most dermatologist’s offices.

“We offer free consultations with our esthetician. We offer laser hair removal and

other cosmetic procedures also,” he said.

“We try and offer these things to trans people so they understand that they shouldn’t have to go to an endocrinologist and this doctor and that doctor for something as simple as hormones,” he said. “Hormones are not that complicated to prescribe and monitor. Dealing with diabetes is more of a beast than trans hormones. It’s not hard. And I don’t really care if my patients pass. That’s not important to me. I usually ask my new patients, ‘Do you care if you pass?’ because I don’t, but if you want me to help you pass, and you want me to give you advice and information, I can do that. More doctors should do it. I welcome the competition. It would be good for the populous.”

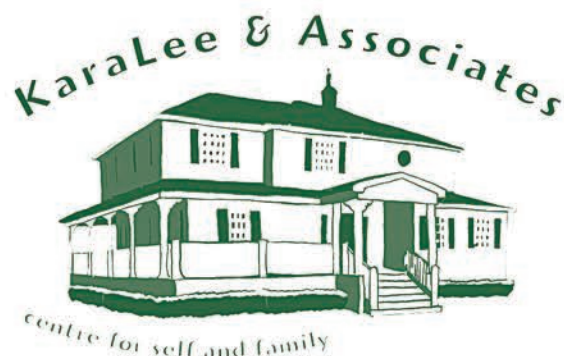
But they don’t. He said, “They’re afraid of it and it’s confusing. There’s this stigma associated with it that somehow it’s this big complicated thing.”

So, what if there was more education provided in medical school?

“We would literally do fine. There is a complete lack of training, zero, aside from what I sought out myself. People are not talking about it,” he said.

In an effort to change that, Powers welcomes medical students and nurse practitioners to come and train with him at the office. He said, “I am happy to teach these providers for the future so it stops being as bad as it is.”

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Small City Life for Gay Minorities: Implications for Sexual Health and Stigma

BY BTL STAFF

There is an established link between levels of homophobic discrimination and depression, substance abuse and HIV vulnerability in gay men, according to a September article published by the Taylor & Francis Group.

Recent research in Culture, Health & Sexuality by Keene et al. introduces a new spatial dimension by looking at degrees of sexual minority stigma and health in different cities. Their insights show how geographic location could influence HIV transmission among gay and bisexual men.

Many gay men migrate to large cities in pursuit of known accepting communities with visible gay spaces for open socializing and sexualizing, far from stigmatized home towns. However, the majority of U.S. citizens live in small cities and most HIV cases occur outside the twelve major U.S. cities. Keene et al. set out to discover more about gay migrations to and from small cities' spaces and how stigma impacts mobility and sexual health.

Twenty-nine gay and bisexual men living in two small Connecticut cities were interviewed in relation to sexual networking, travel, risk behaviors and health. Connecticut is a progressive state with legalized gay marriage and a supportive cultural and political network. Many described their journey to Connecticut as freedom from critical family and community and an opportunity to express themselves in a sympathetic environment. On

There is an established link between levels of homophobic discrimination and depression, substance abuse and HIV vulnerability in gay men, according to a September article published by the Taylor & Francis Group.

the other hand, the acceptance seemed limited to contained 'safe zones,' usually gay bars, and participants had to exercise caution about public displays of affection or revealing sexual identity outside these spaces. Others reported racial segregations and town vs. town divides in the gay community, hence 'safe zones' were not equally accessible to all.

As a result, many gay men aspired to leave Connecticut for a bigger pond and greater freedom, as one participant exclaimed: "In New York, I let my hair down because New

York – I love New York ... I mean you know you just be yourself." Others went on regular sabbaticals to larger cities for a break from the constraints of "the local dive bar." The behaviors showed a trend of abandonment of more cautious sexual norms by engaging in risky sexual encounters with relative strangers.

The authors conclude that gay mobility may "invoke a vacation mentality free from the constraints of local scrutiny and judgment... (the) intersection of sex

and mobility might circumvent one's otherwise health-promoting goals formed in a specific place, thus leading to decreases in protective behavior and increases in sexual risk." They note promising interventions such as use of pre-exposure prophylaxis as a way to reduce HIV transmission and stress the importance of spatial dynamics in understanding and improving health outcomes for the sexually stigmatized.

