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Movement Festival Artist's Coming Out Album Asks 'Where Are We Going?'

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TechTown - Detroit
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Moving the Music Forward

Maya Bouldry-Morrison's Coming Out Album Asks 'Where Are We Going?'

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Where are we going? "It's a constant question now for all of us, right?" said Brooklyn-based producer Maya Bouldry-Morrison (professionally known as Octo Octa) while sitting in the airport on Monday. She was heading home from Moogfest (www.moogfest.com) in Durham, North Carolina.

Bouldry-Morrison laughed when asked if the title of her new album, "Where Are We Going?" has anything to do with the world we live in.

"I was making the album, figuring out the title before Trump was elected and then it came out afterwards and I'm like 'Oh, that's like a new facet to that title,'" she said.

Her second overall full-length project and her first as an out transgender individual isn't so much about the world we live in, but more about the way she interacts with it.

"I was using that title in terms of myself being out now and things starting to feel better for me personally," said Bouldry-Morrison, who came out publicly in early 2016 in an interview with Resident Advisor and is married to her high-school sweetheart, Brooke.

Apologizing for having to excessively clear a scratchy throat from smoking "way too many" cigarettes, she mentioned enduring a full body pat down in a separate room at the airport because "things" showed up on the body scanner that must have confused Transportation Security Administration (TSA)



Photo courtesy of Jeffrey McMahan

employees.

"I deal with people in these social situations that are weird and new so where we're going is all I think about sometimes. I'm trying to understand what's happening. It's always open ended," said Bouldry-Morrison.

"Where Are We Going?" follows her 2013 debut album, "Between Two Selves." Released in March on the HNYTRX label of San Francisco's influential queer DJ collective, Honey Soundsystem, the LP features nine four-to-the-floor house and techno tracks, one of which – "Fleeting Moment of Freedom" – is full of backspins.

"They are cute and fun and I like doing backspins when I'm DJing and that track has backspins built into it," she said.

Bouldry-Morrison said in previous interviews that this album has a sense of confidence and fulfilment, but it's also emotional.

The title tracks open and close the album as Part 1 and Part 2 – a personal favorite.

"It makes me cry a lot. I was crying when I made it," she said about Part 2, which has a lyric, "Do you feel better?"

In a press release, Bouldry-Morrison said, "It was the question every single person asked me after coming out as transgender.

“I deal with people in these social situations that are weird and new so where we're going is all I think about sometimes. I'm trying to understand what's happening. It's always open ended.”

– Maya Bouldry-Morrison.

Overall I do, but no, I don't feel better at every moment... These days, both emotions are ever-present for me."

Bouldry-Morrison said, "It's weird" when some people ask her about what she calls an atypical experience as a transgender woman working inside the confines of a male-dominated sphere.

"I had the privilege of being seen as a male artist when I first entered this space. For other trans people having a hard time getting

in, they ask what did I do and I'm just like I don't know. Nothing was ever called into question," she said. "Coming out much later when there was a lot of media coverage and more understanding of transgender people in general made potential backlash a lot less. I wanted to come out in 2013 when I put out my last album, but I was too nervous and worried and waited another two years and I honestly could not stand it anymore. I wonder if I had come out earlier if it would have been different."

Maybe so when Bouldry-Morrison said she still doesn't see herself represented in many dance music spaces at all even though this style of music is a unifying thing that she enjoys as much as other people.

"There are a lot of clubs that will boast being safe spaces, and I appreciate that step, but that hasn't changed the diversity of the people who are still going to those places," she said.

To find herself, Bouldry-Morrison said she has looked to people like Terre Thaemlitz, a transgender musician, theorist and DJ whose releases as DJ Sprinkles and K-S.H.E. have played a major role in making themes

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PERFORMING

Movement Music Festival

May 27 - 29, Hart Plaza

>> www.movement.us

Rose Confuses the Mind and Perceptions While Making Music

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Known for confusing listeners until they question their place in space and time, Rose will take the Underground Stage May 27 at 5:30 p.m. at the Movement Music Festival in Hart Plaza.

Rose, a California native who lives in London, is the musical pandrogynous persona currently taken on by techno producer Seth Horvitz. The name originated as a conceptual character, Rose Sélavy, created by Marcel Duchamp in the 1920s. Prior to taking on the Rose persona, Horvitz also created music under the name of Sutekh.

The Rose project was born in 2011 with the release of three EPs and an album on the now decommissioned Sandwell District label. In 2012, Rose launched Eaux, a label for solo productions and collaborations. Additional Rose productions have appeared on Stroboscopic Artefacts, Khemia, Infrastructure, and Further Records.

When asked what motivates him to create, Rose told BTL “It just seems to be the thing that I do best. I don’t always enjoy the process. I don’t always enjoy it but it’s something I feel it’s sort of a calling. It’s what I’m meant to do. I’m making a contribution. What I do influences people and inspires people so that’s the feedback that I get from people, from audiences, from people that are important to me. And that gives me the fuel to keep creating.”

Does the reaction to your presentation in drag differ much from Europe to the U.S.?

I wouldn’t say there’s a real distinction between Europe and the U.S. as a whole. It’s more sort of individual venues and shows that differ. People always ask me the difference between playing in this country and that. For me I don’t get so much of a feeling from a country as I do just from a particular place or event, whatever that happens to be. I get it from what happens at that time and place.

Detroit prides itself on being the birthplace of Techno. So is coming here like visiting the mothership or just another stop on the tour?

Whenever I’m there I’m always keenly aware of the history of it. There’s a kind of honor of being there and being at the festival. That’s always on my mind whenever I get to Detroit.

You’ve been presenting yourself as Rose since 2012. Has the Rose persona always been presented as female?

I did not dress for the first couple of performances but maybe the third or fourth I had started. I kind of had the idea in mind when I started the project. I just wasn’t sure

if I was ready to commit to it. I had to be ready. It was going to be something that once I started, I couldn’t really change my mind. It would be a commitment. So I made the decision.

Is that a nod to sexual orientation or simply a style choice?

Initially it was a way for me to subvert the element of the white male techno image, which I was not comfortable representing on stage. So it just made sense. It wasn’t something that I decided from the beginning but when I chose the name it was sort of an idea I was kicking around. As I realized how important the project had become to me and how sensual it had become it became more important to deal with the persona and the identity.

