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Between THE Lines™

Where in the World
is Carmen Carrera?

PAGE 24

LGBT Detroit
Celebrates
Anniversary of
#SafeBraveSpace

PAGE 10

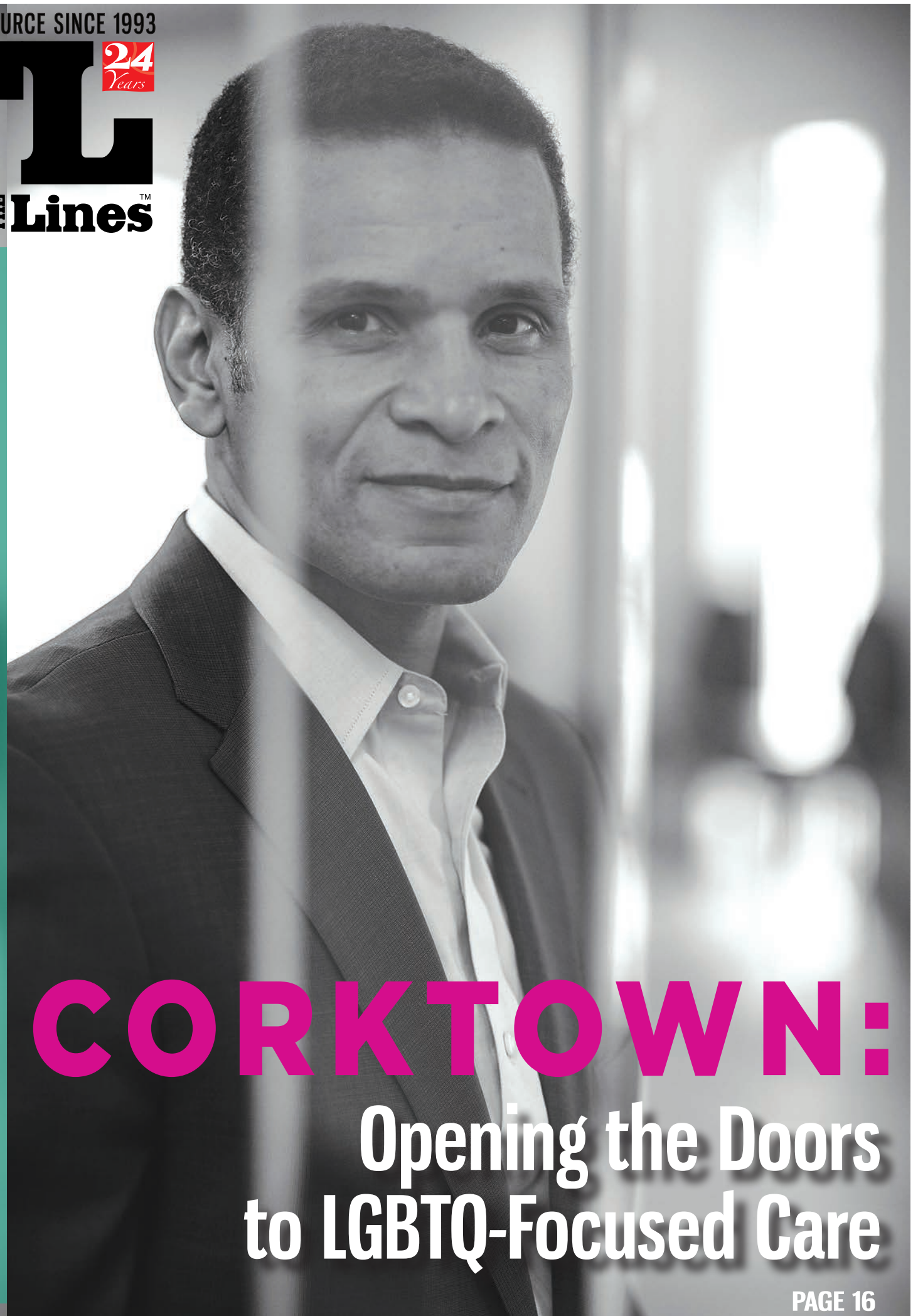
In First, Fed'l
Appeals Court
Rules Anti-gay
Bias Barred Under
Current Title VII

PAGE 8

Health
& **Wellness**
SPECIAL EDITION

PAGE 16-23

April 13, 2017
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CORKTOWN:

Opening the Doors to LGBTQ-Focused Care

PAGE 16

WHAT IS GENVOYA®?

GENVOYA is a 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years and older and weigh at least 77 lbs. It can either be used in people who are starting HIV-1 treatment and have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements. These include having an undetectable viral load (less than 50 copies/mL) for 6 months or more on their current HIV-1 treatment. GENVOYA combines 4 medicines into 1 pill taken once a day with food. GENVOYA is a complete HIV-1 treatment and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.

GENVOYA does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS. To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses, you must keep taking GENVOYA. 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 GENVOYA?

GENVOYA may cause serious side effects:

- **Build-up 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 in 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 GENVOYA 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.** GENVOYA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV and stop taking GENVOYA, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking GENVOYA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

Who should not take GENVOYA?

Do not take GENVOYA if you take:

- **Certain prescription medicines for other conditions.**

It is important to ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with GENVOYA. Do not start a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.

- **The herbal supplement St. John's wort.**
- **Any other medicines to treat HIV-1 infection.**

What are the other possible side effects of GENVOYA?

Serious side effects of GENVOYA 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 GENVOYA.
- **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. If you develop new or worse kidney problems, they may tell you to stop taking GENVOYA.

The most common side effect of GENVOYA 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 GENVOYA?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney 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 GENVOYA 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 GENVOYA with all of your other medicines.
- **If you take antacids.** Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take GENVOYA.
- **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if GENVOYA can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking GENVOYA.
- **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 GENVOYA including Important Warnings on the following page.

Ask your healthcare provider if GENVOYA is right for you, and visit GENVOYA.com to learn more.



GENVOYA does not
cure HIV-1 or AIDS.



SHOW YOUR **POWER**

Take care of what matters most—you. GENVOYA is a **1-pill, once-a-day complete HIV-1 treatment** for people who are either new to treatment or people whose healthcare provider determines they can replace their current HIV-1 medicines with GENVOYA.

Genvoya 
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200mg/tenofovir alafenamide 10mg tablets

LOVE
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INSIDE™



elvitegravir 150mg/cobicistat 150mg/emtricitabine
200mg/tenofovir alafenamide 10mg tablets

(jen-VOY-uh)

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT GENVOYA

GENVOYA® may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Build-up 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; light-colored bowel movements (stools); loss of appetite; nausea; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness in the right side of your stomach area.
- **Worsening of Hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** GENVOYA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking GENVOYA. Do not stop taking GENVOYA 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 GENVOYA for a long time.

ABOUT GENVOYA

- GENVOYA is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years of age and older and weigh at least 77 lbs who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. GENVOYA can also be used to replace current HIV-1 medicines for some people who have an undetectable viral load (less than 50 copies/mL of virus in their blood), and have been on the same HIV-1 medicines for at least 6 months and have never failed HIV-1 treatment, and whose healthcare provider determines that they meet certain other requirements.
- **GENVOYA does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.

Do NOT take GENVOYA if you:

- Take a medicine that contains: alfuzosin (Uroxatral®), carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Epitol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®, Tegretol-XR®, Teril®), cisapride (Propulsid®, Propulsid Quicksolv®), dihydroergotamine (D.H.E. 45®, Migranal®), ergotamine (Cafergot®, Migergot®, Ergostat®, Medihaler Ergotamine®, Wigraine®, Wigrettes®), lovastatin (Advicor®, Altoprev®, Mevacor®), lurasidone (Latuda®), methylergonovine (Ergorate®, Methergine®), midazolam (when taken by mouth), phenobarbital (Luminal®), phenytoin (Dilantin®, Phenytek®), pimozone (Orap®), rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, Rimactane®), sildenafil when used for lung problems (Revatio®), simvastatin (Simcor®, Vytorin®, Zocor®), or triazolam (Halcion®).
- Take the herbal supplement St. John’s wort.
- Take any other HIV-1 medicines at the same time.

IMPORTANT FACTS

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

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF GENVOYA

GENVOYA can cause serious side effects, including:

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

The most common side effect of GENVOYA is nausea.

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

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

BEFORE TAKING GENVOYA

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney 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 GENVOYA.

HOW TO TAKE GENVOYA

- GENVOYA is a complete one pill, once a day HIV-1 medicine.
- Take GENVOYA with food.

GET MORE INFORMATION

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



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COVER

16 HELP's chairman Anthony Williams is focused on ensuring Corktown Health Center is well prepared to manage steady growth

NEWS

- 6 4th Circuit Denies Request to Expedite Gavin Grimm Case
- 6 Victory for LGBTQ Rights in Jackson
- 8 In First, Fed'l Appeals Court Rules Anti-gay Bias Barred Under Current Title VII Law
- 9 Court Rules for Same-sex Couple Denied Housing by Colo. Landlord
- 10 LGBT Detroit Celebrates Anniversary of #SafeBraveSpace
- 14 LGBT Groups Seek to Derail Army Nominee Over Anti-trans Views
- 15 New Mexico Latest State to Ban Discredited 'Ex-gay' Therapy

OPINION

- 12 Parting Glances
- 12 Viewpoint
- 11 Creep of the Week: Mark Green

LIFE

- 24 Where in the World is Carmen Carrera?
- 26 Cool Cities: Royal Oak
- 29 The Frivolist: 4 Reasons Why Banning Bachelorette Parties from Gay Bars is Wrong
- 32 Happenings
- 34 Classifieds
- 35 Puzzle and Comic

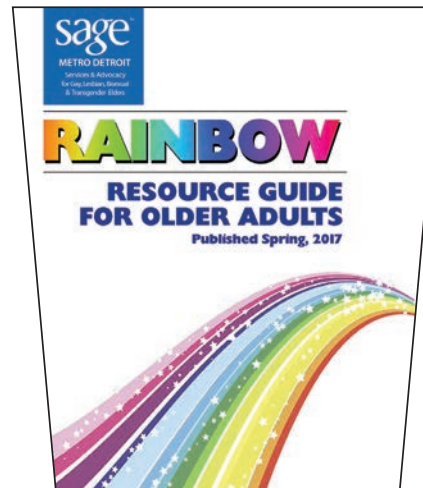
NATIONAL NEWS



Two Important Federal Cases Score a Win for LGBTQ people

pg. 9

SPRING HEALTH & WELLNESS



HEALTH

- 16 Opening the Doors to LGBTQ-Focused Care
- 18 AHIMA Practice Brief Stresses Importance of Inclusive Healthcare Practices
- 20 Orchid Technology Helping LGBTQ People Feel More Welcome in Hospitals
- 20 Dem Gubernatorial Candidates Call for Reform of State's HIV-Specific Law
- 21 SAGE Metro Detroit Director Reflects on Two Busy Years in the State
- 22 National LGBTQ Task Force Urges Congress to Stop Trumpcare

HAPPENINGS



Best LGBT Events and More

p. 32

BUILDING COMMUNITY



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- 36 NBC Out to Launch Inaugural #Pride30 List
- 36 Playground Detroit to Launch Artist Space in Eastern Market
- 38 Progress Michigan Names Jeremy Moss 'Legislator of the Month'
- 38 Ozone House Creates Zen Room for Young People

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4th Circuit Denies Request to Expedite Gavin Grimm Case

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS, WASHINGTON BLADE

A federal appeals court on Friday denied a motion to expedite the case of a transgender student who is challenging his Virginia school district's bathroom policy.

Gavin Grimm in 2015 filed a lawsuit against the Gloucester County School District's policy prohibiting students from using bathrooms and locker rooms that don't correspond with their "biological gender."

The U.S. Supreme Court was scheduled to hear oral arguments in Grimm's case on March 28. The justices remanded it to the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond after President Trump rescinded guidance to public schools that said Title IX requires them to allow trans students to use restrooms based on their gender identity.

"Treating trans students with dignity and respect should not be controversial," said Grimm on Thursday as he spoke during a congressional forum that House Democrats hosted on Capitol Hill. "The decision to



Photo: Gavin Grimm. Photo courtesy of American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia

withdraw the guidance sent a terrible message to some of the most vulnerable people that President Trump - the leader of our country - and his administration do not care about protecting you from discrimination."

The American Civil Liberties Union, who represents Grimm, asked the 4th Circuit to consider the case next month before their client graduates from Gloucester County High School.

The next window in which the 4th Circuit could consider Grimm's case is in September.

Victory for LGBTQ Rights in Jackson

Jackson Circuit Court Judge Rules in Favor of Non-discrimination Ordinance

BY BTL STAFF

Jackson Circuit Court Judge Thomas Wilson ruled to accept a consent order between Jackson Together and the City of Jackson that finally allows the city's non-discrimination order to take affect. As of April 11, anti-LGBTQ discrimination is no longer legal in Jackson. Jackson joins over 40 other cities across Michigan that have steadily modernized their laws to protect all citizens over the past 50 years.

"For nearly 20 years, the people of Jackson have been asking their elected officials to outlaw discrimination against the LGBTQ community, and they have finally been heard," said Stephanie White, executive director of Equality Michigan.

The order stipulates that the petitions violated state and local election law and that the City Clerk's certification of the petitions was invalid.

"Equality Michigan feels incredibly lucky to be able to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Jackson Together to help support their long-time efforts and the people of Jackson are lucky to have such heroic and dogged activists fighting for their rights."

After hearing from Jackson Together attorney John Pirich and Jackson City Attorney Bethany Vujov, Judge Wilson

See Jackson, page 10

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In First, Fed'l Appeals Court Rules Anti-gay Bias Barred Under Current Title VII Law

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

For the first time, a federal appeals court has determined discrimination based on sexual orientation amounts to sex discrimination and is unlawful under current civil rights law.

In a 69-page decision, the U.S. 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago ruled April 4 in the case of *Hively v. Ivy Tech Community College* anti-gay workplace bias is unlawful under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, reversing an earlier decision from a three-judge panel finding precedent precludes the court from making that determination.

Writing for the majority in the 8-3 decision, U.S. Chief Judge Diane Wood, a Clinton appointee, finds discrimination based on sexual orientation constitutes discrimination based on one's perception of gender stereotypes, which the U.S. Supreme Court has determined is unlawful under Title VII.

"Any discomfort, disapproval, or job decision based on the fact that the complainant – woman or man – dresses differently, speaks differently, or dates or marries a same-sex partner, is a reaction purely and simply based on sex," Wood writes. "That means that it falls within Title VII's prohibition against sex discrimination, if it affects employment in one of the specified ways."

Wood also relies heavily on the reasoning in the 1967 U.S. Supreme Court decision in the case of *Loving v. Virginia*, which struck down bans on interracial marriage and served as a basis for the court's ruling in favor of marriage equality in 2015.

"Changing the race of one partner made a difference in determining the legality of the conduct, and so the law rested on distinctions drawn according to race, which were unjustifiable and racially discriminatory," Wood writes. "So too, here. If we were to change the sex of one partner in a lesbian relationship, the outcome would be different. This reveals that the discrimination rests on distinctions drawn according to sex."

Wood cautions the ruling "decided only the issue put before us" and not, for example, whether Ivy Tech is a religious institution and therefore entitled to the religious exemption under Title VII, nor the legality of anti-gay discrimination "in the context of the provision of social or public services."