The full article can be read online www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13691058.2016.1226386.

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The OutField: Out Off the Field

BY DAN WOOG

In nearly 10 years of covering sports, “The OutField” has reported on dozens of LGBT athletes and coaches. We’ve interviewed gay fan groups and referees. We’ve talked about the Gay Games, and the (largely) straight Olympics.

But we’ve never done a story on athletic trainers.

In the wide world of sports, trainers play a key role. They work intimately with athletes, diagnosing injuries and shepherding young men and women through physical therapy to get them back on the field. Trainers’ jobs are hands-on – literally – while their training room is often a safe haven, where athletes can talk freely about their greatest worries and deepest fears.

So, like other therapists – psychologists and psychiatrists – many athletic trainers do not talk about themselves. Particularly if that talk would involve same-sex partners.

That makes Rob Redding unusual. He’s the athletic trainer at Henderson State University. It’s a Division II school in small-town Arkansas – and he’s completely out.

In some ways, Redding is a typical trainer. He grew up two hours south of Houston, in Victoria, Texas, where football was king. He played “one day” in junior high, but found his calling because the high school athletic trainer was a great role model. Redding followed suit, and earned a scholarship to Texas A&M University.

He spent four years after graduation working at a high school, four more at a junior college, then another four at California Baptist University. He’s been at Henderson State – a “much better fit” – for the past nine years.

Redding loves his work. He’d thought about practicing medicine, but realized doctors see patients for just 15 or 20 minutes, in an office setting. “There are no relationships,” he notes. “But athletes really talk to trainers. They’re in a safe space. It’s personal, and very fulfilling.”

Redding first thought he might be gay in high school. He was sure in college. He never had overt experiences with homophobia – but, he says, “It was a typical Southern atmosphere. I heard the jokes and the negative things. They got imprinted on you.”

At California Baptist, he made a conscious decision to stay in the closet. It was not a happy time. When he moved to Henderson, he knew he could no longer hide – or lie. “If anyone asked, I promised myself I’d tell,” he says.

Redding started by calling out athletes for making anti-gay comments in the training room. Soon, he says, “people probably knew” he was gay.

Redding was assigned to the football and baseball teams. He had a great relationship with head football coach Scott Maxfield – with whom he had worked at a previous school -- on and off the field. About five years ago, on one of their daily walks around the track, Redding came out to him.

Maxfield had one question: “Why didn’t you tell me sooner?”

Once Redding had the head coach’s backing – and Maxfield’s wife, who he told the same night – the rest of the process was easy. It culminated in a story he wrote for *Outsports* last month. He wrote: “I am at every practice and travel to every game with my teams. I am responsible for evaluating and treating injuries to my student-athletes. A lot of time this requires close physical interaction with them. While I am very professional with all my interactions, I have long worried about how the

athlete would feel if the guy doing a deep-tissue massage on his hamstring was gay.”

Those fears were unfounded. Redding realized that being honest allowed him to do his job even better.

Henderson State University is a safe place – “administratively, and with students and coaches,” Redding says. “There are a bunch of good people here.”

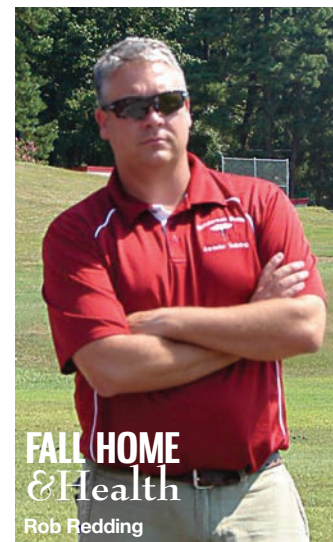
He’s been uplifted not only by Henderson’s athletes – who really don’t care about their trainer’s sexuality, so long as he gets them back on the field quickly – but by the responses of strangers to his *Outsports* story. A closeted trainer in Texas thanked him for providing hope. A Pac-12 trainer who is out to a small group of people called Redding an inspiration for showing what it’s like to be fully out.