Does sexual orientation have any relevance in techno or does the music transcend such binary constrictions?

I think it’s definitely relevant. Techno is interesting. It’s because sort of the history of techno crosses over quite heavily in the gay club scene. But over time it seems like it’s become more and more heterosexual and has more just sort of a macho element to it. As far as the content I think in the ideal situation what techno can do is sort of lift those barriers and make all orientations sort of equal and available and I think the music has the potential to sort of transcend all of those categories and open up possibilities and give people a sense of openness and freedom of expression. And in the ideal situation it gives people a sense that it’s safe to express yourself in any way possible and it’s ok to be with any type of person and express this experience.

How did you evolve into Rose?

It was kind of a break from the Sutekh project. I drifted away from it for a few years and got involved in other kind of projects and other kinds of music. I distanced myself from the club scene for a few years and ended up going back to school to study music. I started doing composition and sound arts projects and at that point I wasn’t even sure I would be making techno anymore. But when I finished my studies I had the opportunity to collaborate with Bob Ostertag and that gave me some inspiration to make techno again and some time had passed and a lot of changes had occurred in my life. And I felt like the music I was making had a new approach to it, a more focused approach and a fixed identity. So I took some time to decide what to name it and what it was going to be about. I thought it would only be sort of a side project, an outlet for me to make

techno while I did other things. But it quickly consumed me.

Does your bachelor’s degree in cognitive science have a practical application for you in the making of music? Is there a scientific component to techno or is it purely emotionally driven?

My degree didn’t provide any kind of technical expertise that contributes to making music. For me cognitive science was a way to study consciousness and the mind through

many different perspectives and that’s what I liked about it. I wasn’t thinking of it in terms of a practical application or career. It was just a subject I was interested in. I still think about those perspectives a lot and I’m sure it in some way it finds itself into my practical approach.

Experiment with Rose on his website <http://rrose.ro/> or on Facebook www.facebook.com/Rose1921/

“ I think the music has the potential to sort of transcend all of those categories and open up possibilities and give people a sense of openness and freedom of expression. ”

– Rose



What's in a Name (and Gender Marker)?

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

"I would rather make my name than inherit it."

– William Makepeace Thackeray

At the age of 18, Jazz McGinnis embarked on a journey. As a transgender man, this was neither his physical nor emotional journey – it was a legal one: McGinnis wanted to change his name. "Jazz" reflected his authentic self, and he sought to obtain affirming identification documents to be Jazz to the world. To that end, legally changing his name would be the first step. But as he soon discovered, what sounded like a "step" is in fact a complex process.

"When I began my legal name change through the courts, I was barely 18, alone, terrified, anxious, and had no idea what to expect," said McGinnis. "I had no guidance and didn't know any other trans people – let alone any other people – who had changed their name. Somehow I managed to fumble my way through filing and the court hearing itself to procure my certified copy of name change."

Now a University of Michigan Masters of Social Work candidate, McGinnis assists other transgender and gender non-conforming people to obtain their own affirming documents. Earlier this year, McGinnis organized a name change workshop with the help of the University of Michigan Law School's OutLaws (an LGBTQ advocacy group) and the Jim Toy Community Center's Know Your Rights Project.

As he told BTL at the time, "We're hoping

to reach transgender people across Michigan who otherwise could not navigate the process to gain that one piece of paper, that one ID card, that will reduce their exposure to potentially dangerous situations and increase their ability to access housing, healthcare and employment."

Why now?

McGinnis explained, "After the inauguration of our current President, there was a palpable and very real fear from the trans community that the protections established under the Obama administration would be rolled back and make it difficult for trans people to receive affirming documents, particularly federal ones like passports and passport cards. I made sure that we emphasized that no matter what happened in this new administration, our legal experts would fight for all people's right to correct legal documentation. I believe that articulating that commitment was incredibly important to demonstrating our desire and dedication to the safety and well-being of the trans community."

Along with UM OutLaw's Josh Goldman and help from the Know Your Rights Project, McGinnis facilitated the workshop, which included all the nuts and bolts of a legal name change, information on gender markers, and further resources.

What's In a Name Change?

To paraphrase Shakespeare, What's in a name change? Turns out, a lot: For obtaining a legal name change, a petitioner (the person requesting a name change) starts at the probate court in their county of residence. (The petitioner is required to have resided in the county for at least 12 months prior to filing paperwork.) After filing, if the petitioner is 22 or older, he/she/they are fingerprinted for a background check. It will take 30-60 days for the state police to send the results back to the court. At this point, the individual can schedule a hearing on the petition. The hearing regarding the name change must be published in a newspaper at least three weeks prior to the hearing date. At the hearing, the court usually grants the name change after asking the petitioner a few questions.

Besides being complex and time-consuming, a legal name change can be costly: \$175 court filing fees, \$80.25 for public notification in a newspaper, \$42 fingerprinting fee, \$10 each for certified copies, plus \$2.00/page. Orders are about three pages, and multiple copies may be needed. (Certified copies are generally required to update all other documents – including credit cards.)

All told, you can expect to pay well over



Jazz McGinnis

\$300, once the additional fees for updating a birth certificate are considered. Waivers or other assistance for low-income individuals may be available.

Following the name change, you'll need to look at the requirements in your state for updating a birth certificate; all 50 states have different requirements. In Michigan, you will need a court order, photo ID, application, and fee to have your name corrected.

Next, some may want to consider gender markers. Changing the gender marker on your birth certificate (the "F" for female, "M" for male) isn't so straightforward. Fortunately, Michigan is one of the states that allows a change – many don't – but the laws are still considerably restrictive and not so clear.

Michigan law states that you will need, "A request that a new certificate be established to show a sex designation other than that designated at birth. The request shall be accompanied by an affidavit of a physician certifying that sex-reassignment surgery has been performed." (For other states, see the "Know Your Rights" section of the Lambda Legal website for easy reference.)

Yes, there is a surgery requirement – which may not even be appropriate/desirable/financially feasible for any number of transgender people. But what counts as "sex-reassignment surgery"? The language on the medical affidavit is as follows: "I am the attending physician of the patient named above, with whom I have a doctor/patient relationship. The individual named above has had appropriate surgical procedures completed for gender transition to the new gender of [male/female]."