"We hold only that a person who alleges that she experienced employment discrimination

on the basis of her sexual orientation has put forth a case of sex discrimination for Title VII purposes," Wood concludes. "It was therefore wrong to dismiss Hively's complaint for failure to state a claim."

New Trend

In a new trend, a number of district courts have begun to rule anti-gay discrimination violates federal laws against sex discrimination, but federal appeals courts – including the 11th Circuit and the 2nd Circuit – had continued to reject that interpretation of Title VII until now. The 7th Circuit ruling marks the first time a federal court has reached that conclusion after decades of gay, lesbian and bisexual plaintiffs filing complaints before federal courts under that law.

The ruling reverses and remands the lower court ruling in the case, which was filed in 2014 by Kimberly Hively against her former employer, the Indiana-based Ivy Tech Community College, where she worked as a part-time professor. The lawsuit alleged the school violated Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by denying Hively full-time employment and promotions because she's a lesbian.

Echoing Wood in a concurring decision is U.S. Circuit Judge Richard Posner, who was responsible for the 7th Circuit's decision in favor of marriage equality in 2015 and opined in this case changing attitudes toward sex and gender call for a new interpretation of Title VII.

"The position of a woman discriminated against on account of being a lesbian is thus analogous to a woman's being discriminated against on account of being a woman," Posner writes. "That woman didn't choose to be a woman; the lesbian didn't choose to be a lesbian. I don't see why firing a lesbian because she is in the subset of women who are lesbian should be thought any less a form of sex discrimination than firing a woman because she's a woman."

But Posner cautioned against basing the decision on Supreme Court precedent prohibiting gender stereotyping in *Oncale*, which he wrote is "rather evasive," or *Loving*, which he said was a constitutional case based on race and "had nothing to do with the recently enacted Title VII."

Despite criticism of the judiciary for allegedly interpreting the law in ways

inconsistent with the intentions of Congress, Posner writes that's not a problem because he says courts do it "fairly frequently to avoid statutory obsolescence and concomitantly to avoid placing the entire burden of updating old statutes on the legislative branch."

Also writing a concurring opinion was U.S. Circuit Judge Joel Flaum, a Reagan-appointed judge who writes that sexual orientation discrimination constitutes sex discrimination under Title VII without any need to reinterpret the law.

"So if discriminating against an employee because she is homosexual is equivalent to discriminating against her because she is (A) a woman who is (B) sexually attracted to women, then it is motivated, in part, by an enumerated trait: The employee's sex," Flaum writes. "That is all an employee must show to successfully allege a Title VII claim."

Writing the dissent in the case was U.S. Circuit Judge Diane Sykes, a George W. Bush-appointed judge who writes the majority "deploys a judge-empowering, common-law decision method that leaves a great deal of room for judicial discretion."

"Respect for the constraints imposed on the judiciary by a system of written law must begin with fidelity to the traditional first principle of statutory interpretation: When a statute supplies the rule of decision, our role is to give effect to the enacted text, interpreting the statutory language as a reasonable person would have understood it at the time of enactment," Sykes writes. "We are not authorized to infuse the text with a new or unconventional meaning or to update it to respond to changed social, economic, or political conditions."

Sykes was on the list of judges from which President Trump said during his campaign he'd make appointments to the U.S. Supreme Court and reportedly was one of the three picks on the short list for the late U.S. Associate Justice Antonin Scalia's seat before Trump nominated U.S. Circuit Judge Neil Gorsuch.

The decision was a source of joy for LGBT rights supporters, who for decades have made a priority of protecting LGBT workers from discrimination.

Greg Nevins, employment fairness program director for Lambda Legal and attorney for the plaintiff, said in a statement the decision is a "gamechanger" for gay people facing workplace discrimination and "sends a clear message to employers: It is against the

law to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation."

"In many cities and states across the country, lesbian and gay workers are being fired because of who they love," Nevins said. "But, with this decision, federal law is catching up to public opinion: ninety-percent of Americans already believe that LGBT employees should be valued for how well they do their jobs—not who they love or who they are. Now, through this case and others, that principle is backed up by the courts."

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the U.S. agency charged with enforcing federal employment civil rights law, determined in its 2015 decision in the case of *Baldwin v. Foxx* that discrimination against workers for being gay, lesbian or bisexual violates Title VII.

Chad Feldblum, a lesbian and commissioner of the EEOC, said in reaction to the Hively ruling she hopes the decision will serve as model for outside the 7th Circuit in sexual-orientation discrimination cases.

"I am gratified to see that the Seventh Circuit has adopted the simple logic that sexual orientation discrimination is a form of sex discrimination and I hope its reasoning can serve as a model for other courts," Feldblum said.

The 7th Circuit is composed of Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana. Wisconsin and Illinois already had state laws against sexual-orientation discrimination in employment, but the ruling assures for the first-time gay, lesbian and bisexual workers have recourse if they face discrimination in Indiana.

Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, said the decision "opens the door to a new era for LGBTQ plaintiffs under federal sex discrimination law."

"With this historic decision, the 7th Circuit is the first federal appellate court to acknowledge that discrimination because a person is gay, lesbian or bisexual can only reasonably be understood as discrimination based on sex," Minter said. "The court deserves credit for rejecting the tortured rationales of older decisions and undertaking a principled analysis, based on the Supreme Court's affirmation in *Price Waterhouse* and other cases, that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 must be broadly construed to prohibit the full range of sex-based discrimination."

See Federal Appeals, next page



Tonya and Rachel Smith were denied housing in Colorado, but a judge found that violated the Fair Housing Act. Photo courtesy of Lambda Legal

Court Rules for Same-sex Couple Denied Housing by Colo. Landlord

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

A federal judge has ruled for a same-sex couple who alleged discrimination after a Colorado landlord refused to grant them housing, issuing relief on the basis the discrimination they faced amounted to unlawful sex stereotyping.

In a 12-page decision, U.S. District Judge Raymond Moore, an Obama appointee, ruled Wednesday the Boulder County property owner violated the Fair Housing Act and the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act by denying housing to Rachel, who's transgender, and Tonya Smith. The couple were married seven years ago and have two children, ages seven and three.

The couple, represented by Lambda Legal, argued the landlord, Deepika Avanti, discriminated against them for failing to

conform to gender stereotypes violates the prohibition on sex discrimination in the Fair Housing Act.

"The Court agrees," Moore ruled. "Such stereotypical norms are no different from other stereotypes associated with women, such as the way she should dress or act (e.g., that a woman should not be overly aggressive, or should not act macho), and are products of sex stereotyping."

Moore also grants relief on the basis the landlord's denial of housing to the couple violates a state law in Colorado prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation and familial status.

Although the couple made the case the Fair Housing Act was violated explicitly because of the transgender status of Rachel and the

See Denied Housing, page 11

► Federal Appeals

Continued from p. 8

Although Ivy Tech Community College could file a petition for certiorari to urge the U.S. Supreme Court to reverse the 7th Circuit decision, the school has indicated it won't pursue that route.

"Ivy Tech Community College rejects discrimination of all types, sexual-orientation discrimination is specifically barred by our policies," said Jeff Fanter, an Ivy Tech spokesperson. "Ivy Tech respects and appreciates the opinions rendered by the judges of the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals and does not intend to seek Supreme Court review. The college denies that it discriminated against the plaintiff on the basis

of her sex or sexual orientation and will defend the plaintiff's claims on the merits in the trial court."

With the 7th Circuit decision, workplace protections for gay, lesbian and bisexual people are catching up to those of transgender people. For years, federal appeals courts have determined discrimination against workers for being transgender amounts to sex discrimination under Title VII, but haven't done so for sexual orientation discrimination. In 2012, the U.S. EEOC affirmed anti-trans discrimination is unlawful under Title VII in the case of Macy v. Holder.

This article originally appeared in the Washington Blade and is made available in partnership with the National Gay Media Association.



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LGBT Detroit Celebrates Anniversary of #SafeBraveSpace

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

It's called Detroit's new #SafeBraveSpace – yes, with a hashtag – and visitors are invited to check it out next week. LGBT Detroit is celebrating a year since acquiring their new headquarters on Detroit's Northwest side with a reception to take place April 20 from 5:30-8 p.m.

"It has been an amazing year since the community came together to help make the vision of a safe, brave space a reality for the Metro Detroit LGBT community," said Curtis Lipscomb, executive director for LGBT Detroit. "We want to come together to celebrate and ensure that the work continues."

Since moving into the new space in September, LGBT Detroit has been able to stretch out and expand services.

"We went from a one-room facility to a 24-room facility," Lipscomb said. "We were limited before. We like the new space a lot. We're not on top of each other like we were. Free parking helps, too. Programming was affected badly when we were in midtown by the parking constraints there."

Lipscomb acted as project manager and oversaw initial work at the new space required to receive a certificate of occupancy. Now he's looking to take the next steps.

"We're looking at the space to maximize its use," said Lipscomb. "It's time to work with professionals to optimize every square foot possible. We're able to present a case to potential donors to maximize this space."

"We're securing another architect," Lipscomb continued. "We've had some conversations with a major foundation that's eager to work with us. And we believe once we get past Hotter Than July we can concentrate on that in the late summer, early fall. But we've already begun to have the conversation."

The anniversary event will take place on the same day as the national Give Out Day, an annual fundraising project that aims to support LGBT organizations. These funds have



LGBT Detroit celebrates the purchase of their 3,500-square-foot building on Greenfield Road between Seven and Eight Mile in Detroit. Photo courtesy of LGBT Detroit

“It has been an amazing year since the community came together to help make the vision of a safe, brave space a reality for the Metro Detroit LGBT community. We want to come together to celebrate and ensure that the work continues.”

– Curtis Lipscomb, executive director for LGBT Detroit.

translated directly into services, advocacy, and programs that help tens of thousands of LGBT people. The funds help LGBT Detroit provide services and programs such as the LGBT Cancer Action Council, Detroit Elder Project, Woman 2 Woman and the LGBT Detroit Leadership Academy.



Curtis Lipscomb, BTL Photo: Andrew Potter

"We've hosted the LGBT Cancer Action Council here," said Lipscomb. "We are now able to hold our classes for smoking cessation here. The Detroit Elder Project, which we

partner with Hannan Foundation in Midtown, that is currently held at Hannan House, we can now host them here. Woman 2 Women definitely got expanded. It's nice to have two meetings rooms instead of one big room."

LGBT Detroit also has a new partnership with the University of Michigan Center for Sexuality and Health Disparities and the University of Pennsylvania's Program for Sexuality, Technology and Action Research. Together they will conduct the SWERVE Study for substance-using young men and trans women who have sex with men in Southeast Michigan.

Attendees at the anniversary event will be able to learn about all of LGBT Detroit's programming and more. There will be classic disco music spun by Mike Trombley with Macho City and a strolling buffet from Chef Ulysses Jones of Taylor One Gourmet Catering. The event will also feature inspirational remarks from Reverend Jeffrey Seals of One Church Detroit.

"We're gonna celebrate," Lipscomb said. "We're just going to have a very casual experience so people can see the space, have a conversation, meet donors and staff. We're just excited to be a part of Detroit's success, right in the neighborhood, changing hearts and minds ... putting in an effort to make Detroit safer."

Antonio Johnson Seals, board president for LGBT Detroit, said much of the same. "This is a step in the right direction for lgbt Detroit," said Johnson Seals. "I call it moving forward. I just hope that our own community welcomes us and utilizes this space we're creating for them."

Tickets to LGBT Detroit's anniversary event on April 20 are available by phone at 313-397-2127. Tickets start at \$35. The event will take place at the #SafeBraveSpace located at 20025 Greenfield Road in Detroit.

► Jackson

Continued from p. 6

approved the Stipulation and Order proposed by Jackson Together and approved by the Jackson City Council in a special session held April 7.

Among other things, the order stipulates that the petitions violated state and local election

law and that the City Clerk's certification of the petitions was invalid. It orders that the NDO not be suspended and that it takes immediate effect. The order was signed and entered immediately after the hearing.

Jackson Circuit Court Judge Thomas Wilson also denied anti-LGBTQ attorney David Kallman's request to appear on behalf of Jackson City Clerk Andrew Wrozek. EQMI

has encountered Kallman in the past during NDO efforts. Most recently in 2013 during the One Capitol Region campaign to pass NDOs in Delta, Meridian, and Delhi Townships.

The case was dismissed with prejudice, thereby preventing any further action on this case.

City of Jackson Mayor Bill Jors and Councilman Craig Pappin were the only

members of the Jackson City Council to vote against the NDO when it originally passed.

For more information about Jackson Together, visit their Facebook page www.facebook.com/JacksonTogether.

► Denied Housing

Continued from p. 9

couple's sexual orientation, Moore declined to accept this argument.

"The Court declines to do so for two reasons," Moore writes. "First, the Motion as to Count I is based on sex stereotyping, and Count I's reliance on sex stereotype as 'discrimination based on sex' did not include such allegations. Second, Count I also relies on discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity/expression, but the Motion was not based on such theories. To the extent Plaintiffs are attempting to bootstrap such other theories onto their sex stereotype theory, the Court declines to consider something not pled."

The decision comes on the heels of the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that determined sexual-orientation discrimination in the workplace violates the ban on sex discrimination in Title VII of the Civil Rights of 1964.

Had the district court in Colorado adopted the same idea, it would have been the first to determine the prohibition on sex discrimination under Fair Housing Act also bars discrimination in housing on the basis of sexual orientation.

Omar Gonzalez-Pagan, staff attorney for Lambda Legal and attorney for the couple, nonetheless said in a statement the decision is a "tremendous victory" for LGBT people

“ This is two federal courts two days in a row that have said that laws prohibiting sex discrimination protect LGBT people. It sends a strong message: discrimination against LGBT Americans in housing and employment is illegal and will not be tolerated. ”

- Omar Gonzalez-Pagan, staff attorney for Lambda Legal and attorney for the couple.

because it found anti-LGBT discrimination stems from sex stereotyping.

"For the first time, a federal court has ruled that the Fair Housing Act's sex discrimination prohibitions apply to discrimination based on stereotypes about sexual orientation and gender identity," Gonzalez-Pagan said. "This is two federal courts two days in a row that have said that laws prohibiting sex discrimination protect LGBT people. It sends a strong message: discrimination against LGBT Americans in housing and employment is illegal and will not be tolerated."

In 2015, Tonya and Rachel Smith sought to rent a two-bedroom home in Gold Hill, Colo., along with their children. Although Avanti

expressed a willingness to rent the home to the family, that changed after she met the couple in person.

Avanti allegedly wrote to the couple in an email after meeting them and declined to offer the house to them based on the couple's "uniqueness" and a fear it would jeopardize her standing in the community.

"Your unique relationship would become the town focus, in small towns everyone talks and gossips, all of us would be the most popular subject of town, in this way I could not be a low profile," Avanti wrote.

In a statement, Tonya Smith said the couple is "delighted with this ruling" because of hardship the couple had to endure in their

search for housing.

"We were so shocked and upset by Deepika's emails, that simply because of who we are she wouldn't rent to us," Tonya Smith said. "We felt it was unfair and illegal, and now a court has agreed. No one should ever have to go through what we went through, and hopefully this ruling will protect other couples like us who are trying to provide safe homes for their families."