Redding does not have many professional role models. But at an *Outsports* “reunion meeting” in Chicago this summer, he heard stories from gay student-athletes, coaches, administrators, journalists – and even a few athletic trainers. That helped him understand the power of openness and honesty.

This year, Redding will speak about diversity at an NCAA Division II administrators’ meeting. He’ll tell his story, and hopes it will inspire others.

Athletic trainers shun the limelight. “We’re support staff,” Redding notes. “We’re just here to help. But if I can help reach folks who are in the closet, I’m happy to do that.”

Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach and gay activist. His latest book is “We Kick Balls: True Stories from the Youth Soccer Wars.” He can be reached care of this publication or at OutField@qsyndicate.com.





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Photo: Warner Bros.

Michael Bublé on Leaving an LGBT-Affirming Legacy, Man Crushes & Male Admirers

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

“You know what I’ll be Googling tonight: Bublé, gay, queer, all that stuff,” says Michael Bublé one recent afternoon, after being informed that said search terms render colorful results.

All you lovers, though, needn’t search beyond the dreamy crooner’s recently released album, “Nobody But Me,” and its 10 feel-good tunes, including several new originals and reimagined classics gleaned from the Great American Songbook.

Love, naturally, is featured prominently on Bublé’s ninth studio album, as well as in our recent chat, during which the affable ally spoke about the “joy” the LGBT community

has brought him and the importance of standing up for queer issues. And no, not solely because he’s a staunch LGBT-rights advocate – when his kids grow up and read this interview, he says it’s important to him that they feel “proud.”

In 2010, you performed on a stage you deemed “phallic” because it resembled a penis. Then, a gay man threw you his keys, and you were not shy about bending over and picking them up.

(Laughs) I remember! That was a guy named Paul O’Grady, and he’s very famous in the UK. He does an act where he dresses up as a woman, who is also very famous, almost like Dame Edna. He’s a sweetie pie. I was so happy that he did that that night because it

just gave me so much.

How would you describe the affection for you from the gay community?

The truth is, I don’t think I could’ve given them as much joy as they’ve given me. I’m in a business where, as you can imagine, I’m surrounded by the gay community. I mean, that’s just my life. I’m an artist, and so I’m surrounded by other artists. And everyone from my hair stylist who lives with me on the road to (my stylist) Jeff Kim, who puts me in my suits every day – I mean, god, the question isn’t who’s gay? The question is, who isn’t? (Laughs) And by the way, the ones that seem the most macho, they’re probably gay.

Now would be a good time to talk about how your wife, Luisana Lopilato, thought you were gay when she first met you.

(Laughs) Yes, she walked in this room with a man, and the man was so good lookin’ that he made Brad Pitt look dumpy, so I assumed they were together. I naturally assumed that this was her boyfriend or her husband, so I refused to hit on her. And listen, it didn’t help that she didn’t speak English either at the time. Not a word. But the more I drank that night, the more brazen I got about trying to find out what the situation was between them. Finally, after two hours – and I don’t know how many shots and glasses of whiskey – I finally said, (effects a drunk slur) “You guys are such a beautiful couple,” and he said,

“We’re not together.” He said, “She came because she likes you.” And at the same time, she was on the phone texting her mom saying, “Oh my god, Michael Bubl  is all over my friend. He’s so gay.”

She knows you’re straight now, right?

(Laughs) I assume so. I mean, after the kids. Also, I assume she thinks I’m not gay when every night I say, “Mmmmm?!” and she says, “No, I have a headache.”

You recently donated items that were auctioned off to benefit the Stonewall National Monument.

To be honest, I’m doing more because of (my publicist) Liz Rosenberg. There’s something I have in the works. There’s the Harvey Milk High School that she was talking about here in New York, and I want to help there too. Listen, I love being able to spout words, but sometimes you gotta put your money where your mouth is. (Liz) said, “Should I call your manager to find out if he thinks it’s OK?” So she called my manager and my manager said, “Why are you asking me? Of course!”

How long before there was a pic of you suggestively eating corn on the cob did you become aware of your gay following?

(Laughs) I think it was hours.

Just hours?