For McGinnis, his top surgery did not meet the state's standards of "appropriate surgical procedures."

“After the inauguration of our current President, there was a palpable and very real fear from the trans community that the protections established under the Obama administration would be rolled back and make it difficult for trans people to receive affirming documents, particularly federal ones like passports and passport cards.”

– Jazz McGinnis

"The reason cited to me was that I had not had "all of the surgeries completed" which I find ridiculous because what does "all of the surgeries" mean?" he asked. "Why is my choice of what I choose to do to my body more or less trans, more or less valid in my gender? Who at the Record of Vital Statistics chooses what "all the surgeries" are?"

Workaround

Kerene Moore, supervising attorney for the Know Your Rights Project, explains that if you are unable to change the gender marker on your birth certificate and are looking to update your driver's license, there is a workaround.

"Because the federal and state laws differ on this issue, it is easier to change the gender marker on your passport. Basically, under the relaxed rules, WPATH [World Professional Association for Transgender Health] standards are used, and a physician determines whether you have completed or are in the process of completing transition (no surgery requirement). Those who are in the process of transitioning can get a two- or three-year passport with the preferred gender marker; and those who have completed transition can get a regular 10-year passport with the correct gender designation."

The importance of the ability to change the gender on a passport can't be stressed enough, as it may be used as a substitute ID for a birth certificate in almost every circumstance – like updating a driver's license (but not obtaining a marriage license). This was a significant win in Michigan last year, in which the Secretary of State agreed to the relaxed standards following ACLU litigation. As Moore points out, "Obtaining a passport can help transgender community members

See next page

Resources

The Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund's Name Change Project helps income-eligible petitioners for free; however, there is currently a wait for assigning an attorney. In Michigan, attorneys are available in Wayne, Oakland and Washtenaw counties. Check out <http://tldef.org>

At the Jim Toy Community Center's Know Your Rights Project in Ann Arbor, attorneys volunteer to advise petitioners statewide, and provide possible representation or referrals. They typically meet on Friday afternoons, when U of M classes are in session (September-April), but will always replay to inquiries: outlawslegal@gmail.com or call (734) 995-9867

Note: The Know Your Rights Project also advises on a wide range of other legal issues, such as adoption, custody, divorce, estate matters, public benefits, etc. www.jimtoycenter.org/know-your-rights

► Whats In A Name

Continued from p. 6

which protects them from being unnecessarily outed, and potentially keeps them safer.”

Current Reality

McGinnis reflected on his recent experience having to accept the reality that, as a transgender person, the issues with his identification documents may never be entirely settled.

“In the present, what it looks like to continue obtaining affirming documentation is carrying every single piece of legal paperwork that reflects my journey in correcting my documentation. Last week, I lost my Oregon driver’s license and had to go to the Michigan DMV to replace it. With me – just in case any of my documentation was questioned – I brought my birth certificate, my certified court order of name change, the letter from

my surgeon attesting to my “gender change”, my Social Security card and my passport, in addition to the other papers demonstrating that I’m a current Michigan resident. Each time I interact with a government agency – every time any trans person has to go through the same steps that I did – I bring the entire paper trail of my transition with me just in case the government official behind the counter looks up in confusion, disbelief, or disgust.

For all trans people, legal name and gender changes meant being called the correct name at the doctor’s office or not being discriminated against by an employer because their name and appearance were incongruent. On top of it all, living with a name that traps you in an identity that perpetuates an inauthenticity can be so harmful to a person’s mental, emotional, and spiritual health. As a trans person myself, I knew I had to change all of my documents not only out of fear for my safety and to be seen in the world as the person I am but also to feel like I was living as my true self.”

► Movement

Continued from p. 4

of queerness and gender identity a central discourse in dance music.

“I’m terrible. After this year, I’m putting a moratorium on this. I talk about DJ Sprinkles and Terre so much, but her records made me really excited and happy to see a trans narrative in an electronic album being presented, which is really great. That’s one of the people who emotionally inspired me to want to be doing what I’m doing,” she said. “Almost to the point where sometimes I finish something and I’m like ‘Uh oh, did I just bite their style like a little too hard?’ because I like the music so much. Unintentionally, I’m not like sitting down and being like it’s time to do this DJ Sprinkles song, so I’ll finish something and sit back and be like that sounds a little too similar. It’s funny.”

Beyond that, Bouldry-Morrison connects with Italian house music from the 90s like “Paranoia” by Don Carlos on Calypso Records or New York, New Jersey and Chicago house records, also from the 90s.

“The Italian house stuff is really airy and bubbly and floaty. My friend was like ‘Dude, listen to this. This is what Italians think paranoia sounds like,’ and it sounds like you’re on the beach. So pretty and nice. I’m like this rules.”

What does she think of her own music? It’s “super cute” she said when people tell her they listen to it while going for a jog or that it’s a good moodsetter for the office. She likes to envision people dancing in their bedroom.

“It’s light and airy and it makes me dance. So, yeah, you could listen to it while working on your eBook, I don’t know. As long as in the end it translates to when I’m out doing a live set and people are dancing, that’s important,”

said Bouldry-Morrison, who admits her creative process is simple.

“I’ll be sitting and watching TV and then get really bored with watching TV and I’ll either play Nintendo or pull out my laptop,” she said. “Years ago, people would be like ‘Can we come take pics of you working in your studio?’ You mean me working on my laptop at my kitchen table with headphones on? I can work on stuff anywhere, anytime. I don’t buy expensive gear. I’m not ready to run home and start working on my \$5,000 synthesizer. I make do with what I have.”

At the age of 30, Bouldry-Morrison is still developing as an artist and said she can’t quite put a finger on yet what she does stylistically that makes her unique.

“There’s nothing I can think about that’s like this is the thing I do that I should be known for, but when I’m playing music at home, my wife will listen to it and be like ‘Oh, that’s you.’ She knows immediately that’s one of my tracks, but I’m like what is it about it? She’s like I don’t know, it just sounds like you,” she said. “That’s cute. So I’m glad that’s there, but I don’t know what it is. I’m never working on something and like ‘Let me open up my signature file. Time to put a Maya thumbprint on it.’ I don’t know what it is, but my brain reacts in one way when I make stuff and it all comes out with like a similar strain through it. When I’m making something and my head starts tingling and I’m excited, you know like an ASM (autonomous sensory meridian) response from something, and I’ll be like ‘Ooh, this is good.’”