The prayer of relief sought by the couple was a determination Avanti's actions violated both federal and state law; an order enjoining the landlord from future discrimination and requiring her to complete a fair housing training; and payment for compulsory and punitive damages as well as litigation costs.

Gonzalez-Pagan said in a statement the decision serves as evidence housing discrimination is a pervasive problem for LGBT people, but "very much underreported."

"In many instances, LGBT people who are either overtly or subtly discriminated against in housing do not report the discrimination because of their immediate need to find housing or due to the costs of pursuing a claim," Gonzalez-Pagan said. "Property owners who engage in this kind of discrimination must be held accountable."

This article originally appeared in the and is made available in partnership with the National Gay Media Association.



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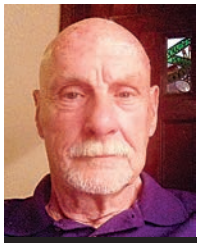
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One Thankful Day at a Time

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

I had my first drink when I was 14 or 15 in the basement of the apartment building that my friend Donny Well's parents managed.

Donny was my age, and the half empty bottle of cheap wine was 'borrowed' from his folks ample supply. The few gulps that I took was exciting. Forbidden. Slightly erotic in its stealth and covert very underage daring.

When I was in my late teens I roller skated three nights a week at the Arcadia Roller Rink on mid-Detroit's Woodward Avenue. Alcohol was supplied by friends who were 21. It was great lubrication to skating to recorded Rhythm & Blues music.

(At 18, aware that I was gay, it gave me a secret pleasure to learn that hot number Billy Blair was being 'serviced' by rink owner and skate dance organist Don Norton. When Don's wife found out, the music got very much off tempo for him.)

I borrowed a friends ID when I visited my first gay bar at 19, a dyke bar, The Silver Slipper. Gay men and straight 'tourists' sat on the main floor. Lesbians, dykes, stone butches, in the balcony area. Once famous

At 21, I started going to Detroit's half dozen or so gay and lesbian bars. And, as was the accepted social expectation and behavior I drank.

Chi Chi LaTrine was the comic host.

At 21, I started going to Detroit's half dozen or so gay and lesbian bars. And, as was the accepted social expectation and behavior I drank. Beer 50 cents a bottle. Martinis, a buck fifty. Year by year my tolerance increased.

Gay bars were for a long period of time the only place where homosexuals could meet, socialize, make out. The ideal bars were those that had a back door entrance so that one could enter unseen.

(The smart phone has changed all that. For many LGBTs it seems to work. Perhaps with the big exception that face-to-face, in person, warm body socializing is bypassed. First meetings after online contact tend to be awkward, disappointing, don't match up with online photos.)

It's my understanding that an alcoholic's body metabolism is such that capacity and tolerance increase, in contrast to a non-alcoholic, who with one too many drinks gets sleepy, nauseous, or stops. I was the former. I could keep going.

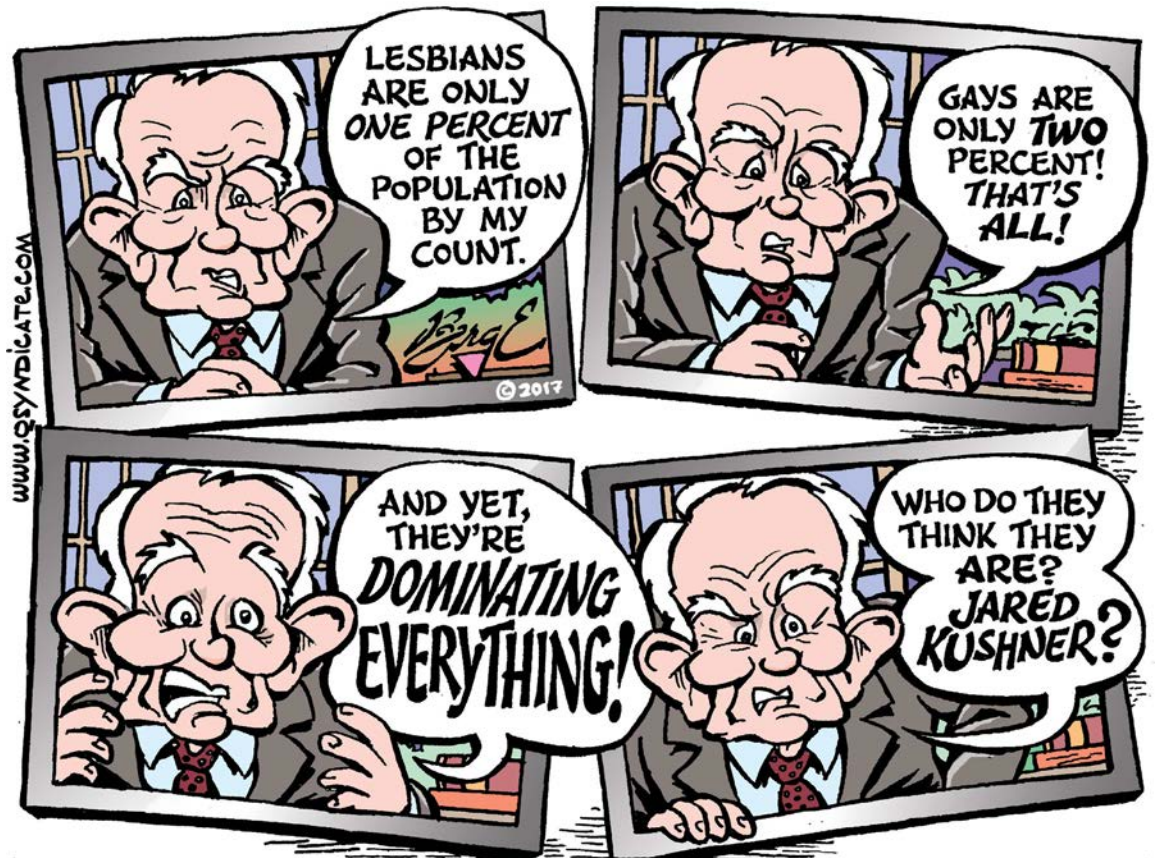
(I also had a grandfather who was alcoholic, who passed out in the snow one long-ago winter and shortly thereafter died of pneumonia.)

In 1981, my alcoholism caught up with me. I had at Christmastime a classic lost weekend. A near brush with the the outer edge of time and total mental instability. I was told not to return to my work as an educational professional without seeking help. Fortunately, I did so.

My alcohol rehab took place at Cottage Hospital and, a month later, at Deaconess Hospital. Both centers are no longer operating. I am, shall I say, eternally grateful to both staff and their respective programs.

Recovery advice: Seek an established hospital rehab program; join AA or Secular Sobriety; get in touch with affirming LGBT spiritual affiliations (MCC Detroit has sustained my sobriety for decades); cut back on caffeine and sugar consumption; take daily vitamin supplements (with strong B content); avoid Xanax and other opioids as tools for recovery.

I am eternally grateful to realize and to share that I have had a second chance at rewarding LGBT living, one day at a time for 36 years. I owe my ongoing, one-a-day art and my BTL columns to my recovery from alcohol addiction. Happy Easter. One resurrection at a time.



BY JAY KAPLAN

Viewpoint

7th Circuit Decision 'Ultimate Case'

Two very important and significant court decisions impacting LGBT rights were issued last week. The first, *Hively v. Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana*, is a 7th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that "discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is a form of sex discrimination" prohibited by Title VII (the federal law that bars employment discrimination based on sex). The lawsuit was filed by Kimberly Hively, a lesbian who was working as an adjunct professor at Ivy Tech. Despite years of successful teaching, her attempts to secure a full-time tenure position were unsuccessful and finally her contract was not renewed under circumstances that led her to believe that it was because of her sexual orientation. *Hively* is the first federal appellate court decision to embrace this legal theory. The 7th Circuit covers the states of Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin, and this decision will especially help LGBT people in Indiana who have no specific protections against discrimination in their state civil rights laws.

What makes this decision especially authoritative is that it was decided upon rehearing of an appeal "en banc." En banc is a term in which an appeal is heard by all of the active judges on a federal Circuit Court of Appeals instead of by a three-judge panel that typically decides appeals. Of the 11 judges who heard this appeal,

eight agreed that current federal law prohibiting sex discrimination also protects against sexual orientation discrimination. This decision was non-partisan in that five out of the eight majority judges were appointed by Republican Presidents.

While there have been a number of federal appellate decisions that have held that discrimination against LGBT people for failure to conform with gender stereotypes (as to how men and women should look, act, dress, love, etc) is illegal sex discrimination, the 7th Circuit decision says that not being heterosexual represents the "ultimate case" of not conforming to sex stereotypes because "it is based on assumptions about the proper behavior for someone of a given sex." In other words, LGBT people inherently will not conform to gender stereotypes and that fact more often than not is the impetus for discrimination.

As the 7th Circuit further explained that "[a]ny discomfort, disapproval, or job decision based on the fact that the complainant- a woman or man- dresses different, speaks different, or date or marries a same-sex partner, is reaction purely based on sex."

The decision is consistent with federal agencies, such as the Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, Labor, HUD, as well the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), which enforces

See next page

► **Kaplan:**

Continued from p. 13

Title VII and investigates employment discrimination complaints. The decision is also consistent with numerous federal court decisions (including the 6th Circuit, which covers Michigan) that have held that gender identity discrimination against transgender persons is barred as a form of sex discrimination.

The 7th Circuit decision creates a split in the Circuit Court of Appeals that makes it increasingly likely that the U.S. Supreme Court will eventually have to weigh in on this issue to resolve it nationally.

While Ivy Tech College has announced it will not seek Supreme Court review, the 7th Circuit's decision makes it likely that other federal courts will follow their lead. Even if these appellate courts do not agree with the 7th Circuit, the losing LGBT plaintiff in another circuit would have a strong argument for the Supreme Court to hear an appeal, given the conflict that would be created between the 7th Circuit's decision and theirs.

The second important decision (*Smith v. Avanti*) came from a federal district court in Colorado, where Judge Raymond Moore held that a landlord discriminated against Tonya and Rachel Smith when she refused to rent to them because of their "uniqueness." The Smiths are a same-sex couple with two children. Rachel is transgender. The landlord told the couple that she had kept a low profile for 30 years, but that wouldn't be possible if she rented to the Smiths because of their "unique relationship".

The Court found that the landlord discriminated against the Smith family because they did not conform to traditional gender stereotypes in violation of the Fair Housing Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in housing. Judge Moore's opinion marks that first time that a federal court has ruled that the Fair Housing Act's sex discrimination prohibitions apply to discrimination based on stereotypes about sexual orientation and gender identity.

Both case decisions are significant steps forwards towards LGBT equality. The Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund are to be applauded for their work on both of these cases. The decisions also point out just how high the stakes are for

The 7th Circuit decision creates a split in the Circuit Court of Appeals that makes it increasingly likely that the United States Supreme Court will eventually have to weigh in on this issue to resolve it nationally.

our community in terms of the make-up of the federal judiciary. Like many other minority groups, the LGBT community often depends on courts to protect our equality and freedom, particularly when we live in a State like Michigan where the current legislative majority is hostile to our issues (and has consistently failed to amend our State civil rights laws to specifically include sexual orientation and gender identity). In finding that civil rights laws prohibiting sex discrimination protect LGBT people, federal (and some state) courts are taking in account societal change and holding that LGBT people deserve equal dignity and respect. Rather than seeing our constitution as frozen in time, they see it as a living breathing document that can and should address current issues in society. This is contrasted with approach of originalists, like the recently confirmed Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch, who believes that courts should look "backward not forward."

Indeed Gorsuch has expressed expressed disapproval of civil rights impact litigation, writing in 2005 that "American liberals have become addicted to the courtroom ... as the primary means of effecting their social agenda on everything from gay marriage" to other issues. Candidate Trump announced his intention during the 2016 presidential campaign to appoint judges to the federal bench who are originalist and this could have a significant negative impact on our ability to move forward on LGBT civil rights, while other branches of government continue to stall.

Jay Kaplan is staff attorney at the ACLU of Michigan. He can be reached at jkaplan@aclumich.org

Creep of the Week

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI



Mark Green

Trump continues his tradition of filling posts in his cabinet with people who are actively opposed to LGBT people having rights or even being called people. He's really giving the George W. Bush administration a run for its money.

Flash back with me to the good old days of President Barack Obama. Remember when we had a president who wasn't an insane rambling dum-dum? It seems so long ago.

Anyway, as you know, Obama made the United States Military G-A-Y. Gayer than a monkey's uncle, even. It was under Obama that we bid farewell to the decades old "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy, under which LGB service members had to stay in the closet and nobody was allowed to ask them about their sexuality and somehow that didn't work at all because wouldn't you know it, LGB folks were still discriminated against and booted out of the service for being queer.

Obama also nominated Eric Fanning as the Secretary of the Army, the first openly gay person to hold that office once the Senate finally got around to confirming him.

But you can't Make America Great Again with a homo leading your Army mens, you need a REAL MAN! And so Trump, who for fucksake is the president, has nominated Mark Green to the position.

Green is a state senator from Tennessee and he's been super busy in his home state sticking it to the gays, legislatively, that is.

He supports letting businesses freely discriminate against LGBT people (because Jesus), wants to force schools to discriminate against trans students (because bathrooms), and thinks teachers shouldn't have to teach things that go against their Bible (because learning). In other words, Green wants to green-light discrimination in Tennessee, and could now bring that skill set to the Army.

Last year Green seemed to be calling for people to protect themselves from transgender people by force.

"We are back to where the country was at its beginning, and it's the armed

Green supports letting businesses freely discriminate against LGBT people (because Jesus), wants to force schools to discriminate against trans students (because bathrooms), and thinks teachers shouldn't have to teach things that go against their Bible (because learning)

citizen who will defend this nation," Green said according to The Hill. "And there's something else that we've got to protect ourselves from, and it is an overreaching federal government. The notion that Mr. Obama thinks that he can tell the state of Tennessee who can go into a men's bathroom or a women's bathroom is absurd."

He also called being transgender "a disease."

And so you can imagine how opening up military service to transgender people, a process that began last year, will no doubt go swimmingly under Green's leadership.

Needless to say, LGBT advocates aren't happy.

"All soldiers and their families, including those who are LGBT, should have confidence that the Secretary of the Army has their back and is working for their best interest," said American Military Partners Association President Ashley Broadway-Mack in a statement. "Unfortunately, based on his vicious, anti-LGBT record, Mark Green cannot be trusted to ensure all those who serve have the support they need and deserve."

"Green is a dangerous figure both because his policies are extreme and because he is shrewd at portraying them as moderate," Nathaniel Frank writes in Slate. Frank points out that the bill's Green backs are intended to discriminate against LGBTQ people, but don't actually say so. A legislative reach-around, if you will.

Considering we just let Mitch McConnell break the Senate and thus let a president under FBI investigation put a right-wing extremist on the Supreme Court for life, I'm not optimistic about Green's nomination getting blocked. Still, that shouldn't stop you from contacting your senators with a hearty, "Hell no!"

The moral of this story is to vote. Fucking vote. Vote, god damn it. Vote, vote, vote. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, vote. Especially in the midterms.