Hours! You know, that day I took my godson,

my best friend and his wife to Disneyland, and I was looking after him because he’s a little guy. He’s 4 years old and he had this corn, and butter was everywhere. So, I was trying to help him with napkins, and then I grab mine and it was dripping... and my first thought was... oh god, you know what I mean. It was just the worst timing ever. The truth is, I had fun with it. There are so many terrible things you could do to land in the press or go viral with, and if that’s the worst thing, then you know what, I just gotta laugh at myself.

But seriously: When did you know you had a gay following?

Listen, I’m not Madonna. I don’t look out and see thousands of gay couples out at the shows, but even at the start, man, when I played the Blue Note (a jazz club in Greenwich Village, New York City). I’ll tell you the honest truth: I played the Blue Note 16 years ago, and the other night I had a show there, and I’m still close with one of the first fans I ever had in America. Forget about the world. In America. And his name is Johnny Blue Note, and he’s about 6-foot-5, a New Yorker with a huge personality, and he’s beautiful. I got sentimental the other night. I did a big radio show to open up the record, and I looked into this little, intimate club, and there was Johnny Blue Note. And I got sentimental. I talked about (him) during the show.

So, I think from the very start there was

Johnny. That was my first ever gig, and one of my greatest fans and harshest critics was Johnny. He was my foray into my relationship with the gay community and me as an entertainer. Even before my music director was Alan Chang, there was Bryant Olender and Bryant is this really smart, funny, talented, slutty, very gay musical director.

You say you’re no Madonna, but still, you’ve performed with several gay icons: Barbra Streisand, Mariah Carey, Kylie Minogue...

Kylie Minogue, yes. I sang with her, and actually, I was supposed to see her in Vancouver. She was going to come over and have tea with me, but I had to fly to Europe. She had been there and was going to come over, because I happened to sing with her on a Rod Stewart special and we really got on and liked each other, so I was just gonna hang out with her literally weeks ago.

And Elton John is somebody I’ve gotten to know. I love him very much. Obviously, we don’t have to talk about how talented he is – we know how talented he is. He’s also really warm and effusive with me, and I just saw him in Vegas. I went backstage and gave him a big hug. He was so happy, and he really enjoyed being there. It’s funny, man, because I gotta guess that there are people out there who are gay in this business but won’t tell anyone.

Have you met these closeted stars?

Yeah, I meet them and I get the impression. And listen, I’m not gonna be the guy who outs the person, but it always made me wonder: “Why?” I understand if they are afraid, or they don’t want to tell their parents, but the fact that it could be a question within this business of hurting your business is just mind-blowing to me.

Do any of them confide in you?

No. I mean, I have the worst gay-dar ever. I really do have the worst gay-dar. I could be hanging with somebody and my friends will be like, “Michael, he was hitting on you hard,” and I’m like, “What are you talking about – he’s just a really nice guy!” Sometimes I don’t pick up the shit people are puttin’ down.

If a gay couple asked you to sing any of the songs off this new album at their wedding, which would you sing and why?

Aww. I think maybe “The Very Thought of You.” And to be honest with you, man: I don’t care if it’s a gay or a straight or a black or a poor wedding – love is love. And I think that would be a really beautiful, romantic first dance.

See Buble, page 34



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OUTINGS

Thursday, Nov. 3

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, Nov. 4

Annual Auction Fundraiser 5 p.m. Battle Creek Pride, 200 W Michigan Ave #101, **Battle Creek**. info@battlecreekpride.org

Birthday Bash & Halloween Party 6 p.m. Celebrate Rachel Crandall's upcoming Birthday, Transgender Michigan's 19th Anniversary and Halloween. No Cover charge, but donations to Transgender Michigan encouraged. Transgender Michigan, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, **Ferndale**. info@transgendermichigan.org www.transgendermichigan.org/events/birthday.html

Hedwig and the Angry Inch (with Live Commentary) 7:30 p.m. Michigan Theatre, 603 E. Liberty St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-668-8397. www.michtheater.org/show/hedwig-and-the-angry-inch-with-live-commentary/