Do backspins with Octo Octa on May 28 at 2 p.m. on the Red Bull Music Academy Stage at the Movement Festival <http://movement.us>. See where Maya is going online www.facebook.com/Octo-Octa-311612715552997. Listen to her “super cute” sounds at <https://soundcloud.com/octooccta>.

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*EPA-estimated hwy fuel economy for 2017 Subaru Outback 2.5i models. Actual mileage may vary. †Activation with subscription required. Includes one-year trial subscription to Safety Plus connected service. See your retailer for details. Price excludes license, title, taxes, additional options and dealer charges. \$1,800 cap cost reduction due at lease inception. Lease based on 12,000 miles per year, at lease end, leasee responsible for \$0.15/mile over mileage. Damages and excessive wear. Must take delivery off stock. Offers ends May 31, 2017.

What is TRUVADA for PrEP (Pre-exposure Prophylaxis)?

TRUVADA is a prescription medicine that can be used for PrEP to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection when used together with safer sex practices. This use is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This includes HIV-negative men who have sex with men and who are at high risk of getting infected with HIV-1 through sex, and male-female sex partners when one partner has HIV-1 infection and the other does not.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV-1. 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 TRUVADA for PrEP?

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- ◆ **You must be HIV-negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1 infection. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-negative.
- ◆ **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP or at any time while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

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 - Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
 - If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- ◆ **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

- ◆ **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, nausea, vomiting, stomach-area pain, cold or blue hands and feet, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or fast or abnormal heartbeats.
- ◆ **Serious liver problems.** Your liver may become large and tender, and you may develop fat in your liver. Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach-area pain.
- ◆ **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking TRUVADA for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.

- ◆ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and take TRUVADA, your hepatitis may become worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider. If your healthcare provider tells you to stop taking TRUVADA, they will need to watch you closely for several months to monitor your health. TRUVADA is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status. If you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you also take lamivudine (EpiVir-HBV) or adefovir (HEPSERA).

What are the other possible side effects of TRUVADA for PrEP?

Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- ◆ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- ◆ **Bone problems,** including bone pain or bones getting soft or thin, may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.
- ◆ **Changes in body fat,** which can happen in people taking TRUVADA or medicines like TRUVADA.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA for PrEP?

- ◆ **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- ◆ **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
Pregnancy Registry: A pregnancy registry collects information about your health and the health of your baby. There is a pregnancy registry for women who take medicines to prevent HIV-1 during pregnancy. For more information about the registry and how it works, talk to your healthcare provider.
- ◆ **If you are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed.** Do not breastfeed. The medicines in TRUVADA can pass to your baby in breast milk. If you become HIV-1 positive, HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- ◆ **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- ◆ **If you take certain other medicines** with TRUVADA for PrEP, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include ledipasvir with sofosbuvir (HARVONI).

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 TRUVADA for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.



Have you heard about
TRUVADA for PrEP™?

The **once-daily prescription medicine** that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when used **with safer sex practices**.

- TRUVADA for PrEP is only for **adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex**.
- You **must be HIV-negative** before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Ask your doctor about your risk of getting HIV-1 infection and if TRUVADA for PrEP may be right for you.

visit **start.truvada.com**

 **Truvada**® 
200 mg emtricitabine · tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg



IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about taking TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. This does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your medicine.

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP to help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- **You must be HIV-1 negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1 infection. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-1 negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include flu-like symptoms, tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP to help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- **You must continue using safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-1 negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- **Tell your healthcare provider if you have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- **See the "How to Further Reduce Your Risk" section for more information.**

TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Buildup of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, nausea, vomiting, stomach-area pain, cold or blue hands and feet, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or fast or abnormal heartbeats.
- **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, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach-area pain.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have HBV and take TRUVADA, your hepatitis may become worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA 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 TRUVADA for a long time.

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP (PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS)

TRUVADA is a prescription medicine used with safer sex practices for PrEP to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection in adults at high risk:

- HIV-1 negative men who have sex with men and who are at high risk of getting infected with HIV-1 through sex.
- Male-female sex partners when one partner has HIV-1 infection and the other does not.

To help determine your risk, talk openly with your doctor about your sexual health.

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.**
- Take lamivudine (Epivir-HBV) or adefovir (HEPSERA).

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the "Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP" section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Bone problems.
- Changes in body fat.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP include stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight.

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

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

BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you become HIV-1 positive 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 TRUVADA for PrEP.

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

- **Take 1 tablet once a day, every day,** not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- You **must** practice safer sex by using condoms and you **must** stay HIV-1 negative.

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV-1 status and the HIV-1 status of your partners.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months or when your healthcare provider tells you.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV-1 to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior.
- Have fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV-1 infection.
- Go to start.truvada.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit start.truvada.com for program information.



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Texas Lawmakers Advance Anti-LGBT Adoption, Bathroom Bills

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

Under a threat from Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick of being called into a special session, the Texas Legislature late Sunday advanced two anti-LGBT measures – one pertaining to adoption, the other transgender students – with days remaining before lawmakers were set to adjourn.

The Texas Senate voted 21-10 to pass House Bill 3859, which would allow taxpayer-funded adoption agencies to refuse to place children in homes over religious objections. Given that many of these agencies are religious in nature, that could lead to them refusing to place children with LGBT families.

Marty Rouse, national field director for the Human Rights Campaign, said in a statement the measure “is a dangerous, discriminatory bill” that represents anti-LGBT animus “coloring so much of the Texas Legislature this session.”

“This ‘Slate of Hate’ that the Texas Legislature has made a priority harms LGBTQ Texans,” Rouse said. “It is unconscionable

that a bill would prioritize discrimination over the best interest of kids in the child welfare system, but Texas lawmakers have done just that. As HB 3859 heads to Gov. Abbott’s desk, we hope he does not buy into a hateful agenda over the best interest of some of his most vulnerable constituents – Texas’ children looking for loving, stable homes.”

The Texas House already approved HB3859 by a 93-49 vote earlier this month. It now heads to the desk of Gov. Greg Abbott for his signature. The Washington Blade has placed a request with his office seeking comment on whether he’ll sign the legislation.