BTL Matching Gift to ACLU of Michigan Deadline Approaching

The ACLU of Michigan has been a champion for our equality for decades. Jay Kaplan, the organization's staff attorney of the LGBT Project, has for years provided us a thoughtful, serious and effective voice for LGBT equality. This week's column is yet another example of how the ACLU fights for us, and we must support them together. That's why BTL is offering to double your donation to the ACLU. To donate, visit the "BTL's Challenge Grant to the ACLU of Michigan" by visiting the links on our website at www.pridesource.com. Make your gift and BTL will match your gift 100 percent.

LGBT Groups Seek to Derail Army Nominee Over Anti-trans Views

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

President Trump's nomination of an Army secretary who as a Tennessee state legislator spearheaded legislation allowing businesses to discriminate against LGBT people has inspired LGBT advocates to launch a campaign to thwart his confirmation.

LGBT rights supporters announced their opposition to Mark Green on Friday after the White House officially announced Trump's intent to nominate him as civilian head of the U.S. Army.

Green is the CEO of Align MD, an emergency department staffing company. As a West Point graduate and Iraq war veteran, he had a distinguished career as a military officer, according to the bio provided by the White House. His military awards include the Bronze Star, the Air Medal, the Air Medal with "V" device for valor under heavy enemy fire, and numerous other medals for service.

During Operation Red Dawn, the military operation that captured Saddam Hussein, Green served as flight surgeon for special operations, sitting with the Iraqi leader for 24 hours and interrogating him for six hours after his capture. Green recounted this experience in a book titled "A Night With Saddam."

But as a state legislator, Green spearheaded anti-transgender bathroom legislation. Last month, the Tennessee Senate approved the legislation by a 25-5 vote, sending it to the House, where it remains under consideration.

Other anti-LGBT measures Green has supported include a bill that would bar transgender students from using public restrooms in schools and colleges consistent with their gender identity and a "religious freedom" bill that would allow teachers to opt out of teaching anything that's not "consistent with the educator's own conscience."

Green also backed a "religious freedom" measure, signed into law last year by Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam, that would allow mental health practitioners to refuse treatment for LGBT patients out of religious objections.

Amid media reports Trump would tap Green as Army secretary, the LGBT military group known as the American Military Partners Association issued a statement condemning the choice based on his anti-trans actions.

"We are deeply concerned over reports that Mark Green will be nominated as Secretary of the Army," said AMPA President Ashley Broadway-Mack. "Green has made a shameful political career out of targeting LGBT people for discrimination. All soldiers and their families, including those who are LGBT, should have confidence that the Secretary of the Army has their back and is working for

their best interest. Unfortunately, based on his vicious, anti-LGBT record, Mark Green cannot be trusted to ensure all those who serve have the support they need and deserve."

In an article for Slate, Nathaniel Frank, a bisexual writer whose research helped pave the way for "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" repeal and open transgender service in the U.S. military, called Green "a dangerous figure both because his policies are extreme and because he is shrewd at portraying them as moderate."

"He works in lockstep with social conservatives who have learned in recent years to avoid both the wrath of the public and the jaws of justice using Orwellian word games to invert their bigotry by casting themselves as victims instead of discriminators," Frank said.

During a town hall event in Tennessee before the Chattanooga Tea Party last year, Green responded to concerns about the perceived institution of a social agenda on the U.S. military by equating being transgender to a medical disorder.

"If you poll the psychiatrists, they're going to tell you that transgender is a disease," Green said. "It is a part of the DSM-6, I think it is, the book of diagnostic psychological procedures or diagnoses."

Referencing the questioner's concerns about going back in the U.S. military, Green said to applause it would constitute "me being the salt and the light to the people around me."

"If you really want to bring this back to who's at fault, I mean, we got to look a little bit inwardly," Green said. "I mean, we've tolerated immorality, and we're not reflecting light."

Green during the same event railed against the Obama-era guidance assuring transgender kids have access to the restroom consistent with their gender identity, which the Trump administration has since repealed, calling it "absurd" and an example of "over-reaching government." A letter Green co-signed urging the Tennessee governor to sue the Obama administration over this guidance compares transgender people to rapists and pedophiles.

Contrary to Green's remarks, being transgender is not a disease. In 2012, the American Psychological Association removed gender identity disorder from DSM-5's list of mental disorders, replacing it with gender dysphoria. There is no DSM-6.

Also during the event, Green said he'd encourage state officials to disregard through acts of civil disobedience the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in favor of same-sex marriage nationwide.

"The governor can do stuff like that, no we're not going to issue marriage licenses to gay people because our state voted differently,"

Green said. "OK, Supreme Court, you said it. I don't care. I'll back you up."

Chad Griffin, president of the Human Rights Campaign, said in a statement the confirmation of Green as Army secretary would be "a danger to every LGBTQ soldier bravely serving our country."

"Mark Green has called for states to refuse to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples and appallingly said that being transgender is a 'disease,'" Griffin said. "He has used his office in Tennessee to push 'license to discriminate' legislation and undermine the basic civil rights of LGBTQ people at every turn. It would be unconscionable to put this man in charge of our Army. We call on every U.S. senator to stand up for LGBTQ service members and reject this nomination."

Also condemning the nomination was Stephen Peters, press secretary for the Human Rights Campaign, who said as a Marine discharged under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" he's "appalled that Donald Trump would seek to put this man in charge of the U.S. Army."

"Under President Obama's leadership, we finally ended policies that forced service members, their partners, and families to hide who they are and treated them as second class citizens," Peters said. "There are thousands upon thousands of us who fought this injustice so that we could serve openly today -- and who are now threatened by the appointment of a man who has spent his career working to undermine our rights."

In contrast to Green, his predecessor for the position during the Obama administration, Eric Fanning, was the first openly gay person confirmed as head of a military service and the first senior defense official to come out in support of lifting the now-terminated ban on openly transgender people in the U.S. armed forces.

Aaron Belkin, director of the San Francisco-based Palm Center, predicted in a statement that the confirmation of Green would lead to the restoration of the ban on openly gay personnel in the U.S. military.

"Mark Green is a perfect nominee for the



LGBT advocates are trying to derail the nomination of Tenn. state Sen. Mark Green as Army secretary. Photo courtesy of Dr. Mark Green for Tennessee.

people around President Trump who want to start a culture war in the United States military, and who would bring back 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,'" Belkin said. "The priorities Green has made a career on in Tennessee directly contradict the core military value of treating everyone according to the same standard. They have the potential of sowing confusion and undermining good order and discipline."

It should be noted that Defense Secretary Gen. Jim Mattis said during testimony prior to his confirmation as Pentagon chief that he has no intention of restoring bans on open military service for LGBT people and "never cared much about two consenting adults and who they go to bed with."

The defeat of Green would send a strong signal that supporting initiatives aimed at undermining transgender rights would derail the future of those seeking to advance their political careers, potentially discouraging anti-trans proposals like the Tennessee bathroom bill.

Thwarting the confirmation of Green will be an uphill battle. Assuming the Democratic caucus is united in opposition to him, which seems unlikely given Sen. Joe Manchin's (W.Va.) general willingness to accept nominees, at least three Republicans would have to vote against his confirmation to derail it. The most likely Republicans would be supporters of LGBT rights like Susan Collins (Maine), Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Rob Portman (R-Ohio).

The White House didn't respond to the Washington Blade's request to comment on concerns from LGBT rights supporters about the Green nomination.

New Mexico Latest State to Ban Discredited 'Ex-gay' Therapy

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

New Mexico Gov. Susanna Martinez signed into law on Friday a measure against widely discredited "ex-gay" conversion therapy, making the Land of Enchantment the seventh state to prohibit the practice for youth.

In a message to the legislature, the Republican governor said she signed the legislation, Senate Bill 122, out of belief "certain practices" harm children, although she never explicitly names the practice.

"I've spent my career fighting for kids, both as a prosecutor and as governor," Martinez said. "It is for this reason that I sign Senate Bill 121, which bans certain practices that have been shown to cause harm to children."

The practice of therapy aimed at changing an individual's sexual orientation or transgender status is considered ineffectual at best and harmful at worst. Major medical and psychological institutions, including American Psychological Association, the World Health Organization, the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics, widely reject conversion therapy.

"I do not lightly enact legislation that makes government a party to the medical care decision-making of a parent and child," Martinez said. "Yet, at the same time, numerous reputable medical organizations like the American Psychological Association have rebuked this practice, stating it may lead to depression, anxiety, poor self-esteem, self-hatred, substance abuse, and suicide."

Martinez said the new law will augment the ability of New Mexico "to investigate and respond appropriately

New Mexico is the seventh state to enact a ban on "ex-gay" therapy for minors after California, Illinois, New Jersey, Oregon, Vermont and New York. D.C. also has a law banning the practice.

to complaints relating to abusive practices, and use their training to define appropriate discipline."

At the same time, Martinez identified limitations in the bill aimed at ensuring a child's right to seek mental health care and the freedom of religious expression.

"This bill does not prohibit a minor's ability to seek counsel, advice, or guidance from a counselor if they are trying to understand their feelings, nor does it prohibit religious organizations from freely practicing their religion," Martinez said.

"No child should be subjected to this dangerous practice that amounts to nothing more than child abuse," Warbelow said. "By signing this crucially important legislation into law, Gov. Martinez is standing up for vulnerable youth who deserve to be loved and supported for who they are."

— Sarah Warbelow, legal director for the Human Rights Campaign,

Amber Royster, executive director of Equality New Mexico, said in a statement the signing of the law is not just a victory for New Mexico, but one for herself after having endured conversion therapy.

"As a survivor of conversion therapy that happened right here in my home state of New Mexico, it's a very special day to see this barbaric and dangerous practice banned in the place that I grew up and call home," Royster said. "My hope is that parents and families everywhere will think twice before seeking to change their LGBTQ child or loved one, and now we have the legal mechanism to ensure it doesn't happen at the hands of licensed practitioners in New Mexico."

Approved by the Democratic-controlled legislature, SB122 amends the state law to include use of conversion therapy on a minor as reason to deny, revoke or suspend licenses held by nurses, doctors and mental health experts.

To recover the costs of investigations leading to these decisions, the state may institute fines on these practitioners.

Sarah Warbelow, legal director for the Human Rights Campaign, said in a statement Martinez' decision to ban conversion therapy is "an incredible victory for LGBTQ youth in New Mexico."

"No child should be subjected to this dangerous practice that amounts to nothing more than child abuse," Warbelow said. "By signing this crucially important legislation into law, Gov. Martinez is standing up for vulnerable youth who deserve to be loved and supported for who they are."

New Mexico is the seventh state to enact a ban on "ex-gay" therapy for minors after California, Illinois, New Jersey, Oregon, Vermont and New York. D.C. also has a law banning the practice. The bans on "ex-gay" therapy in some of those states have been subject to litigation on the basis they violate freedom of speech and religion, but each time upheld as constitutional.

Martinez is third Republican governor to sign into law a state ban on "ex-gay" therapy after New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner.

State Sen. Jacob Candelaria (D-Albuquerque), who's gay and sponsor of the legislation in the New Mexico Senate, said in a statement Martinez' decision to sign the law demonstrates "protecting all children from abuse transcends party labels and ideological differences."

"In New Mexico, we value and celebrate every child for who they are," Candelaria said. "I want to thank Gov. Martinez for having the courage to stand up for the simple truth that every LGBTQ kid in New Mexico is born perfect. I also want to thank the victims of conversion 'therapy' who came forward to support this bill. Their stories did not fall on deaf ears. They turned their suffering into a force for good, and because of them, and for them, we have made history."

This article originally appeared in the Washington Blade and is made available in partnership with the National Gay Media Association.



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BTL Photos Andrew Potter

HELP's staff has grown in the last 30 years from just a handful of dedicated individuals to around 30 people, who will provide culturally-competent care to LGBTQ patients.

Opening the Doors to LGBTQ-Focused Care

HELP Welcomes LGBTQ People to New Community-Based Clinic in Southeast Michigan

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

The new Corktown Health Center opening this summer near downtown Detroit will bring LGBTQ health to the forefront. While Southeast Michigan boasts a number of top-notch health systems and individual providers, up until now, there has been no center for LGBTQ health excellence. Patients often feel invisible, isolated or even judged in health

care settings. “The need for quality, affirming care, not just non-discriminatory care, is vital,” said Teresa Roscoe, executive director of HELP, the non-profit community-based organization establishing Corktown Health. “While LGBTQ individuals and families have many of the same basic health needs as their non-LGBTQ counterparts, there are significant health disparities that negatively impact members of the community in different

ways.”

HELP has been around since 1986 to provide support services and address barriers to care for low income individuals, and for people who are at risk, infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. With greater understanding of HIV transmission, disease processes and the myriad of treatment advances since the 80s, HELP's programs have evolved to address HIV as a chronic illness.

Most people living with the virus today can have long, full lives with effective treatment. In recent years, Roscoe said, they began addressing broader health issues including mental health services and Hepatitis C, which led to development of the center. The next step toward implementing LGBTQ-focused care was to upgrade and expand HELP's facility on Howard Street in Detroit into a 24,000-square-foot complex with a new pharmacy, and

As with all patient populations, effectively serving LGBTQ patients requires clinicians to understand the cultural context of their patients' lives, modify practice policies and environments to be inclusive.

► **LGBTQ-Focused Care**

Continued from p. 16

community meeting, education and training spaces. Similar models exist such as Fenway in Boston and Howard Brown in Chicago, but this is the first of its kind in Michigan.

HELP initially built out three exam rooms and collaborated with St. John Hospital to provide HIV medical care at the site three days per week. Six more exam rooms are being added as part of the expansion according to Anthony Williams, HELP's chairman of the board. He estimates the center will see 3,500 new patients which equals 10,000 visits a year within the first two years. He anticipates steady growth over the next several years and is focused on ensuring the center is well prepared to manage that growth.

HELP's staff has grown in the last 30 years from just a handful of dedicated individuals to around 30 people. They now assist more than 1,600 individuals and families living in Southeast Michigan each year with behavioral health, food and nutrition services, housing and emergency financial assistance, case management, insurance navigation and a

range of other services.

The organization's newest efforts were steered by a community assessment conducted in the fall of 2015 through spring of 2016. Williams notes the importance of engaging stakeholders in forming the center's vision. Through a series of four community sessions, they defined core values of inclusion, affirming patients' for who they are and accountability. The assessment found that even more prevalent than blatant discrimination was the experience of provider discomfort, insensitivity, lack of knowledge and unconscious bias.

In many ways, providing culturally-competent care to LGBTQ patients should not differ from providing patient-centered care to any other group, according to The National LGBT Health Education Center. As with all patient populations, effectively serving LGBTQ patients requires clinicians to understand the cultural context of their patients' lives, modify practice policies and environments to be inclusive, take detailed and non-judgmental histories, educate

See LGBTQ-Focused Health, page 18



A clinical dietitian at the Corktown Health Center provides medical nutrition therapy for a patient.

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AHIMA Practice Brief Stresses Importance of Inclusive Healthcare Practices

BY BTL STAFF

Healthcare professional and health information management professionals can help create a healthcare environment that is non-judgmental and welcoming to patients of all backgrounds.

The American Health Information Management Association's newest practice brief, "Improved Patient Engagement for LGBT Populations," provides guidelines and a range of suggestions for enhanced HIM practices for the LGBT community, as well as individuals on a spectrum of sexual orientations and gender identities.