Saturday, Nov. 5

Fostser Care and Adoption Orientation 9 a.m. Come and join us for an informational orientation regarding foster care and adoption. Attendance is free of charge. Orchards Childrens Services, 24901 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 500, **Southfield**. 248-530-5370. smarks@orchards.org www.orchards.org

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

Our Transgender Children, Always Our Children 12:30 p.m. Registration: \$15 per person. Fortunate Families Detroit, 20800 Grand River at Burt Road, **Detroit**. 313-670-2613. lindakarle@earthlink.net www.fortunatefamilies.com

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

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@reddoorclub.com http://www.reddoorclub.com/

events/

Sunday, Nov. 6

Owosso Area Chapter PFLAG Monthly Meeting 2 p.m. Speaker Stephanie White, Executive Director of EQMI at 3:30 p.m. Owosso Area Chapter PFLAG, 429 N. Washington, Owosso, MI 48867, **Owosso**. pflagowosso@gmail.com pflagowosso.org

Monday, Nov. 7

Alcoholics Anonymous 5:45 Serenity 5:30 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Sexual Addicts Anonymous 7 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Mary Mattingly Sacred Objects 5:10 p.m. Founder of the Waterpod Project, whose practice addresses nomadic themes that are based on the need to migrate due to current and future environmental and political situations. Free and open to the public. Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design, 915 E. Washington St., **Ann Arbor**. http://stamps.umich.edu/stamps/detail/mary_mattingly

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

FTM Detroit 7 p.m. This discussion provides trans men an opportunity to



Halloween Costumes are welcome at the celebration that is provided free of charge. Donations to Transgender Michigan are greatly appreciated.

The Halloween Birthday Bash Celebration will take place from 6-9 p.m. Nov. 4 in the Community Room of Affirmations.

Affirmations is located at 290 W. Nine Mile Road in Ferndale.

Tuesday, Nov. 8

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

Narcotics Anonymous 7 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Transgender Life Support 7 p.m. An open discussion group for people identifying as transgender and their allies. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Wednesday, Nov. 9

65th Annual Jewish Book Fair 10 a.m. Free to attend. Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit, 6600 W Maple Rd, **West Bloomfield Township**. 248-432-5658. brobinson@jccdet.org http://theberman.org/ticketoffice/

Senior Koffee Klatch 1 p.m. A discussion and networking group for people 45 years of age and older. Various discussion topics, social outings and potlucks are incorporated throughout the year. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.

discuss a fuller image of transition within their larger life including deconstruction of doubt, male privilege, vulnerability and more. Attendance restricted to FTM/transgender men, anyone who identifies on the transmasculine side of the spectrum. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Newly Single 7 p.m. A support and discussion group for those who are newly single and are coping with the loss of a relationship. The group offers support, resources, skill building opportunities and social events. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Thursday, Nov. 10

Athi-Patra Ruga Queens in Exile 5:10 p.m. Exploring the border-zones between fashion, performance, and contemporary art bursting with eclectic multicultural references, carnal sensuality, and a dislocated undercurrent of humor. Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design, 603 E Liberty St, **Ann Arbor**. http://stamps.umich.edu/stamps/detail/athi_patra_ruga

Yelp Help for the Holidays: A Benefit for Judson Center at Leon and LuLu 6 p.m. Charitable kickoff featuring

shopping, holiday demos, bites from local vendors. A \$20 donation sponsors a gift for a child in Judson Center's Foster Care programming. Yelp, 96 W 14 Mile Rd, **Clawson**. www.yelp.com/events/detroit

Plant Based Nutrition Support Group 6:30 p.m. Tickets: \$20-25. Dr. Garth Davis, MD, 2436 West Lincoln, **Birmingham**. 248-919-8726. connect@pbns.org www.pbns.org

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

Friday, Nov. 11

Athi-Patra Ruga Special event 7 p.m. Exploring the border-zones between fashion, performance, and contemporary art, Athi-Patra Ruga makes work that exposes and subverts the body in relation to structure, ideology, and politics. Attendance is free of charge. Penny Stamps Speaker Series, 200 W Michigan Ave., **Ypsilanti**. www.evensi.us/