The Texas measure is similar to “religious freedom” adoption laws in Michigan, South Dakota, North Dakota, Virginia and Alabama. South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard and Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey signed the anti-LGBT adoptions laws in their states this year.

Meanwhile, the Texas House by a vote of 91-50 added an amendment to Senate Bill 2078 – a bill related to emergency operations plans for school districts – that would bar transgender students from using the public

restroom consistent with their gender identity. If a transgender student didn’t want to use the room, the school would be required to offer a single-occupancy facility the student could use provided no one else was in the facility.

The measure now heads to the Senate, which will have to concur with the House’s added amendment, but when that chamber will vote on the bill is uncertain. The Senate does not put up a formal schedule of the bills it will consider, so that could take place any time this week. However, the last day they could pass it is Sunday when the legislative session expires.

The Texas Legislature advanced the bathroom bill after Patrick threatened to return lawmakers to a special session if Senate Bill 6, a standalone bathroom bill, and Senate Bill 2, a property tax bill, weren’t passed, according to the Texas Tribune.

“If we must go to a special session, I will respectfully ask the governor to add both of these bills – plus other legislation he has voiced support for – in that special session call,” Patrick said during a press conference at the Capitol. “If the bills don’t pass in the

special and they’re blocked again, I will ask the governor to call us back again and again and again.”

Kasey Suffredini, acting CEO for Freedom for All Americans, said in a statement the advancements of the anti-LGBT measures demonstrate poor judgement in Texas and called on Abbott to veto the legislation.

“There is just chaos in Texas right now, and rather than focusing on initiatives that can improve Texas communities and the lives of hardworking families, lawmakers are exhausting themselves by exploring new ways to make life more challenging and even dangerous for LGBT people,” Suffredini said. “We urge Gov. Abbott to take a deep breath before acting, and think about the real people this bill will hurt. It will devastate families and explicitly expose kids to harmful practices like conversion therapy. Signing HB 3859 would be an unconscionable act of cruelty.”

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

Court: Transgender People Can Sue Under ADA

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

A federal court for the first time has ruled transgender people can sue under the Americans with Disabilities Act, despite the law’s explicit exclusion of claims based on gender identity.

U.S. District Judge Joseph Gleeson, an Obama-appointed judge in Pennsylvania, determined in a six-page decision a case filed by transgender plaintiff Kate Lynn Blatt filed against Cabela’s Retail, Inc., can proceed because she meets the conditions of the 1990 law.

“[I]t is fairly possible to interpret the term gender identity disorders narrowly to refer to simply the condition of identifying with a different gender, not to exclude from ADA coverage disabling conditions that persons who identify with a different gender may have -- such as Blatt’s gender dysphoria, which substantially limits her major life activities of interacting with others, reproducing, and social and occupational functioning,” Gleeson writes.

The decision rejects calls from Cabela’s Retail over the course of the litigation to block claims on the basis of the ADA from going forward over the course of the lawsuit.

In 2014, Blatt sued alleging discrimination she faced at work at the Hamburg, Pa.-based

outlet in Pennsylvania for being transgender. Although she was initially allowed to use the women’s restroom, a human resources director subsequently forced her to use the men’s room, which her complaint says created “a situation that was extremely uncomfortable for her, as she identified as female.” Blatt was forced to work the third shift at all times in an effort she believes was intended to keep her out of sight of customers, the complaint says.

The human resources director also allegedly refused to give her a name tag identifying Blatt as “Kate Lynn” and instead gave her one reading “James.” Other employees were allowed to wear name tags displaying a nickname and Groves instructed employees to refer to Blatt as “James” or risk termination, the complaint says.

According to the complaint, fellow employees commonly referred to Blatt as “he/she,” “ladyboy,” “fag,” “sinner” and “freak.” Blatt was also subjected to questions, such as “Do you have a penis?” Although Blatt complained to a supervisor, no action was taken.

In 2007, Blatt was involved in an altercation with Mercedes Ramirez, a maintenance technician. The complaint says Blatt amicably asked her a question, but Ramirez responded with a tirade of obscenities and told Blatt, “You’re not a real woman and you never

will be!” Afterward, Blatt was terminated on the basis that she threatened Ramirez’s son, although Blatt maintains she never made a threat and didn’t even know Ramirez had a son, the complaint says.

In 2014, Blatt sued under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which has a provision barring sex discrimination in the workplace that courts have interpreted to apply to transgender people, as well as ADA and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act. The court decision allows the lawsuit to proceed on the basis of all three laws.

The ADA includes language that seemingly prevents transgender people from filing lawsuits. The 1990 law excludes from disabilities “transsexualism” as well as “gender identity disorders not resulting from physical impairments.”

The court determination that the ADA allows transgender claims is a major breakthrough. In fact, in this very case, the U.S. Justice Department in 2015 (under the Obama administration) asked the court to hold off on determining whether the ADA applies to transgender people until the question is resolved on whether Title VII was violated.

In the decision, Gleeson ruled Blatt can sue under the ADA despite the gender-identity exclusion based on legislative history in Congress and precedent in the Third

Circuit, citing in a 2008 decision the law “must be broadly construed to effectuate its purposes.” As a result, Gleeson concludes, “any exceptions to the statute...should be read narrowly in order to permit the statute to achieve a broad reach.”

Jillian Weiss, executive director of the Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund, said on Facebook the court decision was a positive step despite questions about whether gender dysphoria should be considered a disorder.

“This is the first court opinion to rule that the Americans With Disabilities Act protects transgender people from discrimination at work because of gender dysphoria, despite an exclusion for ‘transsexualism,’” Weiss said. “It invokes the broad protections, the reasonable accommodations requirement and the interactive process afforded by the Americans With Disabilities Act. While there may be important questions as to whether gender dysphoria should be considered a disability, there is no question but that additional protections for transgender people is a welcome sign.”

The Washington Blade has placed a request for comment with attorneys for Cabela’s Retail on whether they intend to appeal the decision to the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals.



Outing the Stonewall Inn

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Back in the days when closets were leased for a lifetime, it was Standard Operating Protection to go by a nickname. Some SOPs I recall are Little Bobby, Little Pat, Estralita, Marshmallow, T.D. (Tall Dick), Savoy, B.J. (Butch Jimmy), Miss Bruce, and, among Dykes Anonymous: Big Red, Skye, Petey, Speedy, Rusty, Drano, Big Birdie.

