

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



8 Things to Do Now
that the Election is Over

Emeli Sandé Talks First
LP in 5 Years & Her
Empathetic Gay Fans

OUT and

Jose Antonio Vargas
Challenges Us to
Face One Another

UNDOCUMENTED

What is DESCOVY?

DESCOVY is a prescription medicine that is used together with other HIV-1 medicines to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years and older. DESCOVY is not for use to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. DESCOVY combines 2 medicines into 1 pill taken once a day. Because DESCOVY by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1, it must be used together with other HIV-1 medicines.

DESCOVY does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS.

To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses, you must keep taking DESCOVY. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about DESCOVY?

DESCOVY may cause serious side effects:

- **Buildup of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis)**, which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold (especially in your arms and legs), feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large and fatty. Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turning yellow (jaundice); dark "tea-colored" urine; light-colored bowel movements (stools); loss of appetite; nausea; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking DESCOVY for a long time. In some cases, lactic acidosis and serious liver problems have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** DESCOVY is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV and stop taking DESCOVY, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking DESCOVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

What are the other possible side effects of DESCOVY?

Serious side effects of DESCOVY may also include:

- **Changes in body fat**, which can happen in people taking HIV-1 medicines.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking DESCOVY.
- **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking DESCOVY if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- **Bone problems**, such as bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

The most common side effect of DESCOVY is nausea. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don't go away.

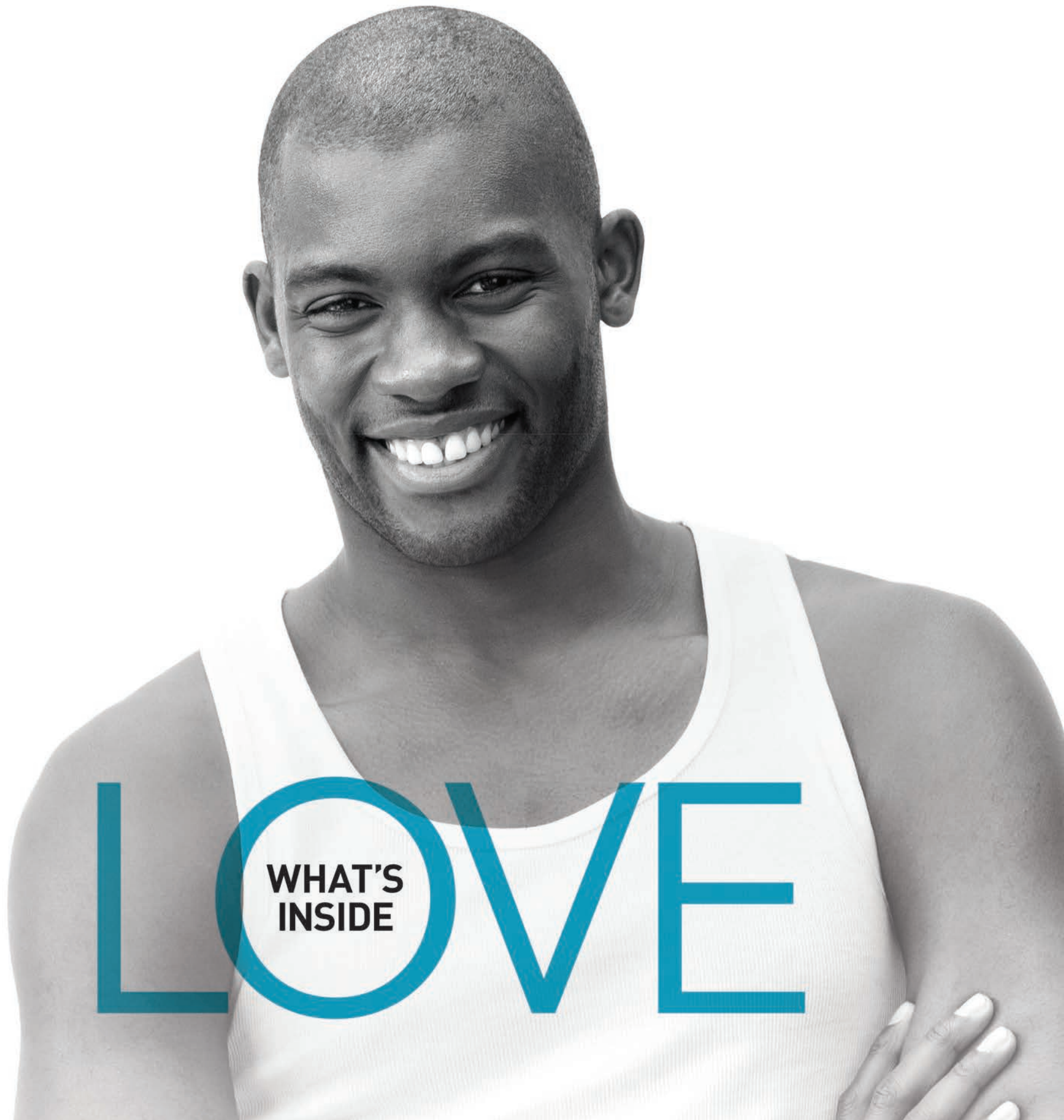
What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking DESCOVY?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **All the medicines you take**, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Other medicines may affect how DESCOVY works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Ask your healthcare provider if it is safe to take DESCOVY with all of your other medicines.
- **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if DESCOVY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking DESCOVY.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Important Facts about DESCOVY, including important warnings, on the following page.

Ask your healthcare provider if an HIV-1 treatment that contains DESCOVY[®] is right for you.



LOVE

**WHAT'S
INSIDE**

(des-KOH-vee)

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DESCOVY

DESCOVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Buildup of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis)**, which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: feeling very weak or tired, unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold (especially in your arms and legs), feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Severe liver problems**, which in some cases can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice); dark “tea-colored” urine; loss of appetite; light-colored bowel movements (stools); nausea; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** DESCOVY is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking DESCOVY. Do not stop taking DESCOVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking DESCOVY or a similar medicine for a long time.

ABOUT DESCOVY

- DESCOVY is a prescription medicine that is used together with other HIV-1 medicines to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years of age and older. DESCOVY is **not** for use to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- **DESCOVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.

HOW TO TAKE DESCOVY

- DESCOVY is a one pill, once a day HIV-1 medicine that is taken with other HIV-1 medicines.
- Take DESCOVY with or without food.

IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about DESCOVY[®] and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF DESCOVY

DESCOVY can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the “Most Important Information About DESCOVY” section.
- Changes in body fat.
- Changes in your immune system.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Bone problems.

The most common side effect of DESCOVY is nausea.

These are not all the possible side effects of DESCOVY. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking DESCOVY.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with DESCOVY.

BEFORE TAKING DESCOVY

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Have any other medical condition.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with DESCOVY.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about DESCOVY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- Go to DESCOVY.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit DESCOVY.com for program information.

Join The Conversation @ PrideSource.com



COVER

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ELECTION 2016

As BTL goes to press, the outcome of the election will be unknown. Check out BTL online at pridesource.com and on Facebook [facebook.com/BetweenTheLinesNewspaper](https://www.facebook.com/BetweenTheLinesNewspaper) throughout the rest of the week for election story updates and results.

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NEWS

Michigan Looks to Modernize HIV Law

BY TODD HEYWOOD

A movement to reform Michigan's HIV-specific law is gaining momentum in the state house. Activists report a lobby day last month has garnered eight co-sponsors for the legislation, proposed by Rep. Jon Hoadley (D-Kalamazoo).

The legislation is being promoted by the grassroots organization Michigan Coalition for HIV Health and Safety.

"The coalition is excited to have the support and sponsorship of our modernization bill from eight of our Michigan state representatives, but we have a long way to go," said Kelly Doyle, Coalition Manager. "We need activists and volunteers willing to talk to elected officials about the harm and threat to public health these laws are creating."

Including Rep. Jon Hoadley (D-Kalamazoo) the bills author and lead sponsor, Reps. Andy Schor (D-Lansing), Tom Cochran (D-Lansing), Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield), David LaGrand (D-Grand Rapids), George Darany (D-Dearborn), LaTanya Garrett (D-Detroit) and Robert Wittenberg (D-Oak Park) have all agreed to sign on as co-sponsors. Advocates will be gathering at least five more co-sponsors before Hoadley introduces the legislation.

Michigan's law, passed in 1988, requires those who know they are infected with HIV to disclose that status prior to any sexual penetration, "however slight."

The legislation would change Michigan's HIV-specific law from a felony to a misdemeanor and provide legal structure around prosecutions which would require prosecutors to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the accused intended to transmit the virus and took actions which had a significant likelihood of transmission. Those who are proven to have intended to transmit the infection and actually did would face up to one year in jail; those who intended to transmit the infection but didn't would face up to 93 days in jail.

Key to the modernization is a requirement that prosecutors and courts take into account current science about HIV transmission. Studies have shown that a person who is HIV-positive but successfully treating their infection with antiretroviral drugs so the virus is not detectable in their blood are extremely unlikely to transmit the infection. However,



State Rep. Andy Schor (D-Lansing) formally signs as a co-sponsor for legislation that will modernize Michigan's outdated and unscientific HIV-specific criminal law. Courtesy Photo By Kelly Doyle

Michigan's law currently does not allow this information as a defense.

Michigan's law, passed in 1988, requires those who know they are infected with HIV to disclose that status prior to any sexual penetration, "however slight." The law came out of a Republican House Task Force Report on AIDS in 1987 which wanted to stop those persons "who would deliberately or recklessly expose others to the infection." Studies of the impact of Michigan's law have found that behavior that is unlikely to transmit the infection has resulted in prosecutions. In addition, there appears to be a racial disparity in prosecutions focusing on black men who have sex with women. And finally, there is evidence that the law has become a weapon for domestic abusers as a way to control their intimate partners. Additional studies have found a small, but significant, minority of people at high risk for HIV infection are less likely to be tested for or discuss their risk for infection with medical providers because of such laws.

"This is an important modernization and is needed to protect the health and safety of everyone in Michigan," said the bill's lead sponsor Rep. Jon Hoadley (D-Kalamazoo). "Our laws are out of date. This effort would align our laws with modern HIV science, keep our communities safe and recognize the lived experiences of people living with HIV."

Activists will lobby lawmakers again on Nov. 10 and Dec. 6 in Lansing from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. They will start the day at the 9th floor conference room of the House Office Building, 124 North Capital Ave. Lansing. For more information email Todd@MCHHS.info or visit MCHHS.info.

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2. Be the person willing to purchase gifts or a meal depending on the request.
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4. Sign up to help deliver the gifts between **Monday, December 19 - Friday, December 23, 2016.**
5. To nominate a family, purchase gifts, help wrap, and/or deliver gifts, contact Syeda Davidson at sdavidson@goaffirmations.org no later than **Wednesday, November 16, 2016**



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Michigan Girl Scouts Support Inclusiveness

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

YPSILANTI – The Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan is in the business of helping girls grow up to be confident and courageous.

“We felt that we have to, as an organization - me personally (too), I have to be courageous myself - be a role model for all those assets and competencies we expect girls to obtain. As an organization, our entire leadership team feels it is really important that we model courage. One way to do that is by assertively reaching out to find ways to be more inclusionary and more open,” said Jan Barker, CEO of GSHM.

By way of the Supporting Inclusiveness in Girl Scouting conference, the GSHM council leadership and staff will springboard the development of new resources. The one-day event on Nov. 17 is the first of its kind in the nation. It will be held from 9 a.m.-8:30 p.m. at the Ann Arbor Marriott at Eagle Crest, 1275 S. Huron St., Ypsilanti.

While some might view the

people who care about girls. I want girls to grow up and rule the world and whatever it takes, that’s what we do.”

The Girl Scouts have a long history of ensuring that everyone feels welcomed, safe and supported. Since the 1920s, when the first Native American and Mexican American Girl Scout troops formed, to the early 1950s - when Girl Scouts pressed for racial equality - to embracing girls and adult volunteers regardless of sexual orientation, GSHM is proud of their commitment to full inclusion.

Today, GSHM is eager to affirm this commitment for their transgender girls and volunteers. They know that, across the Girl Scout landscape, leadership, staff and volunteers alike need to build a better understanding of the issues.