"When a healthcare environment is accessible, sensitive and respectful, patients are more likely to share details of their personal health information that are needed to provide the best patient care and safety," said AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon.

"As healthcare populations become more diverse, a focus on inclusiveness for all patient populations will promote patient engagement and help to reduce health disparities. In turn, this will help ensure health information can be found where and when it is needed."

LGBT patients often identify partner/spouse rights as a primary concern. In addition to making sure both partners sign their provider's HIPAA-approved form, it is recommended that they exchange access information on their respective patient portals. The traditional birth certificate can also pose a problem. California, for example, has revised its birth certificate legislation to be more inclusive of LGBT parents; parents can now be listed as two mothers or two fathers and the gender-neutral term parent is available along with the option to check mother or father.

The patient portal is a powerful tool for all patients to become more engaged in their own healthcare, but there are specific aspects which can be established to support LGBT patients:

- Allow patients to submit data securely through the web or a mobile app to alleviate potential concerns a patient may have about identifying personal and private information at registration.

- Make sure content is inclusive. The patient should be able to list preferred name and gender, along with legal name and gender. This also impacts how procedures and medications are listed in the portal. For example, a listing of the hormones a patient undergoing gender reassignment surgery is

“When a healthcare environment is accessible, sensitive and respectful, patients are more likely to share details of their personal health information that are needed to provide the best patient care and safety.**”**

– AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon.

taking should be available for the patient to view in the portal.

- Offer reference ranges for lab results that can be adapted and modified according to a person's gender. For example, a person undergoing female-to-male reassignment may have a different "normal" range than someone born male.

- Display a clear notice about nondiscrimination and consider complementing pictures of traditional families with nontraditional families.

The practice brief notes that the electronic health record can include new fields to capture specific information such as "Gender Identity," "Sexual Orientation," "Sex Assigned at Birth," and "Organ Inventory." According to the practice brief, "gathering this data will enable healthcare providers to treat transgender patients with appropriate care across the continuum, from being addressed properly on a phone call to getting the appropriate wellness reminders assessed on their organ inventory, not just their gender." These EHR additions can help limit the creation of duplicate or misleading health records. The practice brief recommends that all staff members who interact with patients should receive diversity education that includes LGBT health and the multifaceted concepts related to sexual orientation and gender identity.

Thomas Gordon said, "The more healthcare professionals understand diverse populations, the better patient-centered support we can provide."

For more information, visit the American Health Information Management Association online www.ahima.org.



Inside the Corktown Health Center in Detroit will be a total of nine exam rooms where an estimated 3,500 new patients will be seen within the first two years.

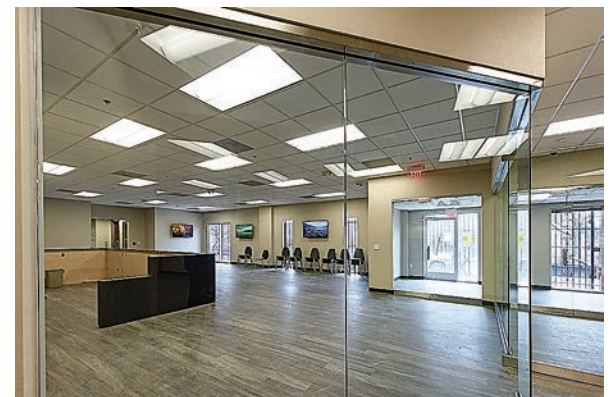
► LGBTQ-Focused

Continued from p. 17

themselves about the health issues of importance to their patients, and reflect upon personal attitudes that might prevent them from providing the kind of affirmative care that LGBTQ people need.

Roscoe identified the center's initial priorities as primary care, integrated behavioral health, transgender care, PrEP and care for LGBTQ elders. Assistance with insurance and support services will be expanded to reduce barriers and promote positive health outcomes. "We feel many people urgently need these support services which are integral to the center's holistic approach," she said.

This higher quality of care will be possible with a self-supporting model. "Our objective is to cover 60 percent of expenses through revenue from operations, and the remaining 40 percent through a combination of grants and private contributions," said Williams, adding that this is "an ideal structure because it will allow us to make program and service decisions that are responsive to the community's needs." HELP has already contributed over \$300,000 in cash, and garnered nearly \$200,000 in in-kind donations to support the build out. They are working towards purchasing the building and will launch a capital campaign next month according to new Chief Development Officer, Patrick Yankee. He is



excited to share more details with a new website coming in May and at their upcoming fundraiser, "Cheers to HELP," scheduled for May 12.

Yankee said, "It will be a fun evening with wine, food, music and an opportunity to support this innovative health center."

Ticket information is available at 313-832-3300, Ext 18 or online at www.cheerstohelp2017.eventbrite.com.

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1. DiMeo PJ. Psychosocial and Relationship Issues in Men with Erectile Dysfunction. Urologic Nursing. 2006 Dec; 26(6): 442-453. 2. Hunskaar S, Sandvik H. One Hundred and Fifty Men with Urinary Incontinence. Ill. Psychosocial Consequences. Scand J Prim Health Care. 1993; 11:193-96.



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Orchid Technology Helping LGBTQ People Feel More Welcome In Hospitals

BY BTL STAFF

It is estimated that 1.4 million U.S. adults identify as transgender, according to an analysis based on new federal and state data. With such an empowering increase of LGBTQ inclusion, CipherHealth has made it their mission to help members of the community feel more welcome during their hospital stays.

To help both nurses and patients feel more at ease, CipherHealth has created a simple and LGBTQ-friendly digital rounding solution known as Orchid, which helps nurses quickly but efficiently round patients with an easy-to-use interface and step-by-step instructions.

With the help of Orchid nurses are able to help LGBTQ patients feel more included by asking questions tailored to them while rounding.

After 40 days of using Orchid during a Henry Ford Hospital case study in 2015, nurses reported a 55 percent increase in satisfaction in the rounding process.

The Encyclopedia of Surgery recently stated that between 100 and 500 gender reassignment surgeries take place in the U.S. every year. This means more transgender men and women find themselves in the hospital for long periods of time, sometimes upwards of three months. With the help of Orchid nurses are able to help LGBTQ patients feel more included by asking questions tailored to them while rounding. This helps avoid incorrect identification of patients, and allows them to communicate their unique experience. LGBTQ patients are able to give specific feedback through nurses who use the digital rounding portal, Orchid, to help better patient satisfaction and train nurses in sensitivity as well.

Although this technology is not yet being used in Michigan, the University of Miami Hospital has adopted Orchid and is actively taking steps to be more inclusive of the LGBTQ community. Model, actress, and transgender advocate Lauren Foster, is part of the UMH team to help both nurses and patients understand Orchid and how it can impact the hospital visits of the LGBTQ community.

Dem Gubernatorial Candidates Call for Reform of State's HIV-Specific Law

Advocates Applaud Move, Encourage Legislative Action Before New Governor Takes Office in 2019

BY TODD HEYWOOD

LANSING – Calling Michigan's HIV-specific felony law "discriminatory" and "wrong to criminalize sickness," the two declared candidates for the governor's office say it's time to reform the law.

"I'm a strong believer in science, and in the years this law has been on the books, significant strides have been made in HIV treatment and prevention," said Gretchen Whitmer, the former State Senate Minority Leader and Ingham County Prosecutor. She's declared her candidacy for the Democratic nomination for governor in 2018 earlier this year. "Yet prosecutions are often driven by fear and stigma, not science, just as the legislation itself was when it was passed. It's wrong to criminalize sickness, which is what this law has effectively done. It absolutely should be revisited."

Last month, Abdul El-Sayed, the former director of the City of Detroit's Department of Health and Wellness Promotion, told *Between The Lines* that Michigan's law "absolutely" should be repealed.

"You should not be criminalized for a disease," he said. The 32-year-old doctor was a Rhoades Scholar and in his role as the director of Michigan's most populous city's health and wellness promotion, he dealt first hand with the ongoing HIV crisis in Detroit. "That is absolutely wrong. It's hateful. It's discriminatory, and we can, as a state, do better. You can count on me for that."

Michigan passed the AIDS-Penetration with Uninformed Partner Law in 1988. Former lawmaker Susan Grimes Gilbert (formerly Grimes Munsell) lead the charge to pass Michigan's law as well as participated in the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) working group on the subject. That group recommended the development of HIV Assault laws in all 50 states

In an interview presented in a report in *The Advocate* and *The American Independent News Network* in 2013, she acknowledged that the law was driven by fear.

"At that time people were scared to death of [AIDS]," Grimes Munsell told the news outlets. She acknowledged much had changed

since that time.

"I think it is time to repeal the [felony] law," she said in 2013. "In fact, I don't do this very often, but I am willing to lobby for that change."

Her voice added to an already growing chorus calling for reform. Among them, the former staffer from ALEC who wrote the group's draft legislation and policy recommendations and a member of President Ronald Reagan's Commission on HIV, commonly called "The Watkins Commission."

Stigma's Impact

Social scientists and activists have criticized the laws for years as unfairly stigmatizing those living with HIV as people hell bent on transmitting their infection to others. They've noted the laws have little impact on behavior and at least one study has found that high profile prosecutions for HIV nondisclosure lead those most at risk of HIV infection to decline HIV testing and sexual health counseling from healthcare providers.

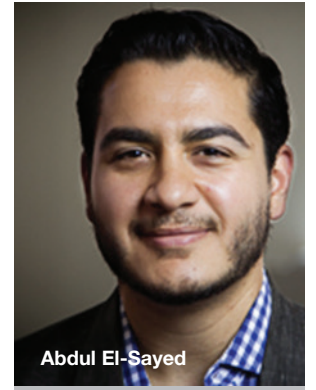
State Rep. Jon Hoadley (D-Kalamazoo) has been floating draft legislation for the last six months to modernize Michigan's HIV law. Specifically, his proposal would eliminate the current felony law, and create in its stead two misdemeanor laws.

Both misdemeanor laws would require prosecutors prove beyond a reasonable doubt the accused not only had HIV, but intended to transmit the infection and took actions that had a likelihood of transmitting the virus. The lower of the two misdemeanors – which would carry up to 93 days in jail – would be

Social scientists and activists have criticized the laws for years as unfairly stigmatizing those living with HIV as people hell bent on transmitting their infection to others.



Gretchen Whitmer



Abdul El-Sayed

used if there was no transmission. The one-year misdemeanor would be used if there was transmission of the virus.

The legislation garnered a number of co-sponsors last session, but Hoadley did not introduce it.

Activists supporting modernizing Michigan law say they are pleased the two Democratic gubernatorial candidates are raising the issue.

"We are very pleased to see the issues related to the unjust, unscientific law criminalizing HIV being taken up by candidates for the top office in the state," says Kelly Doyle, the coalition manager for the Michigan Coalition for HIV Health and Safety. "This is about fairness and reducing stigma, and having top candidates talking about this issue helps reduce the stigma and highlight the problems."

She was joined in that praise by Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of LGBT Detroit. He released a statement to BTL saying his group was "pleased" that the candidates "reject Michigan's outdated HIV criminalization laws and the notion of criminalizing disease."

"We must get rid of stigma around HIV/AIDS, testing, prevention and treatment – and listening to science is the only way to do that," Lipscomb said.

He said his group is eager to continue discussions with the legislature "to move to repeal this dangerous law."

Doyle echoed that sentiment, "Of course, this legislature could check one item off the beginning of the 2019 gubernatorial term by passing legislation now which brings Michigan in line with common sense public health approaches which ensure of the safety of all Michiganders."

SAGE Metro Detroit Director Reflects on Two Busy Years in the State

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

SAGE, which stands for Services & Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Elders, has been around for nearly 30 years. Based in New York, it is the country's largest and oldest organization dedicated to improving the lives of LGBT older adults. With additional offices in Washington, D.C. and Chicago, SAGE has a growing network of 30 local affiliates in 20 states.

Two years ago, SAGE Metro Detroit was created. Since then, the local group has been busy. "We are doing a number of different things," said Angie Perone, director of SAGE Metro Detroit. "The core focus of SAGE is to build awareness and promote change so that LGBT older adults may age with dignity and authenticity. We have identified four pillars to focus our attention on - programming, information, training and advocacy. So we've been doing a lot of things within those four brackets to really create awareness and change for older LGBT adults."

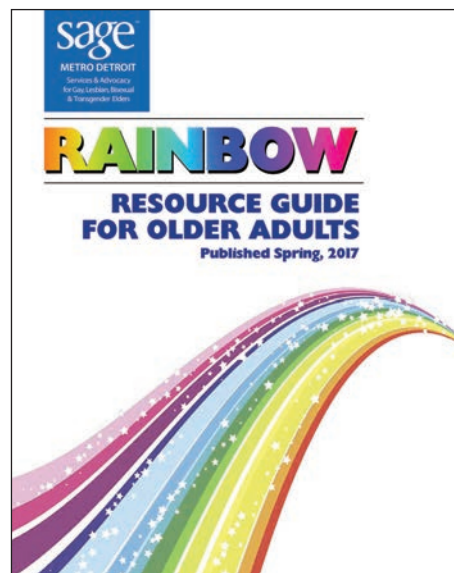
SAGE Metro Detroit's largest project has undoubtedly been creating the Rainbow Resource Guide.

"We conducted a really brief survey of 55 organizations to identify whether or not they had non-discrimination policies that included sexual orientation and gender identity," Perone explained. "We targeted organizations that because of their funding were required to have this in their policies. We know that currently Michigan laws do not protect lgbs from discrimination. So LGBT older adults often struggle to find LGBT service providers. And we've found that discrimination might attribute to health disparity in older LGBT adults."

Of the 55 organizations surveyed, only seven had policies in place that included sexual orientation and gender identity.

"A lot of the organizations thought their policy did include sexual orientation and gender identity but they did not," said Perone. "This showed us we had a lot more work to do. So we put together this resource guide. What we did was we included a specific icon in the resource guide that indicates whether or not the organization has a written policy that addresses sexual orientation and gender identity. And it also specifies if they have a statement of care that indicates they won't discriminate against clients based on sexual orientation and gender identity."

"Through this process we were actually able to help organizations and agencies modify their policies if they didn't have that in place," Perone continued. "We also had a number of organizations express interest in engaging in training so that their staff had better tools to



Find this 24-page guide at www.sagemetrodetroit.org/rainbow-resource-guide

work with and could respond appropriately to working with lgbt older adults."

Additional Projects Ongoing

Although the Rainbow Resource Guide is SAGE Metro Detroit's largest project, it's not the organization's only effort. Among other projects, the agency has put together the "Caregiving & LGBT Concerns Guide," available online.

"We put together and released it over the past few months. Basically it's a guide that focuses on caregiving for LGBT older adults. It's also a guide for LGBT caregivers," said Perone.

Another project is the LGBT Aging Initiative, which is funded by a grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund.

"This is basically kind of carryover from a previous group that we had," Perone said. "It's for training and working with service providers to enhance their ability to respond and work with LGBT older adults."