Editor's Pick

TGMI 2016 Birthday Bash

Come and join Transgender Michigan (TGMI) in celebrating its 2016 birthday bash. The early November celebration will be a combination of a Halloween party and a birthday for Executive Director Rachel Crandall. Crandall will celebrate 19 years being "Rachel" and is inviting the Metro Detroit LGBT community to join her. Presents for Crandall will be cheerfully accepted, however, the celebration is for the whole transgender community.

special-event-athi-patra-ruga-bona-sera-restaurant/186572183

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@reddoorclub.com www.reddoorclub.com

Saturday, Nov. 12

Transgender Day of Empowerment 2016 10 a.m. Celebration of self, understanding our journey and the day of declaration by taking steps forward in self discovery. Day of workshops provided free of charge. Gender Identity Network Alliance, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.facebook.com/events/1103357499746241/

Echo Fest 2016 5 p.m. Binging Rock N Roll back to the Magic Stick with over 13 performances. Tickets: \$14.50. ECHO Fest, 4120 Woodward Ave, **Detroit**. http://tktwb.tw/2d6GI90

Motor City Bears 6:30 p.m. A gay male, social and fund raising activity group for Bears and admirers, established in 1994. Meet and greet starts at 5:30 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Chicago Artist Responds to Flint Water Crisis With Exhibit

EAST LANSING—The Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University (Broad MSU) is gearing up to present an exhibition on the Flint water crisis by Chicago-based artist Jan Tichy as part of the MSU Federal Credit Union Artist Studio Series.

The Flint water crisis entered national consciousness in 2014 after the Flint water supply was switched to the Flint River. The results of this change led to high levels of contamination and health problems for many residents including 6-12,000 youth living in the area. Still today, the crisis remains a daily reality for many affected citizens who no longer have direct access to clean, safe water.

Tichy, a contemporary artist and educator working in video, sculpture, architecture and photography, is well known for his large-scale, community-based initiatives that respond directly to local and contemporary issues like his works “Project Cabrini Green” in Chicago and “Heat Light Water” in Gary, Indiana.

In September he embarked on a four-month residency with the museum during which he will facilitate a collaboration between 80 students from Carman-Ainsworth High School in Flint and Everett High School in Lansing. The collaborative

art project will result in an installation that will occupy the Broad MSU’s Alan and Rebecca Ross Education Wing.

During the collaboration, Tichy will work closely with the students and orchestrate joint workshops in both schools that will explore how different forms of creative expression can be used to communicate ideas and messages, while also touching on themes of social and restorative justice. These monthly workshops will include activities ranging from presentations on the role of art in society, the artistic process, informational sessions on the Flint water crisis, and writing and art-making exercises that will allow participants to explore and develop their own expressive approaches to the topics. Through these engagements, Tichy and the students will generate content for the exhibition that will be launched January 21 at the Broad MSU.

“While we recognize that a wide variety of initiatives have been launched in response to the Flint water crisis, this residency provides a unique opportunity for Jan Tichy and the Broad MSU to join together in a shared belief in the power of art to offer more nuanced and poetic ways of coming to terms with the situation in Flint,” said Broad MSU Assistant Curator,

Steven L. Bridges. “One objective of this partnership is to further bridge these two neighboring communities and use artistic forms of expression to give voice and visibility to new perspectives generated by our shared work.”

All the programs held in association with the MSU Federal Credit Union Artist Studio Series will play a vital role in giving a voice to different community groups and raising awareness for the ongoing situation in Flint. The programming planned for this exhibition will offer opportunities for lasting inter-city, campus and regional connections ranging from K-12 school interactions, campus conversations, classroom visits and connections with a leading contemporary artist. Highlighted programs include: an artist lecture on the Flint water crisis project on Nov. 3; a public reception on Jan. 21; a family day on Feb. 4 that will feature hands-on activities and project-based community partnerships; and an altered tour on March 3 offering access points to exhibitions from a multitude of disciples led by community members, scholars, and experts through a non-art centered approach.

For more information contact Whitney Stoepel at 517-884-3909 or by email at stoepelw@msu.edu.