GSHM is learning language that is correct and appropriate and that lets transgender girls and their families know they’re welcome within the Girl Scouts organization, where they can have the life-changing



Transgender woman Diane Schroer, a former Army Special Forces commander, won a discrimination lawsuit against the Library of Congress in September 2008. She will speak about equality during the GSHM conference on Nov. 17.



“We’re passionate about learning and understanding the right vernacular, the right vocabulary, so we can truly have a meaningful, safe harbor. I felt a real need to learn about some of the issues.”

– Jan Barker, CEO of GSHM

conference as a risky position to take, Barker said, “We are going to help girls succeed in ways society hasn’t been able to figure out on its own. This accumulation of 20-plus years of watching people struggle over things that are so simple that don’t deserve struggle - we have an opportunity to change that. My staff sounds just like me. It’s really simple. We love girls. We love the

experiences Girl Scouting brings to every girl.

“We’re passionate about learning and understanding the right vernacular, the right vocabulary, so we can truly have a meaningful, safe harbor. I felt a real need to

learn about some of the issues,” said Barker. “I think it’s imperative since we’re in the business of healthy girl development that we do something. We are incredibly grateful that people have embraced us and wanted to help us learn so we could in turn help the families and the girls that need us.”

Diane Schroer, a nationally recognized pioneer in transgender issues, will be the keynote speaker at the conference. In September 2008, a federal district judge ruled that the Library of Congress illegally discriminated against Schroer, in a groundbreaking decision that found that discriminating against someone for changing genders is sex discrimination under federal law. Schroer interviewed for a job as a terrorism research analyst at the Library of Congress and her job offer was rescinded when she told her future supervisor she was in the process of gender transition. In April 2009, the judge ordered the government to pay nearly \$500,000 in compensation for the discrimination, which was the

maximum to be awarded in the case.

“Equality and inclusiveness are key to everything we do. It’s fundamental to the concept of fairness,” said Schroer, an honor graduate of the National War College and U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. “It is especially important for our young adults, because the concepts we practice when we are young become our everyday life as we tackle the really critical challenges.”

The “Introduction to Inclusiveness and Inclusive Language” session will be facilitated by Sojin Boothroyd, an educator, social justice activist and award-winning interdisciplinary artist with 20 years of experience working with K-12 youth in schools and community centers throughout the state of Washington, Chicago, Boston, New York City and Michigan.

Jay Maddock, executive director at the Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, will discuss “Supporting Inclusion in the Troop Setting.” Attendees can also learn more about updating or upgrading

facilities to ensure girl safety and privacy. GSHM will look at some examples and ideas for retrofitting shower and bathroom facilities that are affordable and meet the needs of all Girl Scouts and their friends and families.

The Spectrum Center at the University of Michigan will feature their My Voice Program to provide panels of trained LGBTQA+ speakers to share their personal stories with audiences. These panelists help “put a face” on LGBTQA+ communities and experiences and facilitate vibrant discussions about topics of attractionality, sexuality and gender.

Girl Power

Girl Scouts have a 100-plus year history of empowering girls. Building women leaders has led to generations of Girl Scout leaders and influencers such as Michelle Obama, Sandra Day O’Connor and astronaut Sally Ride. However, GSHM has recognized girls and women are still not equal in U.S. society.

“We can prepare our girls to acquire all the leadership skills in the world, but when they get out in the bigger world it’s not a level playing field,” said Barker. “It’s not a level playing field on a college campus when a girl is at a higher risk of being raped or assaulted. It’s not a level playing field when only 20 percent of U.S. senators, 19 percent of house representatives, 24 percent of state legislators and 5 percent of Fortune 500 CEOs are women.”

There are 26,000 Girl Scout members in the GSHM council throughout 34 counties in southwest, central and northeast lower Michigan. Regional headquarters are located in Saginaw, Lansing, Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Jackson and Kalamazoo.

Together they are headed in a new direction to directly confront the issue of structural and cultural sexism in America. Titled “Equality for Girls,” the new initiative and theme launched nationwide in August.

“Our organization can have a huge influence in someone’s life. We are preparing girls to gain self-confidence, problem solving skills and critical thinking skills. They can be leaders wherever they land in the world, but the world doesn’t see Girl Scouts as a powerful leadership organization. We are more than cookies and camping and crafts. We are showing girls how to change their community for the better,” said Barker, adding that the highest achievement for a Girl Scout is the leadership or Gold Award.

“Girls need to know that they can do anything. We decided that we wanted our girls to talk about this stuff and give choices to our girls about making social change and taking social action.”

The initiative is focused on gender equality and equal treatment for girls in Michigan and the U.S., including promoting girl programs and gender-neutral programs often seen as “for boys,” such as rope climbing and hiking. Leaders and volunteers are being trained to identify gender bias and help girls understand their influence and analyze or reject those biases. They are building leadership roles for older girls more directly so “Girl-Led” has meaning and practical applications. They are also recruiting leaders and volunteers, both women and men, who are passionate about helping girls develop as equal partners in society.

“I do think that empowerment of young women is really important,” said Angie Martell of Iglesia Martell Law Firm, PLLC in Ann Arbor who will speak during the conference.

“It’s about being out and feeling comfortable about being out. Not to feel that we have to be in the closet. If you can’t be who you are, how are you going to talk about empowerment?”

Martell is a holistic lawyer working in

divorce and family law, business, criminal defense, estate planning and elder law, LGBT issues, civil litigation, employee rights, workers’ compensation and immigration law.

“Inclusivity is important, not only from an LGBT perspective, but also from a multicultural one,” said Martell. “All identities need to be supported.”

This falls in line with what it has meant to be a Girl Scout for decades.

“It means girls are stepping out. They can play basketball and don’t have to wear bloomers and do not have to be confined to the tea room - because historically, girls playing sports was unacceptable as was hiking in the woods without petticoats, for example. We’re not taking it anymore and are not going to be held hostage by a small minority who wants to discriminate. I’m really proud of that,” said Barker.

But GSHM will need continued support to keep trailblazing.

“Half of our income is from selling cookies. The rest comes from donors, both individual and from companies,” said Barker. “We’re always trying to find a way to welcome more girls, welcome more leaders and look for ways to find more resources for the girls.”

To participate, there is a \$250 conference fee which includes conference space, workshop costs and meals. Registration is required and can be completed online www.gshom.org/events/inclusion-conference-day-only.html/event/2016/11/16/day-only-supporting-inclusiveness-in-girl-scouts/139938 at www.gshom.org.



Jay Maddock, executive director at the Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, will discuss “Supporting Inclusion in the Troop Setting.”

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Now that the Election's Finally Over

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

For my first go-around at passing for 39, I spent a lot of time in Chicago fancying I was a new face. Especially if the bar lighting was Gloria Swanson dim, the hour late, the leftover pickings just short of panic and desperation.

But back then when disco was queen, I was having fun in a city that made the most of the so-called Sexual Revolution following Vietnam 1968. (Paying the piper came later, for both straights and gays.)

When Bicentennial Fourth of July 1976 rolled around, I wanted to party. I was met at the train station by a guy I had cruised weeks before at the legendary Gold Coast Bar. Though I'm not especially macho or tailor-made for leather chaps, Billy – years younger and a chamber music player – convinced himself otherwise.

As I was unable to play bedroom bass fiddle to his solo violin, it was all ritardando, no crescendos, no repeat performances. But he met me at the station that star-spangled weekend with high spirits, misguided hope and a thermos of martinis, which helped.

I spent the holiday with him, saw glorious fireworks, held hands on the Lawson YMCA rooftop, ate gourmet food, and partied with newfound friends. I returned home patriotic, happy, hungover. But I never saw Billy again. (My shortcoming, not his.) If still alive he'd be in his 60s.

My memory was jogged recently by a very rare copy of "Rapping Paper: For and About Gay Mid America" (June 1976; \$1.50) given to me by an acting devotee/friend, Dan Ferrier. The cover features a bare-chested, Afro-haired Mr. Windy City, named Harry Shattuck, and salutes Gay Pride Week. (MoTown item: Gather June 26 at Cass Park. Rally at Kennedy Square. Dance for two bucks at Cobo Hall.)

Thirteen Detroit bars are listed; 10 Gay Lib organizations. Chicago bars, 36. Ann Arbor, one: The Flame. Here's a news item sampler:

- On the 1976 Supreme Court Decision upholding Virginia's Sodomy Law: "The American Psychiatric Association agrees that, much as with heterosexuals, gays and lesbians cannot easily alter their sexual orientation. Sodomy laws offer no alternative but celibacy or criminality. APA officially favors legalization of homosexual behavior between consenting adults."

- Detroit: "The Association of Suburban People (an early Michigan gay/lesbian civil rights organization) has been formed as a result of police harassment of gays along Hines Parkway. Over 85 men were arrested since November 1975. ASP will be particularly happy to receive information about efforts in other states."

- Op-Ed: "One reason people are disenchanted with religion is its apparent separation from central life issues of which sexuality is one. Church leaders do recognize this and see the sexual revolution not as a sign of the end but as an opportunity for renewal. In this context gays are not badgering outsiders but are instead implementing change and renewal from within."

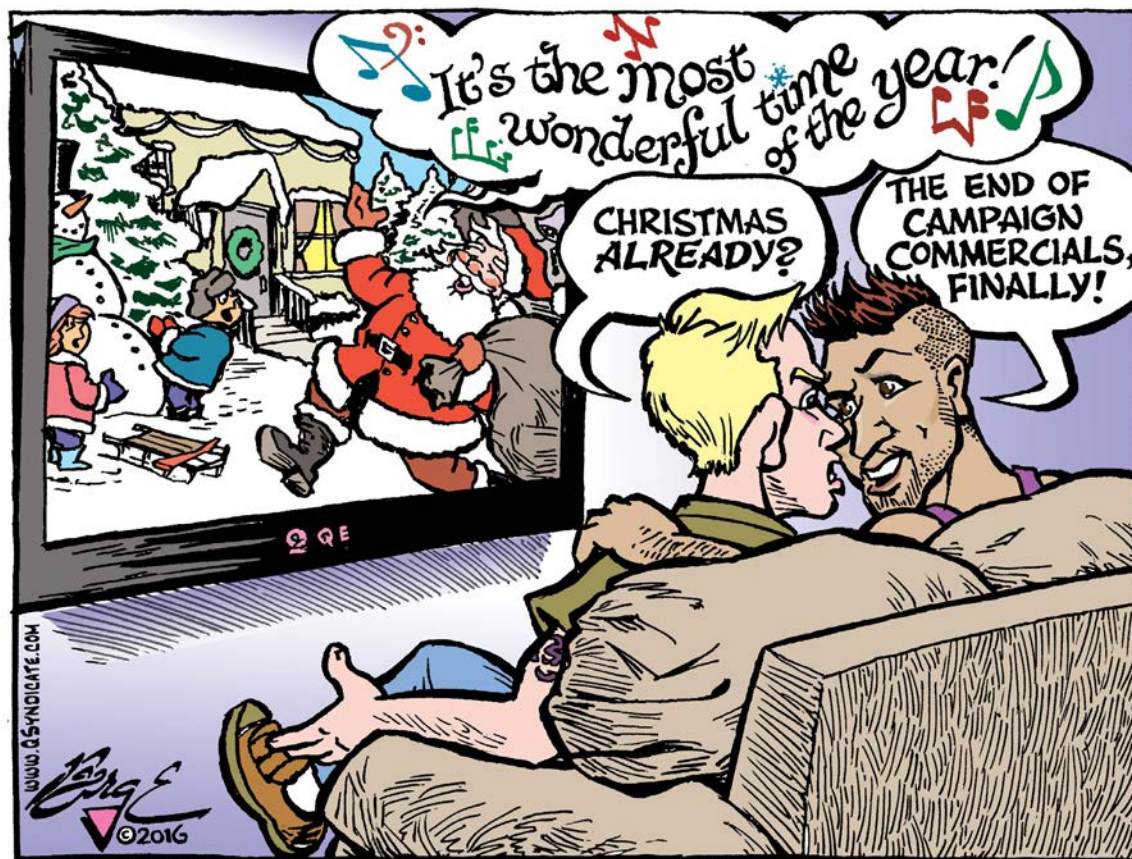
- President Gerald Ford: "I always try to be an understanding person as far as people are concerned. That doesn't mean I necessarily agree with what (homosexuals) want politically. Theirs is a problem we all have to face. I can't give pat answers."