The initiative will help SAGE Metro Detroit to expand their focus throughout the state. "Our area is metro Detroit or southeastern Michigan but we've been doing work all over the state since we're the only sage in Michigan," said Perone. "We're going to be working over the next couple of years with organizations in the Upper Peninsula, the Grand Rapids area and the Saginaw-Bay City area. We'll be working closely with area agencies on aging to create more training and

See SAGE, page 22

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HEALTH National LGBTQ Task Force Urges Congress to Stop Trumpcare

Obamacare Achievements Celebrated on Anniversary as Republican-Led Congress Considers Hastily Concocted Trumpcare

BY BTL STAFF

The National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund is celebrating the seventh anniversary of the enactment of Obamacare with a call to action urging members of Congress to stop Trumpcare, the so-called American Health Care Act, a bill that if made law would deprive tens of millions of quality affordable health care.

"The Affordable Care Act has expanded access to healthcare for millions of people in the U.S. It's the reason: young people can remain covered by their parent's health insurance until they're 26; insurance companies can no longer impose a lifetime cap on coverage benefits; people living with HIV or other chronic conditions aren't being refused

healthcare coverage because of a preexisting condition; contraception and other forms of preventative care are available without a copay; and it ensures that anyone who faces discrimination in a healthcare or insurance setting because of sex, which includes gender identity, can appeal," said Rea Carey, executive director, National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund.

"In contrast, Trumpcare, the so-called American Health Care Act, unlike its name suggests would deprive tens of millions of people of health care. This would create a devastating setback and erase incredible gains in health and wellbeing among so many. Many would return to relying on emergency rooms for health care, costing



taxpayers millions of dollars and ensuring that our country continues to have the world's most expensive health care system," said Carey.

To learn more about the National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund's legislative and policy advocacy work, check out the guide "10 Key LGBTQ Health Advocacy Issues" online.



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► SAGE

Continued from p. 21

procedural changes on how these agencies collect and record information about sexual orientation and gender identity."

An additional project taken on by the group is the Friendly Caller Program.

"The idea here is to connect volunteer callers with LGBT older adults who might be more isolated," Perone said. "To have regular, periodic calls to stay connected and check in and reduce the social isolation of older LGBT adults. There's a lot of research about the devastation of social isolation on older LGBT adults. There's lots of reasons why LGBT older adults are maybe more isolated than their heterosexual peers. There's also some research suggesting there's more hesitancy and more

concern among LGBT adults to go visit senior centers, even if transportation is not an issue. It's about making sure that they feel welcome. So this is an opportunity that will connect people and address this health issue. It also builds community within the LGBT community and allies."

For information about SAGE Metro Detroit and their ongoing projects, visit www.sagemetrodetroit.org



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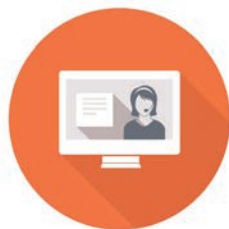
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Photo: Fusion

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS CARMEN CARRERA?

‘Drag Race’ Alum Transitioned From Male to Female After the Show – Now, She’s Helping the World Transition Too

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Carmen Carrera calls herself a “changed” person after competing on the third season of “RuPaul’s

Drag Race” in 2011. Following her stint on the show, the Puerto Rican-Peruvian model transitioned from male to female and now uses her own experience as a transgender woman to inspire others who are grappling

with their gender identity.

To fulfill her mission to raise trans awareness abroad, Carrera recently traveled to São Paulo, Brazil, for an episode of the Fusion docuseries “Outpost,” which

mines globally-resonant human, social and cultural stories. Here, she talks about the eye-opening experience, as well as those who still consider her a “joke.”

From 'Drag Race' to activist

"Drag Race" was a moment in my past – I wanted to do that show because I knew that after the show I was gonna transition, so, for me, that is always gonna be a time capsule in my life. And honestly, I've grown so much as a person since then. The "Drag Race" community got to know me right out of the club scene. I'm now 31. I am a wife. I am a stepmother. I'm still a lot of fun (laughs), but I'm way more responsible than I've ever been, and I'm happy about it too. I see myself as a very privileged trans woman; I'm able to experience what it feels like to have love and have children and work and survive, so I feel like in that sense I've changed a whole lot. During "Drag Race," I'm not even sure I had a license back then. I was just having fun, dressing up, and living my own ideology of who I wanted to be on the inside. Then, everything changed; I got my birth certificate changed, and now I really feel like my life's in order. And I always just have had this desire to help others, you know. Now, I see myself in a totally different place and I wanna be able to (tell) trans people, "You have more possibilities than you even realize."

Going global with her trans activism

I set out on a journey to contribute my community activism outside of the United States. I wanted to take the same things that I learned here from people like Laverne (Cox), Janet (Mock), Caitlyn (Jenner) and Jenna (Talackova) and connect back to my roots, to really go back to South America and Central America and try to be an activist. So, I started off with Mexico, where they allowed me to basically bring trans issues to Mexican news stations. I was able to bring that to light. I did the same thing in Columbia and met with LGBTQ organizations in those countries to really bring information to their mainstream media.

Learning from other trans activists

They've given me a sense of pride to be a trans Latin woman. I wasn't really able to be as proud as I am and wouldn't have been if it weren't for people like Laverne and Janet, and also that carries over into being a woman. I have a deeper sense of pride, and I want to teach that to people in my own community – to basically want a better quality of life, better protection laws – because that's what they did for me. In the beginning, when I first came onto the scene, you have to remember I had just started my transition. I was right off of "Drag Race," which put me on this super

high platform, so it was difficult to focus on myself and develop myself at the same time as being in the news.

How her story can influence other trans people

It's a story about growth and not being afraid to realize that you have to love yourself each and every step of the way. I can look back at my old "Drag Race" videos and be like, "What the hell was I thinking?" But that's who I was, so I'm not gonna really beat up on myself. Instead, I'm going to love myself each and every step of the process and know that I can follow my gut, and that's what I really want other young trans people to understand – keep your eye on the prize because when you complete your transition, when you find that place where you're comfortable, you're gonna be happy that you took care of yourself and took your time.

The price of living out loud

Just me being a trans woman, people don't take me as seriously as they should. I read the comments, which I probably shouldn't, but I do. And it's a shame, but it's not my responsibility to change everybody's mind. You just have to lead by example, you need to put in the work. But it is really difficult for people to take me seriously considering the fact that they've seen me before my transition, they've seen me in the middle of my transition, they've seen me topless. I have lived my life out loud for the past six years. Yes, I'm a trans woman, but you know, I can model, I can act, I can be an activist. Little by little, slowly people will begin to understand that and not take me so much as a joke.

Trans experience: Brazil vs. America

Brazil is the murder capital of the world for trans people, and many of the people who are suffering feel like they don't have a voice. I think it comes from lack of knowledge. They don't really know exactly what is going on. They don't really know if it's OK to stand up for themselves and to fight for their rights. They just go with the flow because they really don't have any of the resources like here in America. It was really depressing for me, and it was really difficult to wake up knowing that these people are suffering. We have similar experiences, growing up and being kind of closeted about the way you feel and separating yourself and seeking love and validation from the nightlife. Those are all things that I did. It's like, what makes me any different than them besides location?

Continued on page 30

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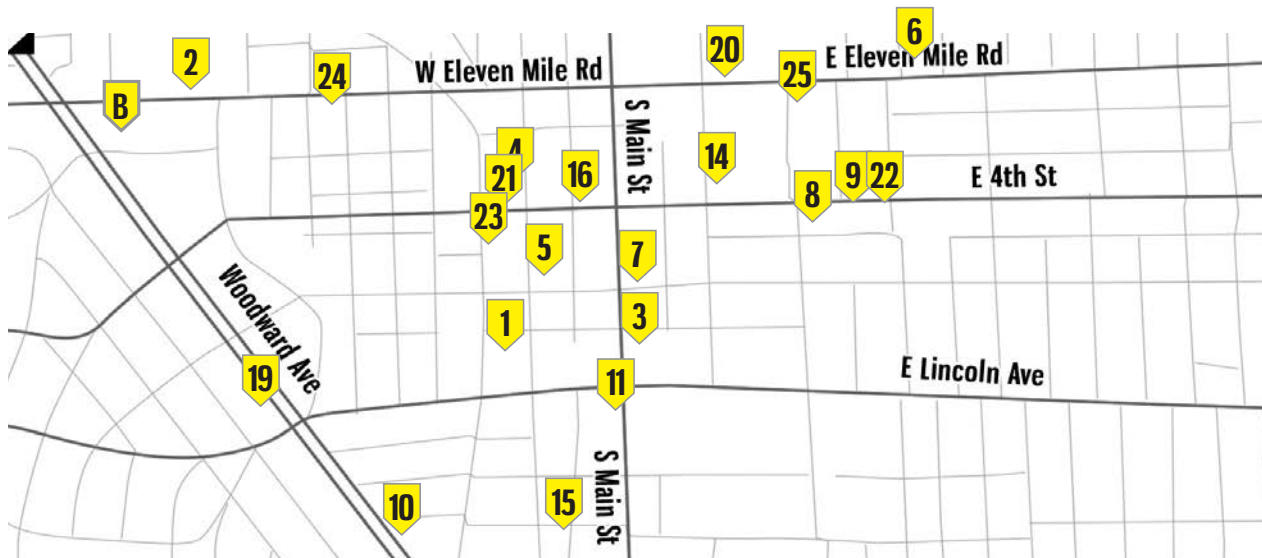
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It has become the biggest social phenomenon – brunch – the ever playful combination of breakfast and lunch. And there is no shame in indulging in delicious food and drink on the weekend. Join 12 of the top brunch destinations of downtown Royal Oak on April 29 for a “Brunch Bites Strolling Event.” A ticket gets brunchers a sample of a featured food and drink item at each participating location between 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Tasted what’s on the menu at Andiamo, Bastone, Bigalora, Blackfinn Ameripub, Cafe Muse, Gayle’s Chocolates, Lily’s Seafood, Lockharts BBQ, Mesa Tacos and Tequila, The Morrie, Pronto! and Rebel Cafe. Rumor has it additional restaurants are planning to participate. Check-in between 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Bigalora, located at 711 S. Main Street to get a map and supplies before the culinary excursion begins. Tickets are \$40 in advance, \$50 the day of the event. More participating locations coming soon.

A full list of what is being served can be found at www.BrunchBitesEvent.com/Royal-Oak.



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performance at a premier comedy club in New York City, airfare, hotel and other great prizes. Thompson has once again partnered up with Simply C360 for his “Road to NYC” comedy competition, which starts at Mark Ridley’s Comedy Castle in Royal Oak on April 23. This innovative comedy competition for emerging comedians is designed to provide up and coming comics with a platform to present their talents. Stand-up comedy performers include: Jeff Horste, Shanie D, Martez Jackson, Darius Bennett, Martini Harris, Horace Sanders,

Clifton (Clipperman) Dehaven, Kevin McPeck, Tonya Murray, Mike Green, Gemini, Bill Hill, Lena Green, Kevin Kellar, Mary Ann Demoss and Josh Adams. Tickets for this special 18 and over event hosted by comedian Mike Bonner are \$20. Doors open at 6 p.m. at 310 S. Troy Street in Royal Oak. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 248-542-9900 or visit www.roadtonyc.com.

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"We're excited to partner with so many green initiative professionals," said Tom Regan, of the environmental advisory board. "It's a great opportunity for our community to re-evaluate their relationship with our planet." There are a number of ways to live green:

- Discover how planting a vegetable garden absorbs storm water and improves the environment.
- Learn which native plants need the least water and require little or no fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides.
- Learn how to power your home with solar panels.
- Get a sneak peek of Royal Oak's new 65-gallon recycling cart as the city prepares to shift to single stream recycling.
- Purchase rain barrels for just \$60 and capture soft water for your plants while preventing storm water runoff from overloading our sewer system. To guarantee a rain barrel please visit www.mirainbarrel.com/signup and preorder.
- Did you know that Curious George recycles? A representative from the Royal Oak Public Library will be on hand to explain how and why.
- Kids will enjoy recycling-themed games and prizes, courtesy of the City of Royal Oak employee Green Team.

For more information, visit the City of Royal Oak website www.romi.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=186.

Walk 50 Miles in 50 Days

There are a number of ways the American Heart Association says walking at least 30 minutes a day can help people – from reducing their risk of coronary heart disease and stroke to enhancing their mental well-being. That's why Royal Oak Mayor Michael Fournier and the Royal Oak City Commission are encouraging individuals and families to lead healthier lifestyles with a 50 Miles in 50 Days Walking Challenge, which kicks off on April 15.

"One of the things Royal Oak has in common with the most vibrant cities in the world is that it's very walkable," said Mayor Fournier. "This spring, I am asking you to 'step it up' and experience all of the exciting things Royal Oak has to offer on foot."

Why Walk?

- The goals of the challenge are:
 - Encourage urban activities that explore art, history and nature and highlight Royal Oak as a walkable community
 - Foster a sense of community around health and wellness activities
 - Instill the idea that participation in healthful activities is fun and easily incorporated into a



daily routine

Go to www.romi.gov/50in50 to download self-guided one-mile walk adventures, to learn more about community walks and earn prizes, too. The community walks will take place on May 11 and June 1 at 6 p.m. Community walk participants will receive a complimentary Royal Oak reflector ID tag courtesy of Ultimate Fun Runs and the Royal Oak Community Coalition. There will be Royal Oak T-Shirt and book bag raffles also.

Visit the City of Royal Oak Facebook page, www.facebook.com/Royal-Oak-MI-City-Hall-157871554266952 for details.



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The Frivolist

4 Reasons Why Banning Bachelorette Parties from Gay Bars is Wrong

BY MIKEY ROX

Grand diva RuPaul recently weighed in on the persistent issue of how we're supposed to feel about bachelorette parties in gay bars, with at least one Huffington Post writer describing it as the "definitive word" on the topic on social media.

"Check yourself before you wreck yourself," Ru said on the podcast "Dinner Down Party." "You know, this is an important thing: People who live in the mainstream and the status quo think that everyone else is there to serve them." I've never gotten that impression from straight people, or women specifically, but OK. Also, who made RuPaul our spokesperson?

Nevertheless, the debate on whether chicks wearing dicks (because bachelorette parties love some plastic penis) are welcome in our bars goes back to at least early 2009 when the Chicago Tribune published an article on how the gay rights battle – specifically marriage equality – put a strain on the celebrations. The issue reached peak shade in 2012 when popular Los Angeles watering hole and grind spot The Abbey was the first to implement an all-out ban on the fem festivities. At the time, it was a political statement to suggest that if gay people can't get married, we don't want you flaunting your right to wed in our sanctuary. Fair enough – but that battle is won. So why, even now, are we still shutting out our straight allies? It's not right, and here's why.

1. It's Straight-Up Discrimination

For decades the LGBT community has protested, marched and lobbied for legislation against our discrimination, yet we're quick to turn around and apply limitations to other groups with which we take issue. Before we received full marriage

What message is it sending when we're demanding on Capitol Hill to be treated the same as everyone else then going back home and telling certain types of people they're not welcome where we are.

rights, the basis for anti-bachelorette rhetoric was logical – if we can't get married, don't rub your impending nuptials in our faces; that stance had merit at least. Now, however, the case against the hostile takeover of our bars, as some describe it, is about how disruptive these groups are. They're wild and out of control and they treat us like some sort of sideshow – so say the torch-wielders. I've never experienced the latter (and you probably need to lighten up or grow a pair if you've ever felt this way), and all I can think when I hear that summation is: You mean they got drunk at a bar where they knew they'd have fun, but because they're not hot guys with take-home potential, they're a distraction and you don't want them here? Well, when you put it that way...