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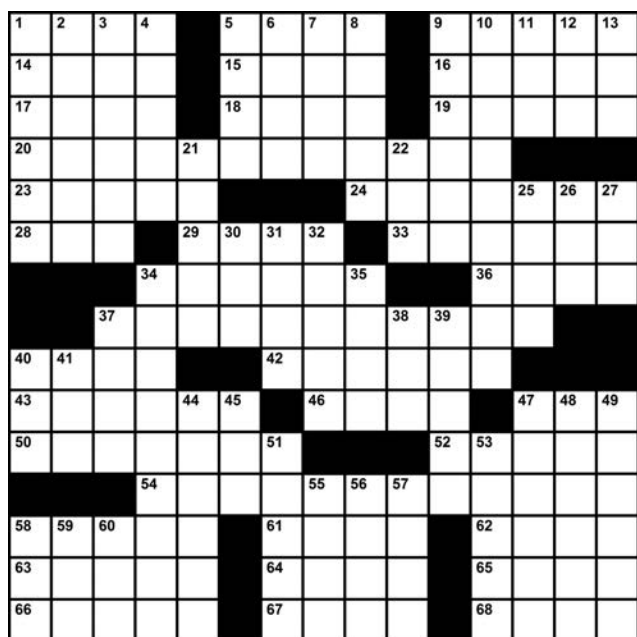
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Q Puzzle



- at the "True Colors: 40 to None Summit" in Los Angeles
 40 Good buddy on a radio
 42 More touch-and-go
 43 Bear-like creatures
 46 Pick up
 47 Baseball great Mel
 50 Queen of "Chicago"
 52 Spud, to Gomer
 54 Seattle-based hospital drama of this puzzle's character
 58 Film maker Frank
 61 Lorca's stick
 62 Blows
 63 "...a ___ deferred" (Hughes)
 64 North Sea feeder
 65 Oodles
 66 Nuts don't have this
 67 Big top performer
 68 Trueheart of comics
- 13 Wood and more
 21 Put into the ground
 22 New York Liberty game official
 25 Guillermo of "Weeds"
 26 Shade maker
 27 Head job?
 30 Doc's org.
 31 Alfred Douglas' title
 32 Lucas of "Prelude to a Kiss"
 34 Big Easy festival
 35 Hit with hand motions
 37 Mailed out
 38 Caesar's threesome
 39 Part of a fashion name
 40 "M*A*S*H" cross-dresser M. Klinger's rank
 41 Noise of the lambs
 44 Triangular lodge
 45 Kind of enc.
 47 Lawrence portrayer Peter
 48 Beats, to Britten
 49 No-tell motel meetings
 51 Plugs up the wazoo
 53 Opportunity for Billy Bean
 55 Barneys event
 56 Jessica of "Little Folkers"
 57 Witty Coward
 58 Accts. of interest
 59 Queen's "We ___ the Champions"
 60 James Baldwin's tool

Down

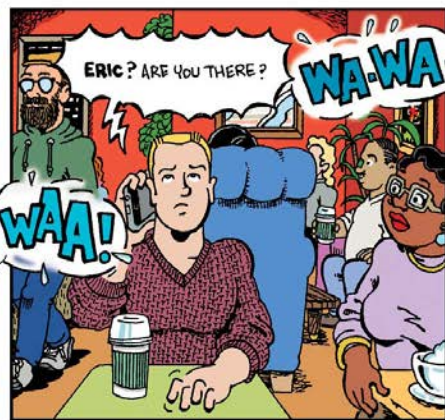
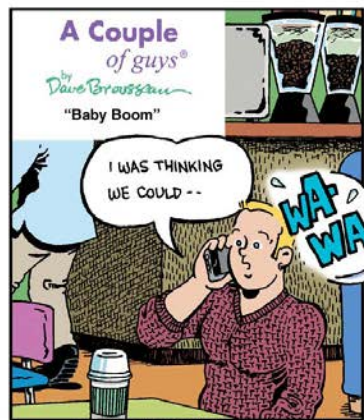
- 1 Sport of "Bend It Like Beckham"
 2 Prepare to blow
 3 "Come on now!"
 4 Come slowly
 5 Caesar's "See!"
 6 "Nuts!"
 7 Burning software
 8 Lummy, for one
 9 TV's "Queen of the Jungle"
 10 Like Shakespeare's night dream
 11 Rough stuff for miners
 12 Boy toy?