- Chicago: "Across from the Gold Coast, the Machine Shop greases and grinds 24 hours, seven days, to fulfill your every desire for entire entertainment (with, please note, fistfuls of 25-cent tokens)."

- "Good-looking, well built and hung, masculine white dude in 30s seeking young stud for long-lasting relationship and sex. I'm sincere and not type to run ad. PO Box 87."

Hindsight query: But Box 87, do you have access to a viable pension plan if I qualify?

Charles@pridesource.com. This was originally published in 2004.



Transmissions



Remembrance

OPINION BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

I've long dedicated my life to transgender causes. In 1993, before the internet had really become "a thing," I was fighting America Online to allow open discussion of transgender issues within their service, and then managed a transgender issues area there. I served as part of several transgender organizations. I built and managed several transgender information websites throughout the 1990s and 2000s, and still serve as managing editor for {URL Genderfork.com}. Of course, I'd be remiss if I did not mention the nearly 16 years of Transmissions columns I have written.

Yet there is one thing I will forever be most known for, and that is the Transgender Day of Remembrance.

It started in anger, as I heard of yet another transgender murder and saw a community seemingly unaware that our lives were being taken from us. I started a website, under a banner featuring George Santayana's famous quotation, "Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Beyond that, an ever-growing list of names of those killed due to anti-transgender

With the 2016 election season behind us, and an uncertain road ahead, it is once again up to each of us to rise. We need to band together and move forward. We need to continue to secure our unalienable rights. I hesitate to add that one right stands above all else that we need to fight for: the right to exist.

violence and prejudice.

This led to a street protest in San Francisco that, with the help of Penny Ashe Matz in Boston, became the Transgender Day of Remembrance. While others are as much a part of it today, I'm still proud to have been there that first year in the late 1990s, shivering my way through a wet, cold San Francisco night.

See Transmissions, next page

After Bush, and into Obama, the world changed. Transgender people have -- in spite of recent difficulties over public accommodations and such -- become a part of the popular consciousness like never before ... But with greater visibility has come an unmistakable reality. In 17 years of the Transgender Day of Remembrance, we have not seen a decline of anti-transgender murders.

The Nov. 20, 2016 will see the honoring of the 17th Transgender Day of Remembrance.

A lot has changed in those years. Yes, I've got a lot grayer than I was then, but that's to be expected. What's really changed is the transgender community itself.

At the time we started, just getting transgender support groups to acknowledge that transgender people were being murdered and to honor their passage was a challenge. While a few of the so-called "safer" cities would hold large candle-lit marches, many others held events behind closed doors, with only a handful of people quietly memorializing those we'd lost.

At the time, we were at the very end of Bill Clinton's presidency, with the second Bush presidency right around the corner. GLBT rights were still in an era of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," and the next president would not necessarily be favorable -- especially to transgender folk. Many of us were outed to employers thanks to the "Gender No-Match" letters the Social Security Administration sent out under George W.

After Bush, and into Obama, the world changed. Transgender people have -- in spite of recent difficulties over public accommodations and such -- become a part of the popular consciousness like never before. We're on America's television screens, whether it be in reality shows like "I Am Jazz," or on Fox for the reboot of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," to name just two examples.

Likewise, the community back then was a small one, largely closeted, and more than a little hegemonic. It was largely white, largely older, largely cross dressers and transsexuals. Today, that has changed as we see more people exploring new avenues with gender, and more people of color and trans youth. There are still huge steps to be made here, but we're moving in the right direction.

But with greater visibility has come an unmistakable reality. In 17 years of the Transgender Day of Remembrance, we have not seen a decline of anti-transgender murders. Indeed, in recent years, we've seen the number of murders trending upwards, not down, as transgender visibility -- and the

backlash against -- grows.

So many on the right have set out to demonize transgender people after they lost the battle over marriage equality. Likewise, we've been an election year issue, particularly in North Carolina and Texas. As fears against transgender people in restrooms have grown, so has the threat of violence against us and all who do not conform to outdated, rigid standards of gender.

We're being killed at a rate greater than two per month in the United States. Worldwide, that becomes more than two each day, particularly in Brazil. This is simply unacceptable. I would also be utterly remiss if I did not also remind people that it is transwomen of color who remain most at risk in the U.S., and that we cannot ignore issues of racism and sexism in any discussion of anti-transgender murders. This is an intersectional fight.

Our community is at another of many crossroads. With the 2016 election season behind us, and an uncertain road ahead, it is once again up to each of us to rise. We need to band together and move forward. We need to continue to secure our unalienable rights. I hesitate to add that one right stands above all else that we need to fight for: the right to exist.

Being aware of these murders has never been enough. I've always been a firm believer in the words of Mother Jones, and have applied them to the Transgender Day of Remembrance many times: "Pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living." We set aside this one day to mourn -- but take all the other 364 days and fight, keep them in your heart, and do what you can to ensure that not one more falls.

So on the 20th of November, as we have for nearly two decades, honor our fallen dead. On the 21st, and thereafter, we continue the struggle, and we make this world a better one for all transgender people.

Remember.

Gwen Smith hopes you will attend a Day of Remembrance event in your area. You'll find her at www.gwensmith.com

Creep of the Week

Tony Perkins

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

As I write this the polls have just opened in America. I do not yet know the outcome of any races. I am hopeful, because the alternative is to just simmer in dread all day and I'm not going to do that.

Bill Maher had a great piece on his show recently giving Trump credit for exposing the hypocrisy of the religious right. The fact that so many Christians who have been claiming moral superiority for years are supporting Trump, one of the most immoral men to ever run for the presidency, is proof that the religious right is full of shit.

A shining example is Family Research Council President and professional hate-monger Tony Perkins, who has a major Trump boner that he has been stroking with increasing fervor and intensity.

According to Perkins, if Trump doesn't get elected then Hillary Clinton will snuff out Christianity in America right quick.

"Our nation is hanging by a thread over a raging fire," he told Ohio pastors during a conference call. "And I'm not saying Donald Trump is the answer, but what I am saying, I am confident he will give you and I the space as Christians to exercise our freedoms in such a way to win the hearts and minds of men, women and children with the gospel of Jesus Christ so that we might transform this nation and turn it back to God again. That, I believe, is what is at stake in this election."

That's right. The man who said "grab 'em by the pussy" is going to turn the nation back to the Jesus.

But it's true that "our nation is hanging by a thread over a raging fire," and that raging fire is inside of Trump's hell mouth. He's dangling the country over his gaping maw and hoping that people will vote to dive right in. If we're lucky America won't spend the next four years traveling through Trump's digestive system and eventually getting spit out through his colon.

It's interesting that Perkins said that Trump is going to give Christians "space." Isn't that what your girlfriend gives you right before she breaks up with you? It's almost as if Perkins knows, deep down, that Trump is an immoral creep and that the best thing he can hope for from him is distance.

And yet Perkins has attached himself to the



That's right. The man who said "grab 'em by the pussy" is going to turn the nation back to the Jesus.

horror show that is Trump and, if there really is any mercy in this world, will go down with the sinking Trump ship.

Perkins also worries that his organization will lose its tax-exempt status under a President Clinton. I hope he's right. The man runs a certified hate group which should not be subsidized by taxpayers.

One of the biggest things at stake is, of course, the Supreme Court. And Perkins is perfectly happy to see an Utz cheeseball covered in dryer lint elected President so that he can appoint right-wing justices that will overturn pesky rulings like marriage equality and abortion rights.

And according to Perkins, Trump has been more than happy to let Perkins scrawl his hateful anti-anyone who isn't a heterosexual white Christian man on the GOP platform, making this year's platform the most anti-gay ever.

"I have had to fight every Republican campaign, including George W. Bush's campaign, John McCain's, Mitt Romney's, on the platform over life issues, marriage issues, human sexuality," Perkins said. "I've had to fight every campaign except Donald Trump's campaign."

Embracing hate is, of course, not the same thing as espousing Christian ideals, but Perkins, who heads a hate group, wouldn't know the difference anyway. And Trump, bigoted and ignorant, wouldn't either. So I guess they really are perfect for each other.

National Organizations Publish New Guide on LGBTQ Health Advocacy Priorities

BY BTL STAFF

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund and the National Coalition for LGBT Health have published a new guide on health issues important to LGBTQ people. Released in advance of the 2016 presidential election, the “10 Key LGBTQ Health Advocacy Priorities Guide” is intended to educate voters on LGBTQ health priorities the two organizations will continue to focus on during the next administration.

“This new guide is like no other as it outlines critical healthcare issues through an intersectional approach. It takes into consideration the realities that make up the everyday lives of LGBTQ people, such as racial injustice, economic injustice, gender inequality, and immigration status,” said Candace Bond-Theriault, policy counsel for reproductive rights, health and justice at the National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund. “We believe that in order to improve the lives and health of all LGBTQ people, a clear understating that these issues overlap is necessary.”

The guide lists the following ten key areas as priorities: advocating for reproductive health, rights and justice; creating an AIDS-free generation, promoting HIV harm reduction, and increasing access to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP); expanding public education and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STI) and sexually transmitted diseases (STD); supporting LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness; improving transgender healthcare; addressing religious exemptions and nondiscrimination laws; promoting LGBTQ cultural competency; improving access to mental health; expanding access to affordable health care; and ending violence against LGBTQ people. The guide is available online on the National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund and the National Coalition for LGBT Health’s websites.

“We collectively identified, prioritized and defined the issues that effect the LGBT community so that this information can be helpful in looking at how elected officials address these issues,” said Brian Hujdich, executive director of the National Coalition for LGBT Health.

Both organizations will host workshops, trainings, and informational sessions on these priority health advocacy issues during the 2017 Creating Change Conference Jan. 18-22 and SYNchronicity 2017: the National Conference on HIV, HCV, and LGBT Health, set for April 24-25.

Jose Antonio Vargas to Keynote ACLU Event

Speaker Known for Being an Out, Publicly Undocumented Immigrant

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

There are believed to be 11 million undocumented immigrants in the United States. Jose Antonio Vargas is one of them.

“We’re not always who you think we are. Some pick your strawberries or care for your children. Some are in high school or college. And some, it turns out, write news articles you might read,” Vargas wrote in an article for The New York Times in 2010.

“I grew up here. This is my home. Yet even though I think of myself as an American and consider America my country, my country doesn’t think of me as one of its own,” he said.

As the keynote speaker during the ACLU of Michigan annual dinner on Nov. 11, Vargas will share his experience.

“I’m undocumented, I’m gay, my name is Jose and I look Asian,” he said during an Oct. 25 interview with WDET’s Detroit Today host Stephen Henderson. “For me, this whole idea of being excluded and not equal has been cemented in my head. Thankfully for me, the more I was felt to be excluded and not equal to, the more I wanted to say I am.”

Vargas will also highlight the reasons why we can no longer talk about America in silos.

“I can’t talk to you about immigrant rights and not talk about the Black Lives Matter movement and not talk about LGBTQ rights and not talk about Arab and Muslim Americans and not talk about income and equality among all Americans, including white Americans,” Vargas said.

“All these issues intersect and yet the media, for the most part, likes it to be separate. Politicians like it to be separate. So how do we bring justice home in that perspective, in that regard? That’s really a crucial question.”

The theme for this year’s event at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn is “Beyond Walls: Bringing Justice Home,” which Vargas agrees is appropriate.

“We’ve talked a lot about walls this year. But has humanity ever built a wall that could withstand human will? So as long as people are hungry, as long as parents love their kids, they’re gonna cross whatever wall you put in front of them,” he said.

“Isn’t that what happened when the Irish had the potato famine? When all those Irish people got on coffin ships - they call them coffin ships because so many people died - just to get here and cross the border they call the Atlantic Ocean. To me, the sacrifices, I actually think we have to think of immigrants in that way: the very act of moving to a place where you



Jose Antonio Vargas publicly revealed he’s an undocumented immigrant. Since then, he has been talking about life in citizenship limbo and how others are “coming out.” Vargas will share more about his experience during the ACLU of Michigan annual dinner on Nov. 11 at Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn.

do not know the language, the people, the culture, that is a courageous act.”