Long before the esophageal advent of gay porn stars, I was actually introduced to a guy – of dubious intellectual turpitude, to be sure – who went by the alias of Dallas Copenhagen. Cope for short. (I suspect he no longer holds dual citizenship, or turpitude of any kind, in this world.)

I debuted at 19 with the user-friendly SOP Also-Ran. (I changed it to Brando when hitchhiking.) Our nicknames provided a protective distancing ‘til we found out whom we could trust as lover, friend or washroom towel attendant.

Nicknames kept nasty people from calling our folks, employers, shrinks, parole boards and made blackmail (an ever-present danger) less likely. Speaking of which: I was quite surprised to learn that the famous Stonewall Inn – where the Gay Lib movement began in 1969 – was also a home base for blackmailers operating on a well-coordinated, profitable scale.

According to historian David Carter’s “Stonewall: The Riots that Sparked the Gay Revolution,” the Mafia-owned Stonewall Inn operated under a loophole membership license. Members were to bring their own booze for bartender pouring (with tips). In actuality, booze – watered down booze – was sold on the premises.

Prospective Stonewallers filled out index cards: name, address, telephone number. The usual scribble. Bartenders – gay-hating thugs, hand-picked for the blackmail sting – sized up new customers. Anyone who appeared well-dressed (even casually so) – who seemed several cuts above the usually impoverished street queens who regularly danced there – was fair game.

Cute waiters (all gay) were ordered to be friendly with these “scores.” Chat them up. Gradually – after a few drinks or bar visits – finding out where they worked, what make of car they drove, etc. Hustlers were also threatened to come on to these newcomers, tricking with them, getting them stewed, stealing their wallets.

According to Carter, the blackmail ring operated mostly in New York City and Chicago: “(The ring’s) scope and size were staggering: having operated for almost 10 years, the ring had victimized close to a thousand men (netting \$2 million) who were highly successful.

“Among those listed (in the police investigation) were the head of the American Medical Association, two army generals, Admiral William Church (suicide), a Republican member of Congress from New Jersey (\$50,000), a Princeton professor, ‘a leading motion picture actor,’ ‘a musician who made numerous appearances on television,’ heads of business firms, ‘a much admired television personality’ and ‘a British producer.’”

The shaved-head arachnid behind the blackmail spider web was Francis P. Murphy, known among his cronies as “The Skull.” His criminal record began at conception. His crime den was above the club.

But Murphy proved a canny operator. He managed to sidestep indictment, time after time. For one important reason: a buddy-buddy photo with America’s Big Ms., er, Mr. Untouchable: J. Edgar Hoover, head of the F.B.I.

Writes Carter, “... investigation into the nationwide blackmail ring had turned up a photograph of Hoover ‘posing amiably’ (in drag?) with the racket’s ringleader, and had uncovered information that Clyde Tolson, Hoover’s lover, had himself ‘fallen victim to the extortion ring.’”

“After federal agents joined the investigation, both the photograph of Hoover and the documents about Tolson disappeared.” Poof!

Oh, yes; Hoover’s Standard Operating Protection – Dick Tracy. Tolson’s: Tess Trueheart. (And, please remember when out driving: It’s Brando, not Also-Ran. Please honk. I’m a little deaf at 2 a.m.)



BY TONYA Y. GRIFFITH, LMSW

Viewpoint

Don’t Cry Alone. There is Help.

The LGBTQ community is still fairly silent when it comes to having conversations about mental health. As a trauma-focused therapist based in Harper Woods, I work closely with LGBTQ people who struggle to talk about their mental health. I understand why no one wants to talk about it, but mental illness is nothing to be ashamed of, and to make a real difference, we need to overcome the stereotypes and prejudice that result from misconceptions about it. Much like diabetes or high blood pressure, mental illness is a medical health condition that is treatable. So I wanted to take this opportunity during Mental Health Awareness Month to remind the LGBTQ community that help is available for those who want it.

Lyrics from the song “I Cry to Myself” by Chante Moore come to mind when I think about the number of LGBTQ people suffering from mental illness who don’t seek the help they need.

“I cry to myself, when no one else is listening. I’ll tell you I’m fine but deep inside I’m dying when I’m all alone no one sees when the lights go down. I cry every night, suffer in silence, no I can’t deny this pain is real but I keep trying. Cause nobody else is crying for me. Does anybody care how I feel. Everyday I’m trying to hide what is real. This pain that I have inside of me is tearing my life apart.”

But I am here to tell you that you don’t have to cry alone because you’re not alone.

Many LGBTQ people suffer from mental illness, which does not differentiate. While it can affect you at any time in your life, three-fourths of all mental illness begins by age 24, irrespective of your gender, income,

See next page

► Griffith: Don't Cry Alone

Continued from p. 12

race or sexual orientation. Mental illness does not discriminate. Most of us have a basic understanding of the issues faced by LGBTQ people and how it impacts our mental health from anxiety and depression to substance abuse and eating disorders.

But in the past few years, I have seen about a 50 percent increase in the amount of lesbian, bisexual and gay clients coming in for therapeutic services for issues related to trauma both in their past and currently. This number balloons to about 75 percent for my transgender clients. It's with that in mind I want to draw attention to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) as a mental health issue specifically related to our community.

A traumatic event can be dangerous, scary or violent when we face or witness an immediate threat to ourselves or a loved one. In those instances, we may feel terror or helplessness when experiencing horrific events that we are unable to protect ourselves from or stop from happening to someone else. As a result, the body can experience both physical and mental traumas.

Some examples of traumatic incidents that I hear a lot about in the LGBTQ community are abuse or neglect as a child whether it's sexual, physical or emotional. Many LGBTQ people, especially youth are victims of bullying either in the past or presently via social media and in person. PTSD can also occur after being exposed to violence, such as being a victim of a crime or the witnessing of a physical or sexual assault. The trauma we experience in our lives may have long-term effects on how we view the world, and on our quality of life.

When I first see a client who experiences a traumatic event in their lives, my initial diagnosis might be Acute Stress Disorder (ASD) if they sought out treatment right away, as this usually occurs within the first 30 days after the traumatic event. However, if this initial mental condition is left untreated – meaning you did not seek mental health services – it can then lead to PTSD. If you have experienced trauma, your symptoms might be nightmares, flashbacks, avoidance of situations that trigger the trauma, trouble sleeping and eating, feeling tired, sad, lonely or simply numb.