Find solution to this puzzle at www.pridesource.com

True Colors

Across

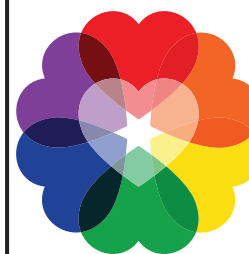
- 1 Laurence Olivier and John Gielgud
 5 Harvey's "Hairspray" role
 9 Braggarts blow it
 14 Whitman's "Sometimes With ___ Love"
 15 Your first mate, and others
 16 Put in a position
 17 Election remnant
 18 Irene of "Fame"
- 19 Ideal spots
 20 Bisexual doctor on -Across
 23 Sue ___ Ewing "Dallas"
 24 Stripped
 28 Spanish king
 29 Soft rock for bottoms
 33 '70s TV series with Kristy McNichol
 34 Del Tredici's "In ___ of a Summer Day"
 36 Jerry Herman musical
 37 She came out as bisexual



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"The Gift" by Kate Morgan

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Continued from p. 29

In the past, you've man-crushed on Blake Shelton and One Direction's Niall Horan. Who are you currently man-crushing on?

That's a good question. God, you wanna hear who I'm man-crushing on? There's a couple of them. My No. 1 man crush is probably John Oliver (host of HBO's "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver"). The other is ("The Daily Show" host) Trevor Noah. Goddamn – what a stunning South-African man. You know what I love man? I love that they're self-deprecating and funny, and I know they're empathetic because their point of view tells me that. Obviously, they're liberal, progressive, self-confident; they have a great sense of humor. I just love that. (American astrophysicist) Neil deGrasse Tyson too. And god, the late (Anglo-American author and essayist) Christopher Hitchens. If you can man crush on a dead guy, I am man-crushin' on a dead guy. (Linguist and philosopher) Noam Chomsky, I love. I'm trying to think of people I spend most of my evenings with, because this is who I spend most of my evenings with. Oh, Lawrence Krauss, the greatest astrophysicist. Honestly, their intelligence and skill at orating just... I mean, I'm wet.

Is it true that your Uncle Frank and Uncle Mike, who have been together for over 40 years, taught you acceptance and open-mindedness?

With or without them, the truth is, my father and my mother were so progressive, and I'm so lucky that my father just made it very simple. He just said, "It's nature. A man can love a man and a woman can love a woman, and this doesn't just happen with human beings – it's science. It happens in nature. It happens with almost every animal." Having two boys of my own who I love more than I'll ever love myself, I can't tell you how crushing it would be if they couldn't feel that they could tell their father that they were gay – or different in any way. To me, (because of them), it just became a much bigger issue.

If one of your sons were to come out to you, how might you respond?

With nothing but love. And I'm not saying that to you because it's you or the magazine. It's because I love them, man. I love them so much that I just want them to be happy. My goal in life is to make them beautiful, happy human beings, and if that's who they are – because I'm killed, just devastated, when I hear people saying they "choose." "Choose"? What are you fucking talking about? You don't choose. It isn't a choice. It is genetic.

And I understand some people have an issue with the whole marriage thing and the sanctity of this word "marriage." I mean, I don't get it, but I can choose to listen to



their point and hear it. I don't agree with it. I always joke, everyone jokes: Why can't gay people be just as miserable as straight people who are married? But listen to me, we are in a world – a dangerous world – right now, and if you're not standing up against intolerance, then you're for it. God, I sounded like George W. fucking Bush right there, holy shit. "If you're not with us, you're against us!"

As an ally with a massive platform, it's important for you to say that for this movement to move forward.

I agree. And you know what, I think people are so afraid of losing fans.

Are you afraid of that?

No, no. I'm not. Because you know what, years from now, when my kids grow up and they read this, they're going to be proud of their father because their father was on the right side of the line.

There are a lot of people, and time does this, who are going to be severely embarrassed for their bias and intolerance. And they're going to have to live with that; that's going to be their legacy. I refuse to have that as part of my legacy.

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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