Vargas is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, filmmaker and publisher who has made the changing of American identity the centerpiece of his work. He’s the creator of “Documented,” an award-winning documentary about his immigrant experience. He’s also the founder of Define American, a nonprofit media and culture organization that seeks to elevate the conversation around immigration and citizenship. He also established and edits #EmergingUS, a digital platform that explores race, immigration and identity in America.

“My mom put me on a plane to move to America to live with my grandparents,” said Vargas, who said writing about being an immigrant was a necessity.

Vargas said immigrants to America are often painted with broad brushes, when in truth the experiences of immigrants are as varied as the individuals. He said among the narratives that exist in society about immigrants is one of hard work and drive.

“Of course I think (that narrative) is important,” said Vargas, “but we shouldn’t rob immigrants of their complexity ... I’m worried that immigrants are getting commodified.”

Influenced by authors such as James Baldwin, Vargas found liberation in reading the writings of Americans who felt and feel excluded from America. As minorities

“I’m undocumented, I’m gay, my name is Jose and I look Asian. For me, this whole idea of being excluded and not equal has been cemented in my head. Thankfully for me, the more I was felt to be excluded and not equal to, the more I wanted to say I am.”

constitute a new mainstream in American society, Vargas said, “In some ways I’m actually thankful to Donald Trump for exposing us to each other, and I think now this is where Baldwin comes into play. ‘... Nothing can be changed until it is faced.’ Are we willing to face each other? Willing to look in each other’s eyes? Willing to ask hard questions of ourselves?”

This includes acknowledging the many young people who are born in this country, who have papers, who Vargas said, “still don’t feel like they are included or should be here or don’t feel legal. I’m talking about black kids, Latino kids, Arab kids, gay kids, all of them.”

For many reasons, Vargas realized long ago that he owes it to this country to stay. His ability to transcend traditional American beliefs has allowed him to influence change, which he will discuss further at the ACLU of Michigan annual dinner — an event Vargas said is “really special. I am grateful to be there to celebrate this.”

Mary Beijan, director of philanthropy for the ACLU of Michigan said, “Given the broad scope of the ACLU of Michigan’s work, we wanted a way to highlight our achievements, honor our allies and celebrate with the wide array of individuals and organizations who fight alongside us every day. The ACLU of Michigan annual dinner offers an ideal space for us to cheer our victories, uplift our shared values and begin charting a course for the next year.”

For more information, visit the ACLU of Michigan online www.aclumich.org. Learn more about Jose Antonio Vargas at <http://joseantoniovargas.com>

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8 Things You Need to Do Now That the Election is Over

The Frivolist

BY MIKEY ROX

It was the election that would never end – until it did. Now that we're free and clear of who's our new president (which is still undecided as of press time, by the way), let's get back to real life.

Consider these eight things you need to do now that the voting booths have closed to stop the madness for at least another four years.

1. Take a Motherfucking Nap

This election has been exhausting. Exhaaaausting. You've had heated debates with your family over it. You've lost friends because of their inability to align their political views with your own. You've. Blocked. People. On Facebook! I mean, I get it – all of this emotional turmoil has taken its toll on you. In fact, you're probably eating your feelings right now as you read this article. So – I'm gonna do you a solid: Put away the ice cream, homeboy; don't even think about that extra slice of pizza. Take your ass to bed right now. A long nap is in order to clear your head of what's happened over the past 18 months, and you deserve it. (No matter what the Republicans say about your lazy ass.)

2. Wake Up and Assess the Situation

OK. So we're here. We have a new president – perhaps the one we wanted, perhaps the one we said would make us move to Canada if he were elected. Either way, it's a fresh start for America, for better or worse. Take it in, think about it, contemplate what this presidency means to you personally. Then pour yourself a shot. You're gonna need it.

Listen, if your candidate didn't win, don't call 'rigged' – you'll look like an idiot to every intelligent person you know

3. Concede, and Be Kind to One Another

Listen, if your candidate didn't win, don't call 'rigged' – you'll look like an idiot to every intelligent person you know. Instead, accept the Electoral College's decision on who should be the leader of the free world and absolve yourself of all responsibility. Your outcry won't change a thing, and nobody likes a sore loser. Which is especially important if you're trying to get laid in the aftermath.

4. Try to Repair the Broken Relationships

You've unfriended people for being insane on social media during this election season, and you've likely been unfriended by others because you went a little too far in your own political posts. Now that it's over, however, it's time to make amends.



Reach out to your great aunt and tell her that you still love her even though she's a proper idiot for supporting Trump. Say you're sorry to your estranged grandma even though she voted to take your rights away. At the end of the day, what's done is done, and all you need to concern yourself with right now is that they're both gonna die waaaay before you do.

5. Buy a Coloring Book and Fucking Relax

Adult coloring – yeah, you finally get to use your Crayola 64 to its full potential – has “therapeutic potential to reduce anxiety, create focus, or bring [about] more mindfulness,” according to Marygrace Berberian, certified art therapist and Clinical Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator for the Graduate Art Therapy at NYU. As such, I recommend The Gay Erotic Coloring Book on Etsy to calm your nerves – mostly for its proportionate illustrations of good dick.

6. Take a Break From Social Media

Social media is precisely the reason you're on a regimen of three Xanax a day. Now that pure evil has taken office (which is lucky, because this assumption works for both candidates), shut that shit down. Take a week off. Nobody will miss your half-eaten burrito pics or how you're totally protesting the destruction of native land as a result of the Dakota Access Pipeline, despite that you're definitely not gonna get off your ass to do anything worthwhile to prevent it.

7. Start to Remember How You Don't Matter

Sure, your vote “matters,” but do you? Not to any politician in office. It's best to remember that when the revolution is upon us.

8. Start Thinking Long Term

For the past year and a half we've all been thinking short term – who will be our next president? Now that it's decided, you need to refocus on the long term, like how we're going to afford gas and food and mortgages in the future, and what you're going to do when America does itself in. Because that's coming, ya know. Stay woke, friends, or we won't make it. Just ask Greece.

Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and LGBT lifestyle expert whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world. He splits his time between homes in New York City and the Jersey Shore with his dog Jaxon. Connect with Mikey on Twitter @mikeyrox.

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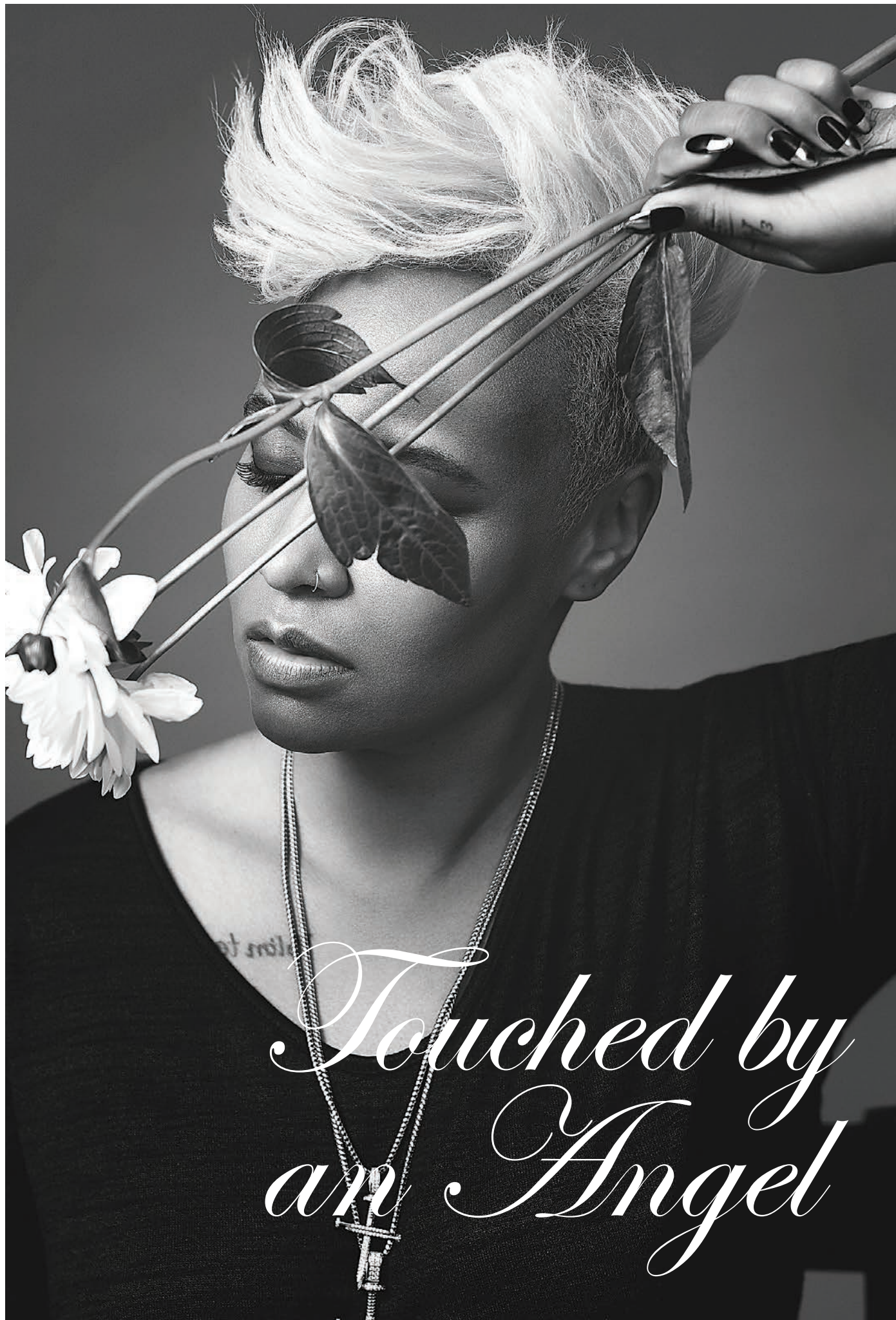
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Emeli Sandé Talks First LP in 5 Years & Her Empathetic Gay Fans

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Hello, it's... Emeli Sandé, this generation's only performer able to rival Adele as a powerhouse, tear-jerking force of nature.

The Scottish vocalist (born, funny enough, Adele Emily Sandé) is back for your pillow-sopping nights on her much-anticipated "Long Live the Angels," a rumination on new versions of events, particularly the dissolving of a decade-long relationship that ended in divorce in 2014. Among the best albums of 2016, Sandé's triumphant catharsis pushes through the pain with spirited, choir-lifted credos of faith and love-led empowerment.

In this revealing interview with Sandé, the 29-year-old opened up about the gay fans who helped her realize she needed a break, discovering President Obama's daughters listen to her music and how Mariah Carey helped her feel less alone.

It's been nearly five years since you released your debut, "Our Version of Events." Why the wait?

I was just going through such a personal and spiritual growth. I mean, we spent so long promoting "Our Version of Events," and it was amazing, touring, but I found it almost impossible to get back to ground zero and write music. I needed a timeout. I also was going through stuff myself that I needed to understand before I could put it in music and feel steady enough to go out there and give it to other people. So, it was a combination of both. I feel like for two years I just needed that time to dedicate to making this music.

How would you describe the process of writing these songs while going through something as difficult as your divorce?

I was always writing; this kind of feels like real diary entries. With every song, it was almost like I was sponging up my life. I find it a lot easier to express emotions through music, so I was acting like I was fine, but the music was all telling the truth in what I was feeling internally. It was all kind of me writing my emotions as I felt them, or if I'd do sessions, whatever I was going through at that time in my life, it just kind of came out.

Do you get emotional singing these deeply personal

Photo: Capitol Records

songs?

Not really. I feel quite empowered when I sing them just because it gives me an honesty on stage. Obviously, I hope they're entertaining and they make people feel great, but it was really my truth. So, when I'm on stage it feels like I'm connecting with the audience and just kind of sharing myself fully. So, seriously enough, I kind of feel quite strong when I sing them. I feel liberated to tell the truth on stage.