I recently had a client – who gave me permission to discuss her story – referred for services who was a victim of a serious sexual assault six months prior to starting treatment. During our sessions, she explained how she was also a victim of repeated sexual and physical abuse as a child. She explained how she was having trouble sleeping because of the nightmares she was experiencing. She was also having trouble with extreme flashbacks as a result of the assault. These are some classic symptoms of PTSD.

The course of treatment for PTSD and its duration can vary quite dramatically and a

I have seen about a 50 percent increase in the amount of lesbian, bisexual and gay clients coming in for therapeutic services for issues related to trauma both in their past and currently. This number balloons to about 75 percent for my transgender clients.

variety of different treatment strategies might be used across the stages of treatment. With this particular client, we usually met once a week for an hour and focused on talking about the events, her reactions to them and ways of modifying the effects the PTSD had on her life. This treatment often uses a combination of exposure, which is consciously thinking about the event or challenging the trigger or event. We also did relaxation training to help her learn to calm down and process through her thoughts and feelings about the event. This is just one technique that can be used with those suffering from PTSD.

If you have experienced trauma and you are having these symptoms, please consider talking with a therapist about it. There is help and as I said, you do not have to cry or suffer alone. I know that many of us from the LGBTQ community have our own reasons for not seeking help for mental conditions such as PTSD. I also understand that the history of mental health treatment for the LGBTQ community has not always been good. In fact, it has been downright horrific. I know that our community still faces unequal care due to a lack of training and understanding by mental health professionals who lack knowledge and experience working with LGBTQ people.

But don't be dejected because fortuitously there are now more knowledgeable and competent therapists who are trained to work with the LGBTQ community and can help you process and deal with mental issues such as PTSD during confidential sessions.

The most important point to understand is that if you or someone you know is experiencing what you believe to be mental illness, please reach out for help. If you cannot afford to pay for mental health services, there are agencies that I can connect you with that will help pay the cost for therapy.

Tonya Y. Griffith, LMSW and clinical therapist, owns Limitless Possibilities Counseling Services, 20490 Harper Avenue #104 in Harper Woods. Connect with Griffith at 313-277-9885 or email limitlesscounsel@aol.com.

Creep of the Week

Donald Trump

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

As I write this I'm taking in the news of the bombing at the Ariana Grande concert in Manchester. 22 confirmed dead so far. At least 59 injured.

Truth be told, I don't know much about Ariana Grande. I know she's a pop star. I can't name any of her songs though I'm sure I've heard some. What I do know is that she has a gay brother and has been very vocal about her support of LGBTQ rights. Her fan base is largely young women and gay men, and some of those fans are dead now at the hands of what is reportedly a suicide bomber. A person whose life was so worthless they were willing to throw it away just to hurt and kill others.

It's only a matter of time before this tragedy will be blamed on "the gays." In fact, a supposed Trump supporter on Twitter wrote, "God is speaking to [Grande] for being promiscuous and promoting homosexuals. When HE speaks you must listen, friends!"

Now, this Tweet is likely from a troll account, not a real person, but that doesn't change the fact that there are people who actually believe this stuff.

Look, I don't believe in God, but even if I did, I sure as hell wouldn't be praising a god who wants children blown up at a pop concert to teach the queers a lesson.

Obviously whoever is responsible for this bombing is the biggest creep this week. But I don't know who that is yet. And so, Donald Trump gets to be Creep of the Week yet again.

In case you're wondering what, exactly, Trump has to do with all of this, the answer is everything and nothing.

When terrifying events happen anywhere in the world, the American people should have a leader they can look toward who offers competence, clarity, and control. Trump lacks all of those qualities. We have a president who is continuously fucking up like it's his job (note: it is literally the OPPOSITE of his job). He's an International Man of Blustery. There's nothing he can say that will offer any assurances at home or abroad because nothing he says can be believed. He's a pathological liar. He uses language in a way that is both thoughtless and reckless and will further embolden our enemies.

In Trump's first public remarks about the bombing he called the terrorists "losers."

"So many young beautiful innocent people living and enjoying their lives murdered by evil losers in life," Trump said. "I won't call them monsters because



Trump's an International Man of Blustery. There's nothing he can say that will offer any assurances at home or abroad because nothing he says can be believed. He's a pathological liar. He uses language in a way that is both thoughtless and reckless and will further embolden our enemies

they would like that term. They would think that's a great name. I will call them from now on losers because that's what they are. They're losers. And we'll have more of them, but they're losers, just remember that."

It's possibly the first thing Trump has said that I agree with. But let's dispense with the "and that's the moment he became President" crap. He's publicly called Rosie O'Donnell a loser, too, so that word out of Trump's mouth has no power.

The sad fact is, Trump has no coherent plan or policy ideas. His approach to combating terrorism is talking tough about ISIS and banning Muslims from entering the country. His attorney general, Jeff Sessions, is focused on locking more potheads up and filling for-profit prisons with non-violent offenders because priorities. Trump and his administration have no credibility internationally and there's no reason to believe that their hate-motivated agenda will keep us safe.

After the bombing Ariana Grande Tweeted, "I don't have words." Well, Trump does. Unfortunately, he doesn't have much else.

Mayor Buttigieg Backs Notre Dame Walkout of Pence Speech

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg said Sunday he supports the students at University of Notre Dame who walked out on Vice President Mike Pence during his commencement speech over his anti-LGBT views and the Trump administration's approach to marginalized communities.

Buttigieg, the openly gay mayor who came to national prominence during his run to become chair of the Democratic National Committee, made the remarks to the Washington Blade about students within his city at the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund's annual D.C. brunch when asked about the walkout.

"What I appreciate about it is it's clear that the students want to express their commitment to tolerance and the values that they believe a Catholic University ought to uphold, and that this administration is not compatible with those values," Buttigieg said. "And at the same time, I think they found a very respectful way to do it."

Buttigieg added he does "respect the office of the vice presidency, too," and each student should make his or her own decision on the walkout, but the way demonstrators chose to protest was an appropriate to speak out against the Trump administration.