2. It's Still a Political Statement That's Sexist and Heterophobic

While the ban on bachelorette parties was once a political statement meant to bring attention to the very real issue of why same-sex couples weren't permitted to marry one another in most of the United States, it now exists as a misogynistic attempt to shun straight culture. Think I'm off base? Consider the same scenario but with the

Continued on page 31

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► **Carmen Carrera**
Continued from p. 25

Next steps: bringing LGBTQ history into the classroom

That's really the only difference – that they're there and I'm here. But we're all existing at the same time.

Continuing to raise awareness of LGBTQ issues internationally

I'm working on Venezuela and Chile, and I'm trying to see if I can get either a production company or a network to help take me on the road and explore other cities and other countries and their LGBTQ laws. Basically, see where we're at on a global scale. I have a ton of fans in Brazil, so I wanna be able to just continue feeding them the inspiration they need. I mean, if there's 2.5 million that will show up for a gay pride celebration, I don't understand why a couple hundred thousand couldn't show up to demand equal rights or protection laws, so I hope that they take it upon themselves to want better. That's the whole point of this show – to put everything in perspective for them so that they can sit, watch it and learn something about the current state of affairs in Brazil. I'm very hopeful that that will spark change.

I have two kids at home, age 12 and 8, and they know so much about LGBTQ history. I taught them myself, and they've seen my transition and they'll educate you if you sit down with them and ask them questions. That really inspired me.

I have taken it upon myself to link up with an organization who is helping me create a K-12 curriculum for teaching LGBTQ history in the classrooms. I'm gonna ship that out to every single school in America I possibly can and hope that we can educate our children on our history to help break the stigma and help start the conversation on school grounds and help end bullying and better prepare our youth. Hopefully, that's gonna spark some change in the future.

It's a shame everything that is happening with our president, and I know that it might not get any better and we might just have to wait this out. But in the meantime, we can start inspiring our youth to be smarter and stronger and better prepared for the future.

As editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service, Chris Azzopardi has interviewed a multitude of superstars, including Meryl Streep, Mariah Carey and Beyoncé. Reach him via his website at www.chris-azzopardi.com and on Twitter (@chrisazzopardi).



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► The Frivolist

Continued from p. 29

opposite sex. If a group of straight guys came into the gay bar for a bachelor party, the joint would be all over it lickety-split. Which makes the real problem then not the celebration of hetero marriage with bachelorette parties in our bars but rather the reduction of floor space for available dick on a fuck night (because we all know if it was a stag party, your new life goal would be to get that best man in your bed). Instead of calling it a ban on bachelorette parties (which reeks of prejudice), the directive should prohibit party paraphernalia like cakes, wands, balloons and other large objects. The compromise will require bachelorette parties to tone it down a bit, or they'll go somewhere that doesn't apply those restrictions. At least then the issue will be about what patrons are bringing to the bar and not the type of customer we're willing to let in.

3. Some Gay People in Gay Bars Are Just as Disruptive

Bachelorette parties are loud, obnoxious and rude, according to the haters. Meanwhile, I'm over here like, have you ever met a bent-up queen? Gay people are some of the most obnoxious drunks I've ever encountered—myself included. Another clapback is that bachelorette parties should have more respect for the establishment and its patrons. That's interesting, too, because I've never had a woman in a gay bar grab my crotch without asking or tell me how

hard they want to fuck my "boy pussy" when I didn't give any indication that that was an option. Furthermore, I've never had a bachelorette or her party snap in my face in a Z-formation, try to "read" me (which is a mistake for anybody), or undermine my partnered status right in front of my face—all reasons I've had to put disrespectful gay men in their place at the homo club. The point is, assholes are assholes, regardless of their gender or what they're celebrating, and they should be dealt with equitably.

4. It's Offensive to the LGBT Community That Embraces Straight Allies

I can't say that I'm truly offended by this issue — who has time for that these days? — but I do recognize that there is a portion of our community who views the suggested ban on bachelorette parties as detrimental to the relationship between our straight allies. What message is it sending when we're demanding on Capitol Hill to be treated the same as everyone else then going back home and telling certain types of people they're not welcome where we are. That mentality was born on the whims of elitist gay men (and that's who's propagating this issue today, by the way), and it goes against everything we've fought for. Straight women have long been our allies and partners in crime — they're our best friends and we're their best friends — so why are we deciding how they should celebrate a special occasion in their life and telling them how to act while they're doing it? Live and let live.



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SALES EVENT

Practice yoga to live techno music on April 27 at 6:30 p.m. Namaste! Certified yoga instructor and Detroit Symphony Orchestra Librarian Ethan Allen will lead a group yoga session in The Cube at the Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave. in Detroit. Open to all skill levels while accompanied by music performed live by Detroit Techno DJ Kyle Hall and keyboardist Jonathan Dixon. Tickets are \$25. Call 313-576-5111 or visit tickets@dso.org.



Happenings

Photo courtesy of the DSO

OUTINGS

Thursday, April 13

Free Legal Consultations & Services for LGBTQ Immigrants 1 a.m. Second Thursday of every month Grand Rapids Pride Center and Justice for Our Neighbors, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. 616-458-3511. www.grpride.org

Race in 21st Century America: The 10th National Conference 8:30 a.m. Theme: Race, Gender and Sexuality. See website for panel discussion information. Michigan State University, 219 S. Harrison Road, **East Lansing**. <http://jmc.msu.edu/race-conference/>

HIV Prevention Presentation 6 p.m. Dinner and presentation with Q&A Be Well Medical Center, 27351 Dequindre, **Madison Heights**. 248-376-3059. ddempster@matrixhs.org www.doctorbewell.com

LGBT Youth Meeting 6 p.m. "Preparing for my first year of college" with Kalamazoo Valley Community College. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. michael@kgjrc.org www.outfrontkzoo.org

Friday, April 14

Community Open House 5 p.m. Take a tour of the new center. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 South Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. www.outfrontkzoo.org

Saturday, April 15

Self-Care and Learning to Understand Emotions Workshop 10 a.m. Registration: \$30. Workshop for parents, helpers and therapists. Radix Institute and Stand with Trans, 29600 Northwestern Hwy. Suite 100A, **Southfield**. 248-739-9253. lifeorce99@gmail.com www.radix.org

Sunday, April 16

TLGB Annual Potluck Easter & All Holidays Meal 1 p.m. If possible, please bring a dish to pass. Gender-Identity Network Alliance & MCC Detroit, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.facebook.com/events/1763402233975377/

PFLAG Monthly Meeting 2 p.m. Entry from parking lot behind church. Every third Sunday. PFLAG Ann Arbor, 306 N. Division at Catherine Street, **Ann Arbor**. 734-741-0659. info@pflagaa.org www.pflagaa.org

Wednesday, April 19

Discussion on ageism 5 p.m. Contact Pat Baldwin for more information. Detroit Elders, 4750 Woodward, **Detroit**. 313-833-1300 Ext 15. www.facebook.com/detroiteldersproject/

Disability Resource Seminar for Clinicians 6 p.m. Attorney Ebonie Adams will discuss the disability process and the various conditions that qualify for disability under Social Security Law. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Thursday, April 20

Anniversary Celebration 5:30 p.m. More information on Facebook @lgbtdetroit LGBT Detroit, 20025 Greenfield Road, **Detroit**. www.lgbtdetroit.org

Friday, April 21

Annual Spring Luncheon 11:30 a.m. Tickets: \$30. Join Equality Michigan for the "Business Case for LGBTQ Equality" event. Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce, 1000 E. Beltline Ave. NE, **Grand Rapids**. 313-537-7000 Ext 108. lvallarino@equalitymi.org <https://equalitymi.org/spring2017/>

Saturday, April 22

Foster Care and Adoption Orientation 9 a.m. For more information please call 877-529-5532 or visit the website. Orchards Children's Services, 24901 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 601, **Southfield**. 248-258-0440. smarks@orchards.org www.orchards.org

Sunday, April 23

Women Organize Michigan Summit 9 a.m. Senator Debbie Stabenow; Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence; Congresswoman Debbie Dingell; Gretchen Whitmer, gubernatorial Candidate, Michigan Progressive Women's Caucus; Lisa Cook, MSU Economics Professor; Danielle Atkinson, Mothering Justice; Lisa Stern Peltz, Fair Michigan Women Organize Michigan Summit, 1 Washington Blvd., **Detroit**. www.facebook.com/events/345941492473861/

J-Serve Detroit: National Day of Service 1 p.m. Jewish teen volunteers needed. 6th-12th graders. Free of charge. Pre-registration required. Kosher pizza lunch. Transportation provided. J-Serve Detroit, 7400 Telegraph Rd., **Bloomfield Hills**. 248-833-2527. stillman@jfmnd.org <http://jewishdetroit.org/event/j-serve/>

Monday, April 24

FtM Support 7 p.m. Support is limited to transmasculine, AFAB people who no longer identify as female, or are questioning, and their guests. FtM Detroit, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. ftmdetroit@gmail.com

Tuesday, April 25

Free Family Acceptance Project Training 9 a.m. Registration required online. Family Acceptance Project, **Detroit**. familyproject.sfsu.edu

Wednesday, April 26

Volunteer Meeting 7 p.m. Call for volunteers. Visit website for more information and to sign up. Ferndale Pride, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.ferndalepride.com

Thursday, April 27

LGBTQ Book and Movie Club 7 p.m. Meets the 3rd and 4th Thursday of each month. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com www.goaffirmations.org

goaffirmations.org

Relationship Skills Class 7 p.m. Build stronger connections with co-workers, family, friends and romantic partners. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-677-7226. bbudde@goaffirmations.org www.goaffirmations.org

Friday, April 28

6th Annual Jim Toy Birthday Bash 6:30 p.m. Suggestion donation: \$10 Jim Toy Community Center, 200 W. Michigan Ave., **Ypsilanti**. www.jimtoycenter.org/

Saturday, April 29

64th Annual Youth Justice Leadership Conference 10 a.m. "From One Generation to the Next: Bridging the Gap." Featuring Youth Voice Art Project. Pre-registration is required. Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, 8425 W. McNichols, **Detroit**. 313-870-1500 Ext 107. yshakur@miroundtable.org www.miroundtable.org

Queer Prom 7 p.m. Tickets: \$5. Restrictions apply. Register online. For LGBT+ high school students in Northwest

Editor's Pick



Free Family Acceptance Project Training

Join the Family Acceptance Project for free training on April 25 in Detroit. Health, mental health, social service, school-based providers, families and religious leaders are invited to learn more about FAP's research-based family approach for helping diverse families support their LGBT children.

The training from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. includes learning about FAP's foundational approaches to decrease family rejection and increase family support, including how to apply FAP's key research findings and using FAP's multicultural family education resources with diverse families; strategies for helping ethnically, racially and religiously diverse families to support their LGBT children; and helping providers and others to apply research-based FAP's family support approach in diverse practice settings. For registration information, email fap@sfsu.edu or visit <http://familyproject.sfsu.edu>.

Editor's Pick

Celebrate Easter and All Holidays During Brunch

The Gender-Identity Network Alliance and the Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit is proud to host an Easter and All Holidays Brunch on April 16 for the LGBTQ community and their allies. Enjoy food, music and conversation at Affirmations at 290 W. Nine Mile Road in Ferndale. Brunch is served from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. If possible, please bring a dish to pass. People of all faith backgrounds are welcome as this is a non-religious gathering. For more information visit www.facebook.com/events/1763402233975377.



Lower Michigan. Polestar LGBT+ Community Center, 263 West Grandview Parkway, **Traverse City**. www.tcpolestar.org/prom

Sunday, April 30

Drag Queen Bingo 11 a.m. Tickets: \$20-\$30. Reservations required. 18+ Five15, 515 S. Washington Ave., **Royal Oak**. 248-515-2551. www.five15.net

A Taste of Italy 1 p.m. Enjoy a delicious pasta meal and dessert. All proceeds to benefit the Ozone House. LGBT Outreach Ministry, 331 Thompson St., **Ann Arbor**. (734) 663-0557. rlcone@umich.edu www.stmarystudentparish.org/

Potluck 6 p.m. "Pasta-luck" - Bring your favorite pasta dish. Winner of the best dish, following a vote, wins ten raffle tickets for FtM Detroit's next Gender Blender event. FtM Detroit, 313 W. Webster, **Ferndale**. ftmdetroit@gmail.com www.facebook.com/FtMDetroit/

Monday, May 1

UNPLUGGED Social and Support Group 7 p.m. First Monday of every month. For those shunned, disowned or excommunicated from their religion, family or friends for being LGBTQ. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. haymer@goaffirmations.org www.goaffirmations.org

Factory Monday 9 p.m. Goth-industrial night. Main room: DJ Void6 hosted by MC Yoda. Red Room: DJ Madisi. Tickets: \$1-3. Necto, 516 E. Liberty, **Ann Arbor**. www.necto.com

Tuesday, May 2

Building Michigan Communities Conference Speakers include Tahiri Ziegler, Jim Edelman and Tom Daldin. Tickets: \$50-65. Early bird pricing until April 10. Michigan State Housing Development Authority, 333 E. Michigan Ave., **Lansing**. 517-483-7400. <http://buildingmichigancommunities.org>

Sexual Assault Survivors Support Group 4 p.m. Facilitated by LGBTQ Victim Advocate/Counselor Brooke Lindley. Youth group (13-17) from 4-5 p.m., adult group (18+) from 5:15-6:15 p.m. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-345-5595. blindley@ywcakalamazoo.org www.outfrontkzoo.org

LGBTQ in Uniform Support Group 7 p.m. Meets the first Tuesday of every month. Open to current and former police, fire, emergency medical personnel and military. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

MUSIC & MORE

Benefits/Social Events

Dexter Senior Center "George Bedard & the Kingpins Swinging into Spring" Benefit for the Dexter Senior Center. Knights of Columbus Hall, 8265 Dexter-Chelsea Road., Dexter. 6 p.m. April 22. 734-426-7737. www.dexterseniors.org

Moms Club of Anchor Bay "Fire & Ice Mom Prom" Tickets: \$50. Purchase in advance via email. Ladies 21 and over. Benefit for Turning Point to support victims and families affected by sexual abuse and domestic violence. San Marino Club, 1685 E. Big Beaver Road, Troy. 6:30 p.m. April 21. www.turningpointmacomb.org

Project Beautiful - Inside and Out "Rainbow Cabaret" Benefit for the Ruth Ellis Center. President and CEO of GLAAD will speak. Tickets: \$100. SCL (Newly renovated club above Bistro 82), 401 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. 6 p.m. April 28. www.eventbrite.com/e/rainbow-cabaret-benefiting-ruth-ellis-center-tickets-32782110174

Comedy

Falling Stairs Productions "Comedy Extravaganza" Featuring comedian and LGBT advocate Sampson McCormick. Benefit for Polestar LGBT Community Center. The State Theatre & Bijou by the Bay, 233 E. Front St., Traverse City. 9 p.m. April 22. www.facebook.com/events/1473257799385053/

Concerts

The Ark "Paula Cole". The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. April 23. 7347611800. www.theark.org

Theater

Civic/Community Theater

Morning's at Seven Tickets: \$17-22. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave, Ann Arbor. April 20 - April 23. 734-971-2228. www.a2ct.org