Tell me how your connection with your gay fans has evolved since releasing your debut album.

During every show, I can feel my gay fans out there, and there's a real kind of depth and understanding. I remember I was doing a show at KOKO in London, and it was around the time everything was going so fast, and I got a couple of notes from fans. A gay couple wrote, "Are you OK? If you want to come hang out with us, you can come on holiday with us." I just thought it was so nice that they recognized – I must've been exhausted at that point, and I think they could see that. I really appreciated that letter from them. And I just appreciated all the different stories. I just love that I can also empower *them* through the music.

Did you end up going on vacation with this gay couple?

(Laughs) I didn't end up going on holiday. But I just thought it was such a sweet offer, and it showed there was a real level of understanding and empathy. I never even got a chance to thank them, but it meant the world to me. I just kept going at the time. But it was really empowering to be like, "Actually, maybe I do need to take time off if it's that obvious to the audience."

What kinds of stories do gay fans share with you?

When I was in Washington, there was a guy – a big fan – and he was just saying how much he loved "Read All About It," and "Our Version of Events" helped him through coming out. He was there with his mom, and it just felt so amazing. And, recently, I've had a few gay fans talking about how (that album) empowered them to express their love to one another, how everything I had written gave them those words as they were getting married. I love stories of love. It really keeps me going and encourages me to write songs about that.

How do your outsider feelings, which you've acknowledged you felt as someone growing up biracial, play into the music you write?

I feel like that's why I give music 100 percent of myself, because it's always been this confidante in my life where I've found my own identity. Growing up feeling pretty different in Scotland, I started to identify with soul music and black music, and that's the reason why I've always put everything into my music. It's never been something that I

wanted to be too shiny. Like, I've never faked it. Having that kind of release and anchor in my life, it's always just made me want to be 100 percent honest in what I'm doing, so hopefully that speaks through the music.

I remember how alone I felt and what comfort music was to me, and that was only through artists who were telling the truth and being so real. So, that's how I wanted my career to be. Even if things are difficult to speak about or process, it's important to me to keep doing it as is, so if people are like me when I was younger, they have someone who is telling the truth and making them feel not so alone.

For me, Mariah Carey's "Butterfly" album made me feel that way. I identified with a song on that album, "Outside." For you, what was –

(Laughs) Me too! Oh my god, I love that album, equally. It's so funny you mention that song, too, because it was one of my favorites. When she speaks in interviews about how she felt being mixed race and how certain songs were based on that – and even though this was someone I'd never met, and we were on different ends of the world – I felt comforted by that.

Have you been able to share that with Mariah?

I have never been able to speak to her about the music, but I met her a couple of times. I met her on "American Idol" once and she said, "You're the girl who's writing all those songs!" and I'm like, "Oh my god, Mariah Carey knows that I write songs!" (Laughs) I was completely starstruck. And I remember "Hero." I remember that song she did on the "Rainbow" album, "Can't Take That Away." I would love one day to meet her properly and tell her how much her music influenced me.

Do you call yourself a "lamb" like the rest of her hardcore fans?

I didn't even know that's what we were called, but yeah!

I'm envisioning a collaboration.

That would be a dream.

How would you compare "Our Version of Events" to this new album?

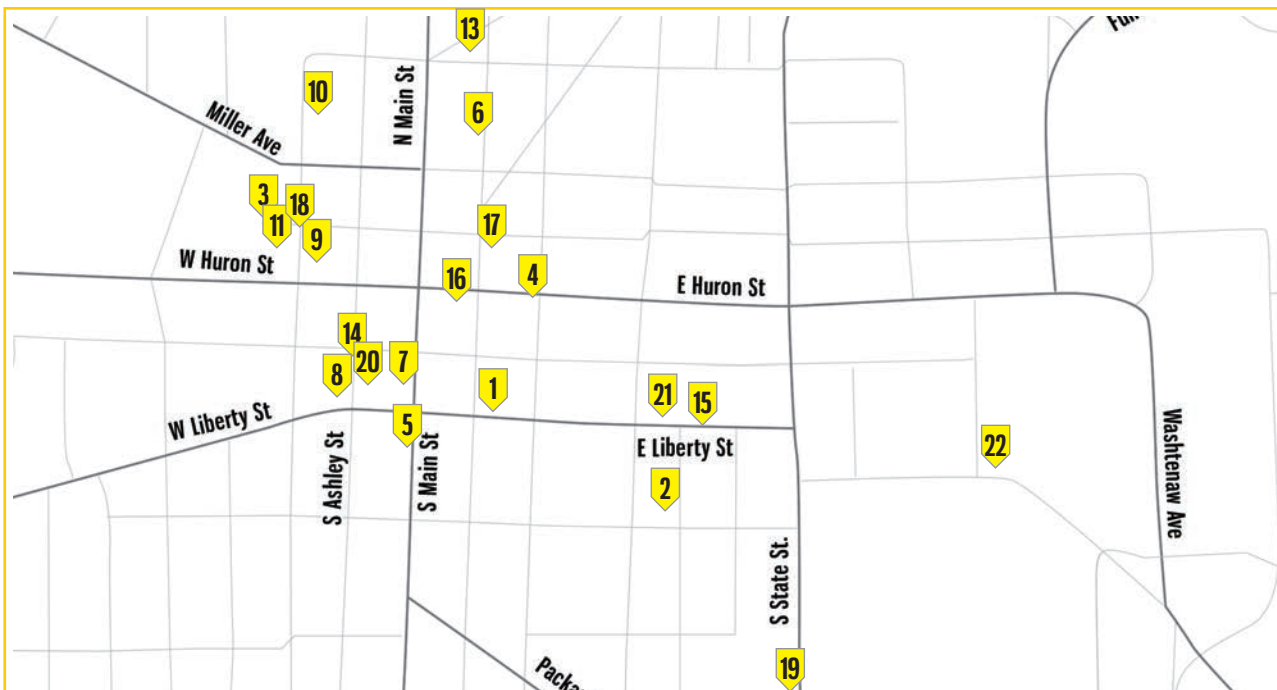
This album is a lot more personal and specifically about things that I've experienced. I wanted to make a conscious effort to be that honest, because it was such deep emotions for me that I didn't want them to be generic. I wanted to get straight to the point. So, it's a lot deeper, a lot more grown up. This is me stepping into womanhood, like a crash course in life bottled in an album.

Which song did you write at your rawest moment?

"Shakes." The weird thing is, I didn't feel

See Emeli, page 20

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TACORI



Queer Stories Look to Help LGBTQ+ Youth at The Ark

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

ANN ARBOR – Just saying ‘It Gets Better’ is not enough. So Margaret Smith has directed “As We Go On: Queer Story,” a collection of stories based on the real-life experiences of LGBTQ+ people in the local community.

“A story collects the abstract and makes it real and immediate. A life story can change you, can educate you, can move you to do something new, move you to make a difference,” said Smith about the show, which is Nov. 13 at 1 p.m. at The Ark at 316 S. Main St. in Ann Arbor.

“As We Go On: Queer Story,” which features cast members between the ages of 17 and 86, is for, by and about the LGBTQ+ community. It will raise awareness and money to keep critical programs responsive to increased demand for services for LGBTQ+ youth. Three nonprofits in the Washtenaw County area known for providing support counseling, health services and safe spaces for young people are Corner Health in Ypsilanti, Neutral Zone in Ann Arbor and the Ozone House, which operates in both Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor.

“Far too many youth in our community who identify as LGBTQ+ are made to feel that they are not OK – that something is wrong with them or that they are not worthy of people’s respect and love. At Ozone House, we often work with young people who are at high risk of homelessness or who have been kicked out of their homes because of their sexual orientation or gender identity,” said Allie Schachter, development director at the Ozone House.

“It is estimated that up to 40 percent of the homeless youth population identifies as LGBTQ+, and 25 percent of the calls that we receive on our 24-hour crisis line are from young people in this demographic. Community support of As We Go On sends an important message to these young people that they are valued and that their community stands with them in solidarity.”

Smith said she was inspired to create this show because of the increased rates of bullying, hate crimes, homelessness and suicide among LGBTQ+ youth, and the willingness of the cast to help by telling their own stories to generate greater understanding.

“I can only speak for myself when I say that this show has been a revelatory experience. I am a performer by training but not a personal storyteller. I usually get handed a script or a score with a character to portray. This would be different and more exposed because I’d be telling my own story. When I started meeting with Margaret, I felt like I had nothing to say that would be even remotely ‘interesting.’

Margaret was my rock and helped me see that my experiences could be put into words in such a way that I could discover new meaning in memories that I took for granted, and that spoke to the audience,” said Robby Griswold, who studied the humanities and vocal music at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. In his early 30s, Griswold has performed with many theater, musical theater and opera groups in the local area.

“Rehearsing for this show has helped me revisit past hurts and gains with fresh and more mature eyes, and it has helped me feel more whole. I hadn’t realized until doing this show that I had been downplaying how painful it has been to suppress my queerness. Preparing for and performing in this show has helped me ‘come out’ again, in a way, and to accept and love that queerness.”

Other performers include Jim Toy, Robbie Stephens, Fiona Carey, Mack Rasmussen, Kate Peterson and Leah Schuester, Anthony Beasley, Iglesia “Angie” Martell and Mary Larkin.

“As We Go On: Queer Story” is not just a show. It’s an evening of storytelling that promises to draw the audience in and never



Nov. 13
SAVE THE DATE

An “As We Go On: Queer Story” cast photo features Kate Peterson and Leah Schew downstage front. Photo courtesy of show director Margaret Smith

leave them. The performances are said to be funny, witty, sad, infuriating, uplifting and touching.

“True stories told live by the person who lived it. True stories by the person who was able to make it to where you hear them now,” said Smith.

“We all need to hear stories we have never heard before, because that is how we learn. We learn from hearing stories from lives unlike our own. That can be the beginning of understanding and acceptance. As we go on with our lives day by day, we should remember that there is a gay youth who needs a safe space

in which they can be themselves, and receive support services for their needs.”

Tickets for the show are between \$15-125 and can be purchased online at www.theark.org or by calling 734-761-1818. Can’t attend? Make a donation with checks payable to Ozone House, 1705 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor, MI, 48104. All credit card transactions will be processed through Ozone House. Their fundraising goal, including ticket sales, sponsorships and ads, is \$27,000. Proceeds will be divided equally among Corner Health Center, Neutral Zone and Ozone House.

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► **Emeli**

Continued from p. 17



like that it was me channeling this emotion into this song, but when I listen to it now, I was almost predicting the future. “Shakes” was pretty deep. But “Sweet Architect” is probably the rawest moment on the album, where I just – beyond

relationships, beyond the music industry – this was my direct prayer to God. That’s probably the rawest and deepest moment on the album.

Which song in particular do you think might resonate with your LGBT fans?

I love “Babe.” “Babe” is the last song on the album, and I feel liberated when I sing that song. It’s all about letting love be love and letting go of any kind of fear. So, for the gay community and the rest of the community, I just feel like allowing yourself to love and feel and take care of someone and be good to someone else – I hope that one resonates.

On the heels of World AIDS Day, tell me why it’s important to you to be a part of Elton John’s AIDS Foundation.

It’s just so important to me, especially when you’re looking at Africa. My father is from Zambia, and you just see it’s affected the country and a lot of communities. If there’s more research and awareness about it, so much suffering wouldn’t have to happen. So, I’m really proud to be a part of Elton John’s foundation and spread awareness about it. It’s so important because a lot of things are preventable, especially what’s happening in Africa.

In 2013, you performed in front of President Obama and the First Lady. How many Xanax did you need to take beforehand?

Just a couple of glasses of wine! (Laughs) I remember stepping into the White House with all the security you have to go through to get there and walking through the corridors, and we got a little tour before. And meeting them – they’re so tall. That was the big thing. I’m like, “Wow, you guys are superhuman.”

They were talking about the music, and he was such a rock star. He was just so chilled out, and he made us feel relaxed and charged up. He had a chat with all the performers: “OK, let’s put on a show!” He made us feel like we were a part of some football team. He’s a true leader.

Does Obama have a favorite Emeli Sandé song?

He just said, “I think my daughters know your music!” And I was like, “Wow. My music might be getting played in the White House!” (Laughs)

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).

7 Reasons Why You Don't Want to Miss the Touring Production of Tony Award-Winning 'Fun Home'

BY JENN MCKEE

1 It's the first mainstream Broadway musical to feature a lesbian protagonist. Based on Alison Bechdel's phenomenal 2006 graphic memoir, "Fun Home" tells the story of the author at three different times in her life: as a child of 10, growing up in a rural Pennsylvania funeral home; as a college student at Oberlin who's joyously embracing her sexuality; and as a middle-aged woman who's trying to reconcile the fact that shortly after she came out to her family, her long-closeted father committed suicide by stepping in front of a truck.

2 You'll see a former Miss America (who's also the current president of Actors' Equity) in the show's lead role. Kate Shindle stars as middle-aged Alison in the touring company of "Fun Home." She won the Miss America crown in 1998, while she was a junior at Northwestern University, and the cause she dedicated her year to was AIDS activism and prevention. Regarding this casting choice, Bechdel told the New York Times that "being portrayed by her in the musical feels like a lovely, twisting kind of cultural progress, like a Mobius strip – suddenly there's this inexplicable but undeniable continuity between the marginal lesbian and the beauty queen. I find it delightful."

3 "Fun Home" was nominated for a whopping 12 Tony Awards in 2015. It took home five, including best musical, best book of a musical (by Michigan native Lisa Kron, who was also an original member of The Five Lesbian Brothers theater company); best original score (Kron and Jeanine Tesori); and best direction of a musical (Sam Gold). Plus, Kron and Tesori's win made history, because they were the first all-female team to ever win a Tony Award for a musical's score, and "Fun Home" was the first show written entirely by women to win a Tony Award for best musical.

4 The reviews read like they're written by the show creators' best friends. Seriously. They're just that hyperbolic and glowing, almost across the board. The New York Times' Ben Brantley called it "a heartbreaker of a musical," and spoke breathlessly of "this extraordinary musical, which pumps oxygenating fresh air into the cultural recycling center that is Broadway." The Chicago Tribune's Chris Jones, meanwhile, claimed it "never lets you out of its embrace for a moment," and concluded by saying, "No



The National Tour Company of 'Fun Home.' Photo courtesy of Joan Marcus.

wonder the audience sprang as one from its seats at the ending, and the start of living."

5 It's a show with activist street cred. In 2014, when South Carolina's state legislature tried to financially punish the College of Charleston for choosing Bechdel's graphic memoir as a reading selection for incoming freshmen, the cast of the off-Broadway production traveled to Charleston and performed a concert of songs from the show to a sold-out crowd.

6 It passes the Bechdel Test. Yes, the author of the celebrated graphic memoir that's the basis for "Fun Home" is perhaps even more famous for the Bechdel Test – introduced to readers via her Dykes to Watch Out For comic strip – that consists of asking whether, in any given work, two female characters have a conversation that's about something other than a man.

7 Opportunities to see the show may be rare. The Broadway production of "Fun Home" closed in mid-September, and Gold's celebrated, extraordinary vision for the show – including sets that appear and vanish via a series of trap doors, thus mimicking memory itself – probably couldn't be reproduced easily. Plus, this will be the first opportunity that locals have to see native daughter Kron's latest, greatest work.

"Fun Home" was nominated for a whopping 12 Tony Awards in 2015. It took home five, including best musical, best book of a musical (by Michigan native Lisa Kron, who was also an original member of The Five Lesbian Brothers theater company.)

PERFORMING

"Fun Home" comes to Detroit's Fisher Theatre Nov. 29 - Dec. 11. Tickets are available for purchase at all Ticketmaster locations, by phone at 800-982-2787, and online at www.broadwayindetroit.com or www.ticketmaster.com. Tickets can also be purchased at the Fisher Theatre Box Office. Ticket prices start at \$39. For more information on the production, visit www.FunHomeBroadway.com.

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Bob the Drag Queen to Star in 'A Drag Queen Christmas'

'RuPaul's Drag Race' Season 8 Winner Heads to Detroit for Nov. 16 Show

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

It's not a glamorous name, but it's one you're not likely to forget any time soon. So how did the 30-year-old performer born Christopher Caldwell become Bob the Drag Queen?

"I really wish I had a great story behind it but I don't," said Bob, speaking to *Between The Lines* from his home in New York. "I thought Bob the Drag Queen sounded like a funny name so I went with it. The story of how most drag queens get their names is usually

pretty boring. It's never an exciting story and I'm not an exception to that rule."

Still, Bob is an exception to many rules. He commonly performs drag with a shaven head instead of a wig. And when there is hair on his head, it's likely to be a wig styled in a natural hairstyle, an afro or even dreads. And, as fans of "RuPaul's Drag Race" will tell you, he usually enters the room purse first – as he did on the very first episode of Season 8.

"I walked into the workroom purse first and then I started making a point of it," Bob recalled. "I made up a little song about it.

Because we're all cooped up and crazy, everyone there started singing the song and the next thing you know it's actually on the dance charts."

Bob's latest recording and video is for a song he calls "Bloodbath."

"It's like a bitch track reading all the girls that I beat to get to the crown," explained Bob. "My little concept of that ... that it wasn't really a fight, it was a bloodbath. We went in guns blazing.

"Even though we were all friends we went in competing against each other. I'm not trying to be better than anyone else. I'm just trying to be my particular best, and that's why I think I slay. I just compete with myself."

Yet, in RuPaul's eyes, Bob was competing against 11 other contestants. Three times he won the main challenge on the show and once he won the mini-challenge.

"My best moment was when I won the mini-challenge," Bob said. "That was the reading challenge, which is arguably one of the best things to ever come out of 'RuPaul's Drag Race.' That was really fun. That's an episode everyone wants to do well on."

Obviously, Bob did well enough to walk away with the crown – and the \$100,000 grand prize. Since then, Bob has been busy traveling the globe. Starting Nov. 16 here in Detroit, Bob will be hosting and headlining a 20-plus city tour called "A Drag Queen Christmas." In addition to Bob, the show will feature such famous "RuPaul's Drag Race" alumni as Season 8 runners up Kim Chi and Naomi Smalls. Also on the bill is Chi Chi DeVayne, Thorgy Thor, Alyssa Edwards, Latrice Royale, Acid Betty, Milk, Pearl, Roxxy Andrews, Trixie Mattel and Tatianna.

"I love getting to travel with other performers from the show," Bob said. "A lot of our shows are by ourselves, going town to town meeting new people every day. But it's good to see a familiar face every once in a while you're on the road."

And Bob is quick to tell you which he loves



Bob the Drag Queen

seeing most.

"Whenever I get a chance to run into Naomi Smalls it's a good day," he said. "I love that kid. She is so genuine and young and innocent. Whenever I get a chance to see Naomi Smalls it's gonna be good. I love her. She's one of my favorite people to see."

In addition to "A Drag Queen Christmas," Bob is still doing solo gigs and is also working on his upcoming comedy special to be called "A Queen for the People." Bob says he is enjoying fame but he doesn't worry about whether it will last.

"I never want to consume myself with wanting to stay famous," said Bob. "What I do is I just do my best work or do work that I feel like I'm very proud of. I feel like in the past me doing that has always kept me relevant. It's not important to be really popular or really famous. It's just about doing work I'm proud of."

Be that as it may, Bob is still determined to make the most out of his time as the reigning "RuPaul's Drag Race" crown holder.

"This experience in general has been remarkable and amazing," he said. "I've never had an experience quite what I'm experiencing now. I've been traveling to different countries. I'm performing for younger and younger audiences, which is both terrifying and exciting. I'm realizing that my life span reaches wider than I thought it did. It's actually very humbling."

Murray & Peter presents "A Drag Queen Christmas" will take place Wednesday, Nov. 16 at the Fillmore in downtown Detroit. For more information go to www.dragfans.com and for tickets visit www.ticketmaster.com.

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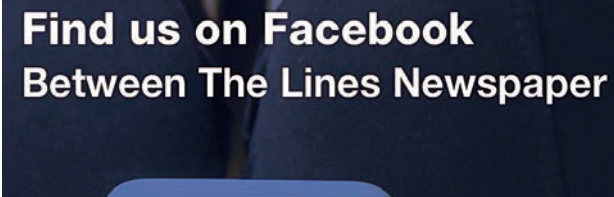
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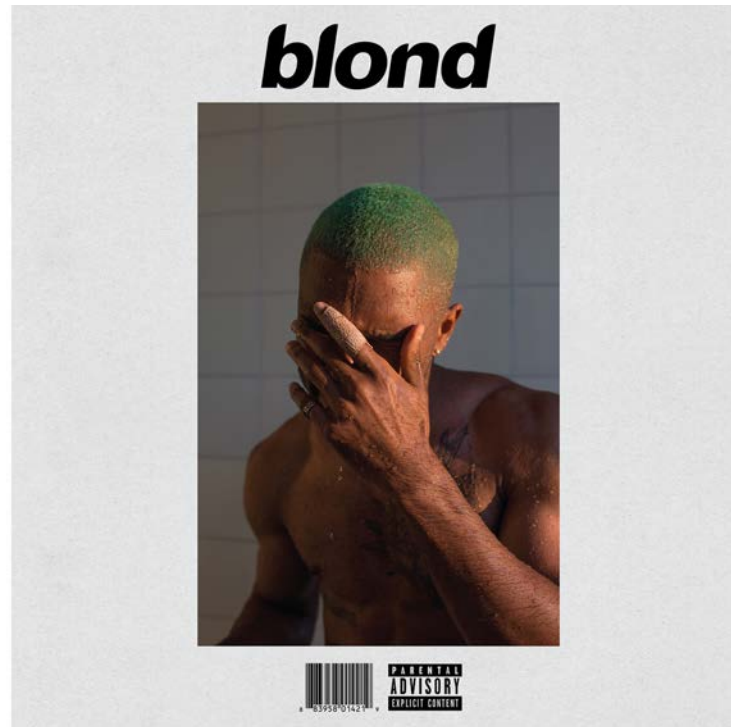
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Hear Me Out: Frank Ocean, Lady Gaga



BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Frank Ocean, 'Blond'

The genius of Frank Ocean's intimate second release is its scant emphasis on sexuality. Despite the attention given to Ocean's queerness after his groundbreaking coming out in 2012, when the gifted Grammy winner posted a heartfelt letter to Tumblr revealing his bent sexuality and affection for a special fella, "Blond" positions gayness as inconsequential to overall worth. Take, for instance, a casual mention of "the gay bar you took me to." Understated lyrics related to his sexual fluidity evoke a brazen label defiance that new generations of queer rebels wear like a badge of honor. For that reason alone, the album is important and influential, as self-exploratory revelations draw upon nuanced recollections neatly tucked into serene R&B mid-tempo that enrapture you with their inviting sweetness. Beyond his euphoric soundscapes is Ocean's stream of consciousness, imparting cinematic and transient anecdotes that range from the loss of childhood virtue ("remember how it was: climb trees, Michael Jackson, it all ends here...") to the complicated circumstances that adulthood summons. "Solo" sits atop a bed of organ accompaniment, throwing you into a divine state of hypnosis with the chorus' "inhale, inhale, there's heaven," a reprise that couldn't sound better unless you were hearing it in a hazy dream. "White Ferrari" is another respite. Here, Ocean falls into a quiet

daydream, just a lover, their existential talk and an atmospheric blend of guitar and synths. The reverie, a classic among classics, concludes with indie virtuoso James Blake assuring, "We're so OK here; we're doin' fine." On "Pink + White," Beyoncé adorns the otherworldly outro with a gentle wind of whispery undertones, suppressing her presence to let Ocean have his moment. As Ocean reflects on scenes from his life throughout one of 2016's greatest and most moving sets – his feelings and playbacks about sex, social media and those unforgettable car rides; the boyfriends, the girlfriends – it's our own we're seeing in the rearview mirror. *Grade: A*

Lady Gaga, 'Joanne'