Professional

Annamals Tickets: \$10. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Through April 15. 313-365-4948. www.planetant.com

Clutter by Brian Cox Tickets: \$20. Theatre NOVA, 410 W. Huron, Ann Arbor. Through April 16. 734-635-8450. www.theatrenova.org

Gay Fan Fiction Wanted Submit a script (performance time of 30 minutes or

less) for the 8th Annual Gay Play Series. Deadline is April 15. See website or email for details. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through April 14. 2485455545. www.theringwald.com

Riot Grrrl 90s Tickets: \$10. Donations to Planned Parenthood accepted at performances. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through April 15. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

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ART 'N' AROUND

Affirmations "Visibility & Activism: A Showcase of Transgender Activism" Exhibit highlights the activism, courage and artistry of the transgender community. Pittman-Puckett Gallery, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. April 1 - May 27. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "Detroit After Dark: Photographs from the DIA Collection" Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Feb. 5 - April 23. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

FIA "Reaction: The Art of Social Commentary" Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. March 9 - May 7. 810-234-1695. www.flintarts.org

Lawrence Street Gallery "Exposures: Photography '17" Opening reception April 7, 6-9 p.m. Mid-month reception April 21, 6-9 p.m. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave, Ferndale. April 1 - April 30. 2485440394. www.lawrencestreetgallery.com

Scarab Club "Under the Surface" Works by photographer Myles Gallagher. Opening reception, April 7, 5-8 p.m. Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. April 5 - May 20. 3138311250. www.scarabclub.org

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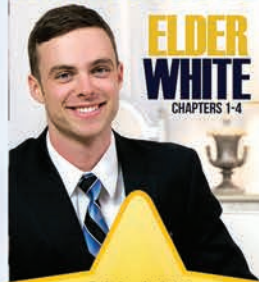


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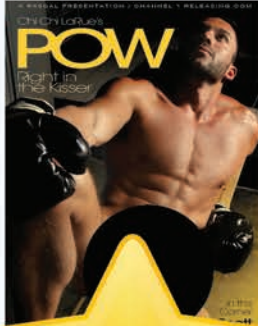
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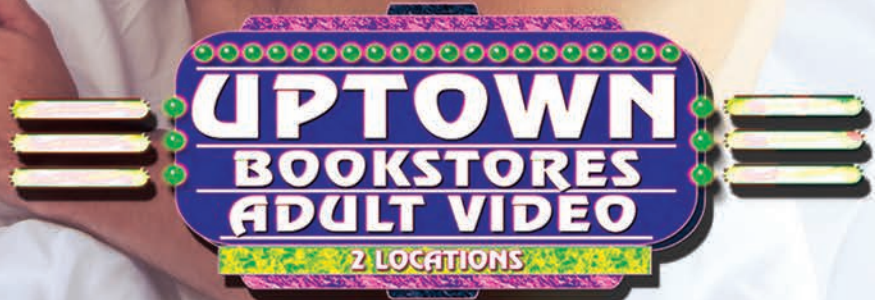
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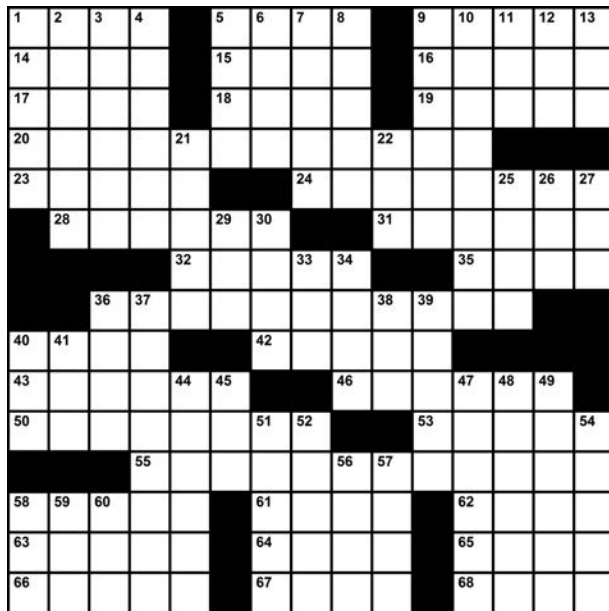
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Q Puzzle



- 46 Oscar Wilde tragedy
50 Kissers of Scarlett in "Vicky Cristina Barcelona"
53 Othello and more
55 MSNBC host of the show that bears her name
58 "Stop!" to pirates
61 Pancake topping
62 Stringed instrument of Shakespeare's day
63 One that ought to be paddled
64 Where Boy Scouts sleep together
65 Peace Nobelists Wiesel
66 Humped antelope
67 Estimator's words
68 Result of a split in a religious body
- 22 Letters on a Johnny Mathis record
25 What you do at the other end
26 Vardalos of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding"
27 Where you can see Baldwin do Trump
29 "Meet Me in St. Louis" writer Brecher
30 Denials
33 Change color
34 David Hyde Pierce and peers
36 One to blow on
37 Hans Christian of fairy tales
38 Bambi's aunt
39 "Scooby-Doo" girl
40 Shakespeare's Puck, e.g.
41 Golden Girl McClanahan
44 Tickled pink
45 Mythical bird
47 Loads
48 Vehicle for a moonshot
49 Like Mapplethorpe pix
51 F. Holland Day work
52 Moray seeker
54 Short partner
56 Part of Bob Mizer's equipment
57 Lorre's detective
58 Crack pilot
59 Batman portrayer Kilmer
60 Writer Castillo

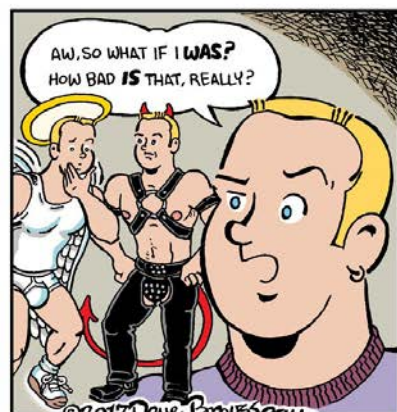
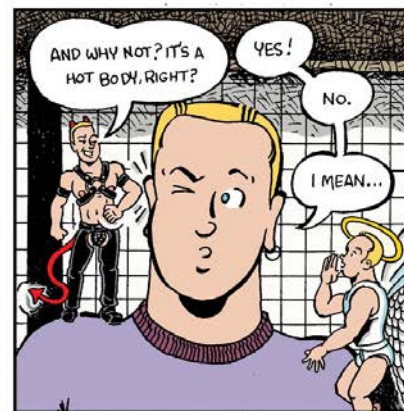
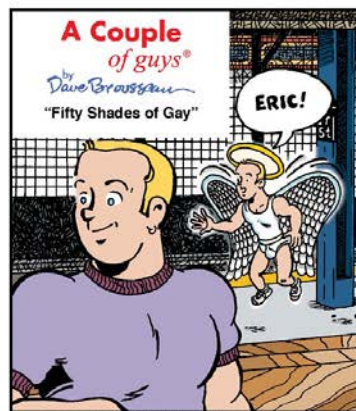
Down

- 1 "Rescue Me" star Denis
2 Depp's cross-dressing role
3 Mr. Ed's owner
4 Handle on a streetcar, for Williams?
5 O-o-o-o-okla., once
6 It may get a licking
7 2008 flick about a priest and a boy
8 Speechless Disney dwarf
9 "Queen of Soul" Franklin
10 Home of the first openly gay Miss America contestant
11 Quick on the uptake
12 Photographer Corinne
13 House seat holders, e.g.
21 More up-to-date

Thirty-Mile Zone and More

Across

- 1 Like gay porn, to some
5 Sondheim's Sweeney
9 Place for a G-string
14 Carmela of "The Sopranos"
15 Switch ending
16 Prepare to get plucked
17 They poke around in leather
18 Take another tour
19 Rob of "Melrose Place"
20 Anchor of ABC's "Good Morning America"
- 23 "___ the Top"
24 Tropical hurricanes
28 Sucked up
31 "Tales of the City" author Armistead
32 Eat away at
35 Honest-to-goodness
36 Creator and managing editor of TMZ
40 Club for Sheehan
42 River of Gay Paree
43 Rita Mae Brown's "___, She Meowed"



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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

NBC Out to Launch Inaugural #Pride30 List

The LGBTQ community has so much to be proud of, and Pride Month gives LGBTQ people and their allies an opportunity to celebrate their successes and the people who are making positive contributions to society.

This is why NBC Out has decided to launch its inaugural #Pride30 list. This year, NBC Out will use Pride Month as an opportunity to recognize and celebrate LGBTQ people who are making the community proud. From June 1-30, NBC Out will highlight one LGBTQ changemaker, innovator or rising star each day – and they want members of the community to help them choose their list of 30.

Who can nominate and be nominated?

Anyone who self-identifies as LGBTQ, is not a household name and is making a positive contribution to society is eligible to be a nominee. There is no age limit and no limit to what their positive contribution may be. And anyone – regardless of whether or not they are part of the LGBTQ community – can nominate someone. To do so, simply email the following information to PRIDE30@nbcuni.com by April 23:

Your name, your nominee's name, why you think your nominee should be on our #Pride30 list, your nominee's contact information (if you have it).

How will the list be narrowed down to 30 people?

The majority of the NBC Out #Pride30 list will come from public nominations, which will be open now through April 23. After the submission window closes, a committee comprised of NBC journalists and executives will go through the submissions and narrow down the list. The committee will consist of: NBC Out Managing Editor Brooke Sopelsa, NBC News & MSNBC Senior Vice President Yvette Miley, Out@NBCUniversal Global Chair Jayzen Patria, NBC News Director of Multicultural Initiatives Ryan Williams, and NBC Out Contributor Alamin Yohannes.

A smaller group of our #Pride30 changemakers, innovators and rising stars will be directly nominated by LGBTQ celebrities and community leaders.

Playground Detroit to Launch Artist Space in Eastern Market

After a handful of years without a permanent home, Playground Detroit is finally leasing an “amazing” 1,500 square foot, street-level space located in a historic building on the outer edge of Eastern Market, and they’re going to “bring it to life.”

Playground Detroit, a creative catalyst that empowers, supports and promotes Detroit’s top emerging artists, designers and musicians, will open a new retail storefront, gallery and event space at 2845 Gratiot Avenue this summer in the two-story historic red brick building which dates back to 1877.

“After five years of operating in different pop-up venues from coffee shops to retail stores to bars, we are so excited to finally have a home,” said Paulina Petkoski, co-founder of Playground Detroit. “Our new space will be a place where people can find exciting, edgy art and design. We will feature carefully curated, exclusive merchandise including artwork, limited edition art objects, special events, and community programming.”

A successfully funded Kickstarter campaign launched in late November 2016 and Motor City Match helped raise \$75,000 needed to complete start-up costs and interior build out construction.

In 2012, Paulina Petkoski and Samantha Schefman launched Playground Detroit, a company targeted to promote and consult with music and visual artists in Detroit. Previously, Petkoski and Schefman worked out of New York, and then out of a residential loft in Detroit. Petkoski said she believes the new commercial storefront will help Playground Detroit’s artists to accomplish their goals.



“Spaces that are safe and inclusive for creative people to not just be recognized [and] active think tanks are super important when you think about redeveloping and re-imagining what the city can be in the future.”

– Samantha Schefman

“Spaces that are safe and inclusive for creative people to not just be recognized [and] active think tanks are super important

when you think about redeveloping and reimagining what the city can be in the future,” Petkoski told The South End in March.

Schefman told TSE she hopes the new space will make Detroit into a more creative city.

“Especially due to its location, the new Playground Detroit space will bridge gaps in Detroit’s current art and retail landscape and also bridge a gap between Detroit’s greater community and its creative community,” she said. “I’m excited to bring something one-of-a-kind to Detroit that inspires and encourages creativity, growth and education.”

Check out what Playground Detroit is doing online at www.playgrounddetroit.com.



MCC Detroit

Good Friday Service
Friday, April 14 at 7:00 pm
Easter Brunch
Sunday, April 16 at 9:00 am
Easter Worship
Sunday, April 16 at 11:00 am
Children's Easter Egg Hunt
April 16 at 12:00 pm

All Services will be held at MCC Detroit

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11AM-7PM
Walk-In

THURSDAY

Matrix MAC Health
FERNDALE
9AM-7:30PM
Walk-In

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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Progress Michigan Names Jeremy Moss 'Legislator of the Month'

House Democratic Whip Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield) was awarded "Legislator of the Month" in March by Progress Michigan for his leadership in the fight to bring more transparency and accountability to state government by making the governor's office and state legislative bodies subject to open records laws.

"Representative Moss has led the charge to hold the legislature and governor's office accountable his entire time in Lansing," said Hugh Madden, communications director of Progress Michigan. "The people deserve to know not just what their government is doing but they also deserve to know how things get done on a day to day basis."

The award goes to an elected official who demonstrates a commitment to government that is of, by, and for the people

"I work hard to seek opportunities across the aisle to make our government



Jeremy Moss

more transparent and effective and I'm proud of my work to expand Michigan's Freedom of Information Act. Even while tackling these issues

The award goes to an elected official who demonstrates a commitment to government that is of, by, and for the people

with bipartisan support, I remain a staunch advocate for progressive values," said Moss. "I'm a subscriber to the late Sen. Paul Wellstone's political philosophy that, 'We all do better when we all do better.' I join with modern day Progressives who push for the big changes to government institutions that will have the biggest impact to make our lives better. I appreciate Progress Michigan's acknowledgement of my work in Lansing."

Connect with Rep. Jeremy Moss online at <http://housedems.com/state-rep-jeremy-moss>. To learn more about Progress Michigan, visit www.progressmichigan.org.

Ozone House Creates Zen Room for Young People to Deal with Stress

The Ozone House Drop-In Center in Ypsilanti is excited to announce the addition of their new Zen Room. The space provides an opportunity for young people to take a moment to themselves to explore new ways of dealing with stress, practice coping skills and self-reflection, and explore their spirituality.

"Young people seldom have a safe space to themselves to relax, meditate and learn about the practice of mindfulness" said Chardae Korhonen, engagement program manager at the Ozone House.

In addition to being a dedicated retreat space, young people will also have the opportunity to engage in creative expression in the Zen Room with access to art and music making supplies as well as a range of aromatherapy and lighting options. Workshops will be held regularly to promote self-



The Himalayan salt lamp in the Ozone House Zen Room offers an array of health and environmental benefits. Photo courtesy of Ozone House

care ranging from making stress balls and tranquility bottles to learning


positive communication techniques.

The Ozone House is a community-based, non-profit agency that helps young people lead safe, healthy and productive lives through intensive intervention and prevention services.

The Ozone House Drop-In Center at 102 N. Hamilton St. serves young people ages 13-20. Drop-In Center hours are Monday-Wednesday and Friday from 4-6 p.m., and Thursday from 4-8 p.m. Later hours are available during PrideZone on Wednesday from 6-8 p.m. Meals are served from 4-4:30 p.m. every weekday. Call 734-485-2222 to connect.

Ozone House services include housing support, a 24-hour crisis line, employment support, counseling services, and an emergency shelter for youth ages 10-17. For more information visit www.ozonehouse.org





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