Is less always more? On her return to form, Lady Gaga hangs up the meat dress after reaching the epitome of self-parody a couple of years ago, when the icon sold "Artpop" like it was 2014's "Lemonade." You know how that turned out. Shortly thereafter, she reeled it in, which meant losing the beef frock to sing the Super Bowl's National Anthem and actually wearing a pantsuit. It became clear that Gaga's impending post-"Fame Monster" era would be without excess. (Just ask Tony Bennett, who crooned the Great American Songbook with her.) Named after her late aunt, "Joanne" is, sure enough, a songwriter's album. Though the set's songwriting – particularly "Hey Girl," a squandered sisterhood collaboration with Florence Welch – doesn't achieve the same strange

intrigue as even her most inane pop scrawls (see: "Swine"), you don't have to look further than punchy lead singles "Perfect Illusion," "A-YO" and the belted heartbreaker "Million Reasons" to know Gaga's back on (a very meatless) track. But who knew she'd recover with this no-frills, Southern-tinged vocal showcase? Obviously, it doesn't hurt that "Grigio Girls" – with its spirited drunk-around-a-campfire vibe – sounds like a grrl-power anthem for a future "Coyote Ugly" remake. Even better is "Angel Down," a poignant Black Lives Matter tribute written in honor of Trayvon Martin. "Where are our leaders?" she painfully pleads, enraged. Flaws and all, "Joanne" is certainly Gaga like we've never heard her before – meaning, it's Mother Monster at her most human. *Grade: B+*

Bon Iver, '22, A Million'

Bon Iver's latest is a rumination on the uncertainty of life and time and moments and other stuff and things. Beautifully cryptic things. One: a river that knows no bounds, that doesn't "heed a line... or stay behind," a beautiful allegory for perseverance. Another: some unidentified man whose guitar Vernon carries, galvanizing him to "go in." Vernon's fragmented imagery seems to suggest a man at a crossroads. Him? Perhaps. On "22, A Million," he takes the road less traveled, casting his Grammy-winning style of Wisconsin-born folk – heard on his 2006 debut, "For Emma, Forever Ago" and, later, on its self-titled follow-up – into a bold, futuristic discord that progressively deconstructs as it enacts a meticulous structural subversion. The result is hypnotic, as the album opens like something out of an alternate dimension on the sax-kissed "22 (Over S^{oooo}n)" and then, on "715 – CRΣΣKS," he works his sinewy bellow into static distortion that wreaks havoc on the most neo of neo-folk. The turning point of this challenging narrative is "21 M^{oon} WATER," when the clamor is distilled into a soothing cascade of New Age-y synths. The transition into the next track, "8 (Circle)" (imagine an '80s Bonnie Raitt ballad in the year 2040), is perfection. It almost couldn't get better, except it does. The album's coda, "00000 Million," elicits tears for reasons initially unclear, and then it hits you; it's because of this hopeful assertion: "The days have no numbers." Because, too, the moment is meditative, tender and, performed on a creaky piano, rendered beautifully. And because, frankly, Bon Iver's best, most life-affirming work is right in front of you. *Grade: A*

Who are we leaving out?

Find out more at
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Thursday, December 8th

4145 Woodward Ave, Detroit, MI 48201 Time: 6:30 p.m.

LGBT Chamber Members: Free (Register at Chamber Website)

Tickets: **Eventbrite**

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Happenings

Thu, 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

Fri, 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/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@reddoornightclub.com
www.reddoornightclub.com

Sat, 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

Sun, Nov. 13

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/>

Steven Gaines "One of These Things First: A Memoir" 12 p.m. At the center of the story is a brilliant young psychiatrist who promises to cure a young boy of his homosexuality and give him the normalcy he so longs for. Author appearance. Jewish Community Center of Metro Detroit, 6600 W Maple Rd, **West Bloomfield Twp.** <http://theberman.org/calendar-of-events/>

As We Go On 1 p.m. As We Go On is an evening of storytelling that promises to draw you in and never leave you. Based on real-life experiences, members of LGBTQ+ community will share their stories and hearts. Proceeds from ticket sales will go to Corner Health, Neutral Zone, and Ozone House. Tickets are \$15-\$125. Corner Health, Neutral Zone & Ozone House, 316 S. Main Street, **Ann Arbor**. 734-761-1800. info@neutral-zone.org www.theark.org/shows-432-5658

sagemetrodetroit.org. <https://sagemetrodetroit.org/>

A Drag Queen Christmas 8 p.m. Featuring your favorite contestants from RuPaul's Drag Race. Tickets: \$20 - \$75. The Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. www.ticketmaster.com

Thu, Nov. 17

Detroit Elders 5 p.m. Attendance is free. SAGE Metro Detroit, 4750 Woodward, **Detroit**. 313-833-1300 ext. 15. <https://sagemetrodetroit.org>

Jane Fulton Suri Inspired by Life 5:10 p.m. Partner Emeritus and Executive Design Director at IDEO uncovering insight to inform and inspire design for organizations worldwide. Free & open to the public. Penny W. Stamps School of Art

supporters to sing, dance, and get to know each other better. Attendees must be over 21 to enter, admission is free, and singing is encouraged but not required. Kickshaw Theatre, 3530 Jackson Rd, **Ann Arbor**. 734-203-0556. curious@kickshawtheatre.org
kickshawtheatre.org

Sat, Nov. 19

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

Editor's Pick



Hayloft Saloon Hosts BearCON 2016

Hayloft Saloon is located at 8070 Greenfield Road in Detroit.

BearCON is BACK! Hayloft Saloon in Detroit is hosting BearCON 2016 Nov. 11-13. The weekend of fun will include an Underbear party with clothes check available, shot boys, tons of fur-loving fun, a Titan Media Exclusive performance by Eddy Ceetee, a Hary Chest Contest, raffle tickets, lots of drinks half off for happy hour and a Beer Bust all Sunday afternoon! On top of this action-packed weekend event, Hayloft Saloon regularly holds a Detroit Bear party every Friday night at 9 p.m. BearCON is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/events/1529369677372571.

events/2016/nov/13/we-go-queer-story

BearCON 2016 8 p.m. Underbear party, Titan Media Exclusive EDDY CEETEE, Hairy Chest Contest and more. Hayloft Saloon, 8070 Greenfield Rd, **Detroit**. 313-581-8913. www.facebook.com/events/1529369677372571/

Tue, Nov. 15

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

Gamenight 7 p.m. Gay Geeks Social Group, 4636 15 MILE RD Apt. xxx, **Sterling Heights**. www.meetup.com

Intervention to Durable Recovery The Power of Family 7:30 p.m. By best-selling authors Jeff and Debra Jay. Free open to anyone with personal or professional interest. Dawn Farm, 5305 Elliott Drive, **Ypsilanti**. 734-485-8725. info@dawnfarm.org <http://www.dawnfarm.org/programs/education-series>

Wed, Nov. 16

SAGE Metro Detroit Board Meeting 9:30 a.m. SAGE Metro Detroit, 4750 Woodward Ave, **Detroit**. info@

& Design, 603 E Liberty St, **Ann Arbor**. http://stamps.umich.edu/stamps/detail/jane_fulton_suri

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

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

Fri, Nov. 18

Discussion on cell phone addiction. 7:30 p.m. Free. Registration required. Mark McMillan, LLMSW, 25600 Woodward Avenue, Suite 215, **Royal Oak**. (248) 399-7447. OfficeMgr@crsh.com <http://www.crsh.com/workshops/is-your-partner-addicted-to-their-phone>

Kickshaw Karaoke 9 p.m. This informal party will celebrate Kickshaws community of artists, connectivity partners, and

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@reddoornightclub.com <http://www.reddoornightclub.com/events/>

Sun, Nov. 20

Dr. Eelsey's CFA International Cat Show 11 a.m. More than 41 breeds of cats who will be competing for numerous prizes and honors. Tickets: \$5-\$10. Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave, **Novi**. www.cfa.org/AboutCFA/News/PressReleases/PressRelease2016InternationalShow.aspx

A Drag Queen Christmas 8 p.m. A Drag

Editor's Pick



The untold true story
of the Witches of Oz

meets a bubbly blonde who is exceptionally popular, their initial rivalry turns into the unlikelyst of friendships – until the world decides to call one “good,” and the other one “wicked.”

With a thrilling score that includes the hits “Defying Gravity,” “Popular” and “For Good,” Wicked has been hailed by The New York Times as “the defining musical of the decade.”

“Wicked” comes to the Wharton Center Nov. 9-27 and is fun for families of all ages. Tickets start at \$45.

Queen Christmas starring Kim Chi, Naomi Smalls, Alyssa Edwards, Latrice Royal, Pearl and Roxxy Andrews. Hosted by Bob The Drag Queen! All ages welcome. Tickets are \$20 - \$75 plus applicable fees. Limited VIP meet and greet tickets are also available. Murray & Peter, 303 Monroe Ave., **Grand Rapids**. 1-800-745-3000.

Music

St. Andrew's Hall & the Shelter \$ “Niykee Heaton - Centerfold Tour” Singer and model from Geneva, IL. Tickets: \$20. St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E Congress St., Detroit. 7 p.m. Nov. 13. http://concerts.livenation.com/event/08005111BB7B30F5?dma_id=286

Wellspring Theater at Epic Center “Fall Concert of Dance featuring the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestras Burdick-Thorne String Quartet” A special collaboration concert with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestras Burdick-Thorne String Quartet featuring works by composer Terry Riley. Tickets \$12-\$25. Wellspring Theater at Epic Center, 359 S. Kalamazoo Mall Ste. 204, Kalamazoo. 8 p.m. Nov. 10. 269-342-4354.

Women in the Arts Festival “31st Annual East Lansing Women's Festival: Dar Williams Concert” Festival Nov. 11-12. Tickets: \$25. Edgewood United Church, 459 N Hagadorn, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 11, 5 p.m. Nov. 12. 517-449-8767. www.witafestival.com/

Comedy

Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase “Al Jackson” Tickets: \$9-\$14. Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 10, 8 p.m. Nov. 11, 8 p.m. Nov. 12. 734-996-9080. <http://www.aacomedy.com/znov2.cfm>

Kickshaw Theatre “Hir by Taylor Mac” Liberated from an oppressive marriage, with Isaacs newly out transgender sibling as her ally, shes on a crusade to dismantle the patriarchy. But in Taylor Macs sly, subversive comedy, annihilating the past doesnt always free you from it. Espresso Royale, 214 South Main Street, Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. Nov. 11. 734-203-0556. kickshawtheatre.org

Concerts

Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra “The Music of Harry Potter”. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 12. 734-668-8397. www.a2so.com

Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra “Tchaikovsky & Friends”. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 11. 734-668-8397. www.a2so.com

Blind Pig “Alex G with LVL Up and Brandon Can't Dance” Tickets: \$12-15. 18 and over welcome. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 12. 734-996-8555. www.blindpigmusic.com

Live Nation “Fitz & The Tantrums” Tickets: \$25-\$49.50. The Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 19. 313-961-5451. www.livenation.com

Live Nation “Machine Gun Kelly” Tickets: \$34-49. The Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Nov. 17. www.thefillmoredetroit.com

Live Nation “The Avelt Brothers” Tickets: \$25-75. The Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Nov. 10, 7 p.m. Nov. 11. www.thefillmoredetroit.com

React “Rufus Du Sol” Tickets: \$20. Ages 16 and up. Majestic Theater, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Nov. 10. 313-833-9700. <http://tktwb.tw/2b6q4bM>

The Ark “Dave Simonett and Carl Broemel” Tickets \$20-\$27. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 16. 734-761-1800. <http://bit.ly/2b6q4bM>

The Ark “Willie Nile” Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 10. 734-761-1800. www.theark.org

Dance

Eisenhower Dance Company “Eisenhower Dance Company: The Light Show” Pairs four choreographers with four lighting designers for a visually stunning evening of dance. Tickets: \$30. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 8 p.m. Nov. 18. 810-237-8689. www.TheWhiting.com

Wellspring Theater in the Epic Center “Fall Concert of Dance featuring the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestras Burdick-Thorne String Quartet” A special collaboration concert with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestras Burdick-Thorne String Quartet featuring works by composer Terry Riley. Tickets: \$12-\$25. Wellspring Theater in the Epic Center, 359 S. Kalamazoo Mall Ste. 204, Kalamazoo. 8 p.m. Nov. 11. 269342-4354. www.wellspringdance.org

Wellspring Theater in the Epic Center

“Fall Concert of Dance featuring the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestras Burdick-Thorne String Quartet” A special collaboration concert with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestras Burdick-Thorne String Quartet featuring works by composer Terry Riley. Tickets: \$12-\$25. Wellspring Theater in the Epic Center, 359 S. Kalamazoo Mall Ste. 204, Kalamazoo. 8 p.m. Nov. 12. 269342-4354. www.wellspringdance.org

Wellspring Theater in the Epic Center

“Fall Concert of Dance featuring the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestras Burdick-Thorne String Quartet” A special collaboration concert with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestras Burdick-Thorne String Quartet featuring works by composer Terry Riley. Tickets: \$12-\$25. Wellspring Theater in the Epic Center, 359 S. Kalamazoo Mall Ste. 204, Kalamazoo. 2 p.m. Nov. 13. 269342-4354. www.wellspringdance.org

SG: Other

Live Nation “An Evening with Jillian Michaels” Tickets: \$25-\$49.50. Reserved seats available. The Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Nov. 16. www.thefillmoredetroit.com

Shows

Bakers Keyboard Lounge “Bakers Keyboard Lounge Presents Every Wednesday OGD ft. Sky Covington” Join the Detroit Jazz Greats OGD (Gerard Gibbs, Perry Hughes & Gene Dunlap) ft. Sky Covington for live jazz, drinks and fun. Bakers Keyboard Lounge, 20510 Livernois, Detroit. 8:30 p.m. Oct. 12, 1 a.m. Oct. 19, 1 a.m. Oct. 26, 1 a.m. Nov. 2, 1 a.m. Nov. 9, 1 a.m. Nov. 16, 1 a.m. Nov. 23, 1 a.m. Nov. 30, 1 a.m. Dec. 7, 1 a.m. Dec. 14, 1 a.m. Dec. 21, 1 a.m. Dec. 28. 313-345-6300. www.theofficialbakerskeyboardlounge.com

Theater/Plays

A2CT's Improv Fall Showcase A Fall Showcase, with all three Civic Improv troupes performing in four shows. Tickets: \$10. Due to limited seating, ordering tickets in advance is recommended. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, A2CT Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 18, 10 p.m. Nov. 18, 8 p.m. Nov. 19, 10 p.m. Nov. 19. 734-971-2228. www.a2ct.org/events/improv-troupes



Silent Night

by Kevin Puts

November 12, 16, 19, 20, 2016

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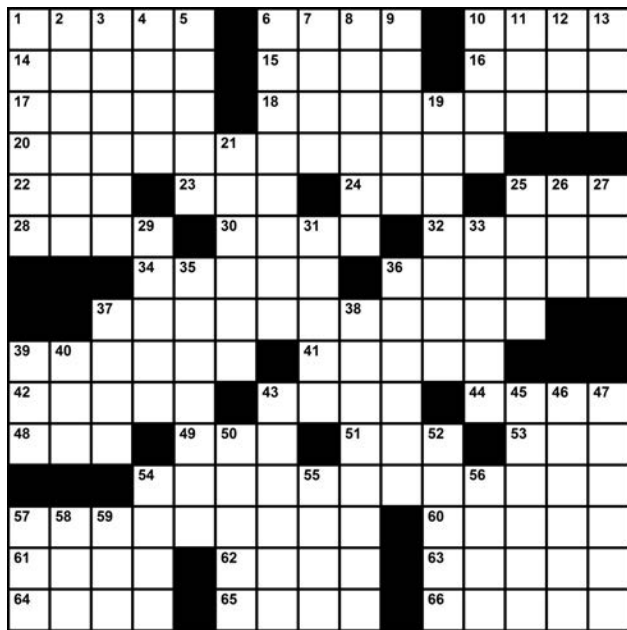
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- 41 Loy of "The Thin Man"
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 46 Erection, in slang
 47 Gaydar and such
 50 Went down on with gusto
 52 Made grain-sized
 54 "Charlie's Angels" role
 55 Thousandths of an angry inch?
 56 Legal plea, briefly
 57 Holiday's "___ Bless the Child"
 58 Meat source Down Under
 59 "Double Fantasy" artist

Emmy Loves Them

Across

- 1 Terence Stamp movie, with "The"
 6 Rick Rodgers preparation
 10 Ballet supporters?
 14 ___ Gay
 15 Continent of Margaret Cho's parents
 16 "Tombstone" hero
 17 Impassive
 18 Heart of a certain tart

- 20 Emmy winner for "American Crime Story"
 22 Scrape by, with "out"
 23 Divine co-star Hunter
 24 Brain test, for short
 25 Part of a chorus line?
 28 Sanford portrayer Foxx
 30 "Lady Sings the Blues" star
 32 More like some straits?
 34 Entangled
 36 "You're out of luck"
 37 Emmy winner for "Transparent"
 39 Human Rights Campaign fundraiser

Down

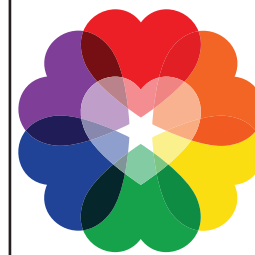
- 1 One of an evil pair
 2 Engine opening
 3 Tied up at the marina
 4 "A Streetcar Named Desire" director Kazan
 5 Cruise in style
 6 African storks
 7 Seesaw sitter of verse
 8 Kate Clinton keeps fans rolling in them
 9 Run out
 10 Jack McPhee, in "Dawson's Creek"

Find solution to this puzzle at www.pridesource.com

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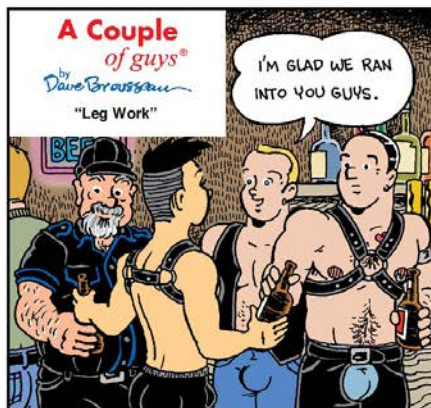


LOVE Wins

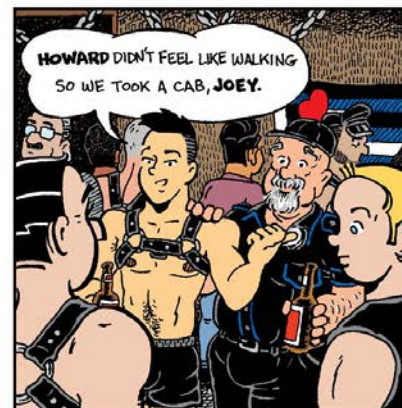
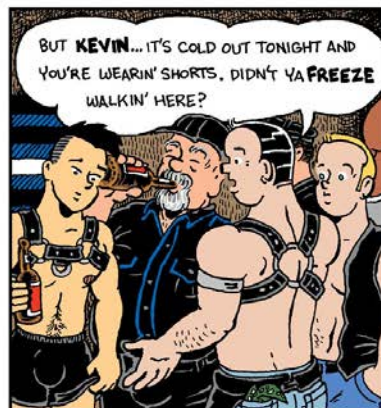
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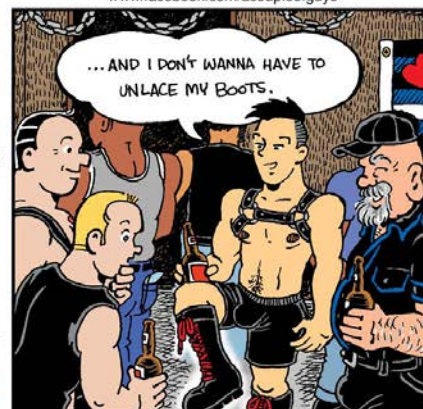
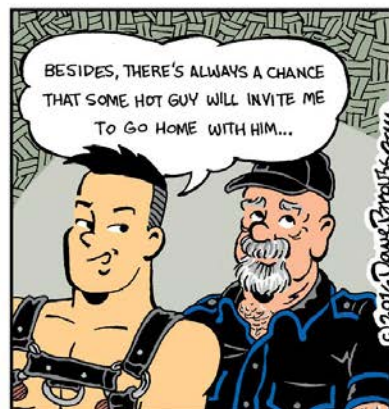
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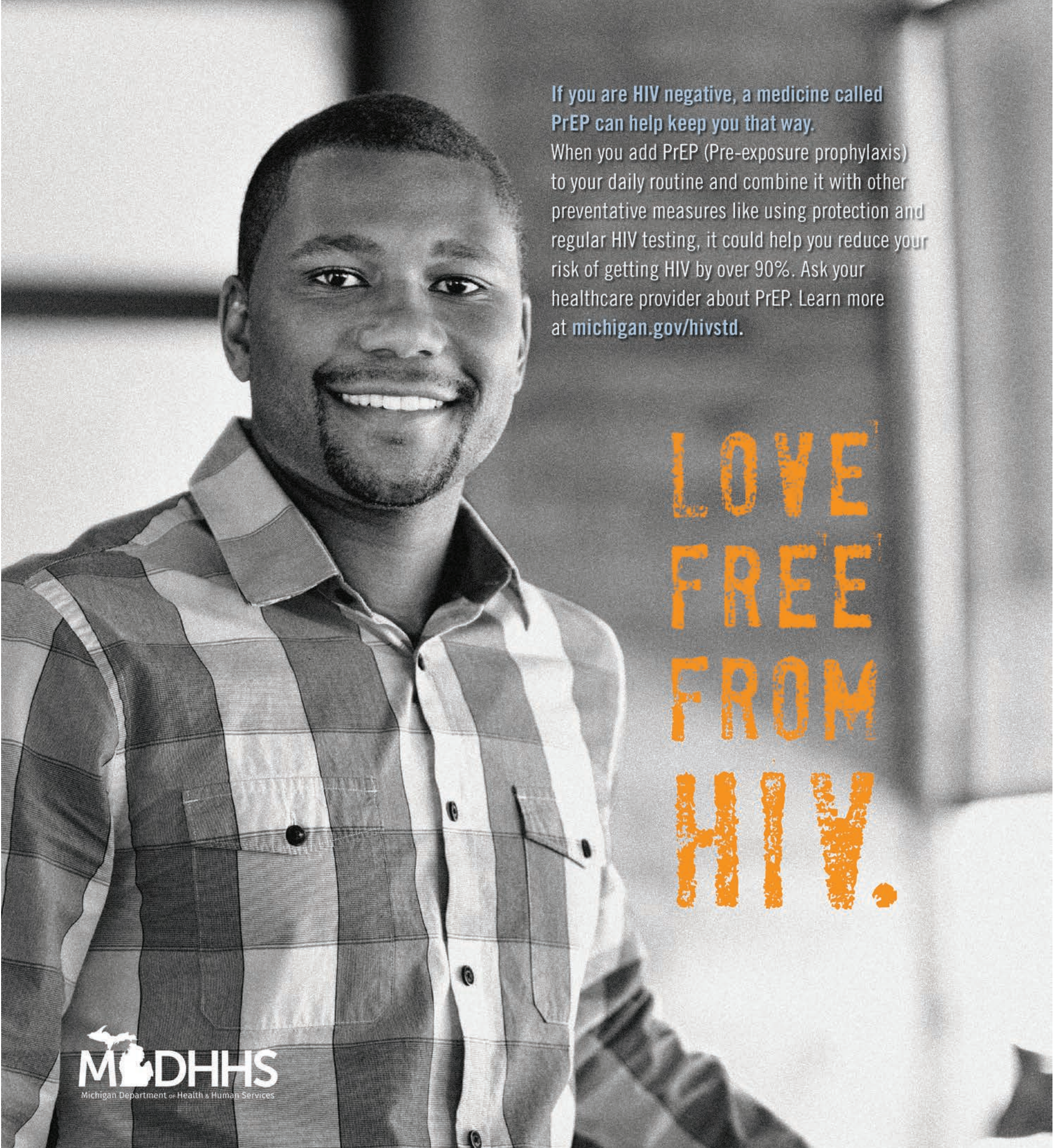
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