"You go to a university in order to form your conscience and they're expressing their conscience in a way that I really respect and admire," Buttigieg said.



Pete Buttigieg said he supports the Notre Dame students walkout on Mike Pence. Washington Blade photo by Michael Key

Asked to clarify if he's supporting the action, Buttigieg replied, "Of course I am. I think every student's wrestling with this issue: What do you do when you respect the office and you also think that the office is doing something that's horribly wrong? And I just want to point to the way that they're doing it as the most important feature of this protest."

Buttigieg drew a contrast between the Pence walk-out and anti-abortion protests

at former President Obama's Notre Dame commencement speech in 2009.

"It's not anything like the way President Obama was treated, and I think that's to their credit," Buttigieg said.

The South Bend mayor made the remarks as the commencement ceremony was taking place and admitted he "hadn't seen yet what's going down." According to the Indianapolis Star, more 100 students among the estimated

3,000 graduates quietly got up from their seats and left Notre Dame Stadium in protest of some of Pence's policy positions.

Pence during his speech called Notre Dame a "vanguard of freedom of expression and the free exchange of ideas," commending the university at a time when he said "free speech and civility are waning on campuses across America," the Star reported.

Ahead of the speech, students organizers said they intended to walk-out over his anti-LGBT views, citing his decision to sign a "religious freedom" law in Indiana, and the administration's hostility toward undocumented immigrants and sanctuary cities.

Also commending Notre Dame students' decision to walkout on Pence was Sarah Kate Ellis, CEO of GLAAD, who called the demonstration in a statement an act of bravery.

"Graduates around the country deserve commencement speakers who inspire them to propel our diverse country forward, and these Notre Dame students bravely told the world that Vice President Pence's anti-LGBTQ actions fly in the face of unity and inspiration," Elli said. "These Notre Dame graduates should be applauded for demonstrating true leadership and standing up for freedom and acceptance."

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

Lesbian Visibility Shines Through in Memoir by Federal Prop 8 Plaintiffs

BY KAREN OCAMB, LOS ANGELES BLADE

A joyous celebration occurred May 13 in Highland Park as lesbian and straight women artists and performers launched an exhibition of archived work from the historic Women's Building, the one-time "feminist mecca" for women's culture in downtown Los Angeles. Already marginalized by mainstream society, the artists refused to be invisible even unto each other.

Kris Perry and Sandy Stier would have loved it. One of the most famous couples in LGBT history as plaintiffs in the historic federal Prop 8 trial, they have nonetheless had their share of lesbian invisibility, even, as they reveal in their new memoir, "Love on Trial: Our Supreme Court Fight For the Right

to Marry," unto themselves.

In "Love on Trial," Perry and Stier emerge from behind their famous "odd couple" lawyers Ted Olson and David Boies and trial leader Chad Griffin, now President of the Human Rights Campaign, and sidestep their fellow plaintiffs Jeff Zarrillo and Paul Katami to share how this "ordinary" lesbian couple came to represent same sex couples everywhere. But unbeknownst to them, the couple would each be forced to face unsettling deep dives into their own lives when that lawsuit was filed in May 2009.

Perry shares that she always felt "different" but didn't know why until her late teens; Stier had always been straight until, inexplicably, she fell in love with Perry. That would be a point Brian Raum, the attorney for the Alliance

Defense Fund, would harp on until turning red with frustration deposing the former church-going Iowa cheerleader.

"I was not the lesbian he expected to see," Stier writes, as Raum pummeled her for answers about her relationships.

"I answered truthfully. I performed well under oath, and, frankly, I have nothing to hide. Yes, I dated men, or rather, boys, in high school and college. Wonderful guys. Yes, I cared about them. Yes, I married a man in my mid-twenties. Yes, I had loved him. All true. The other thing that was true was that I now loved a woman, and I wanted to marry her; I was in love with Kris."

Raum asked for intimate details. Stier would only say they were "romantic." He started using baseball terms: "What 'base'

was reached in each of those relationships?" she writes. "We have more of our parents in us than we may realize. I gave him my best Iowa deadpan stare and restated that the relationships had been romantic. And I stopped there. My people don't talk about 'bases' to lawyers. It's not dignified."

Stier understood that she was being probed for the "immutability" argument. She finds the argument offensive. "Being gay is not wrong and it's not bad. It's not. Love is not harmful; hate is. Rejection is. Growing up immersed in religion and spending most of my career in the field of human services, nothing could be clearer," she writes. "Love and acceptance are what matters and are worth fighting for."

See next page

► Prop 8

Continued from p. 14

For Perry, pre-trial preparation was tough as she was forced to come face to face with coping mechanisms after her beloved sister's death and how those fed into an endless cycle of self-protection from perpetual discrimination as the "other." That included the pain and humiliation of knowingly refusing to even think of being happily married because, as a lesbian, it was not available to you—and everyone else knew it.

"After we had meandered around the core question for hours," Perry writes, "Ted asked me, 'How does it feel to be different?' I burst into tears. All that heartache was closer to the surface than I had thought. I'd tried to put distance between myself and Bakersfield and how I felt there, but it hadn't worked. I told Ted that 'I knew who I was, and it had made me stronger,' but I didn't like that I had been forced into being strong by building walls or hiding my feelings. Hiding was a necessity, and it had changed me, permanently."

The awareness hit her even harder on the witness stand. "I suddenly thought, 'Enough. Enough coping. Enough settling. Enough making me easier for everyone else,'" Perry writes.

"I could picture the three-year-old me, the eight-year-old me, the sixteen-year-old me, every one with a huge weight on her shoulders," she continues. "Keeping a secret she didn't know or understand, afraid of losing the love of her family, of being rejected by her

friends. By fighting to be unseen and unheard, I didn't grab love when others did. I didn't hold my head high—I looked down. I didn't see a future with my children and spouse; I thought I'd always be single and alone."

Perry couldn't even imagine what was possible. "I had covered up my embarrassment and humiliation for years, and it was painful for my loved ones to hear these experiences without censoring or sugarcoating," she writes. "I felt like a huge weight had been lifted from me—but I knew well there was still so much more to come."

"Love on Trial" is a kind of catharsis for all LGBT people who haven't realized the pain of internalized oppression. Additionally, it humanizes the "Prop 8 plaintiffs."

"It's as if we weren't people until the trial," Perry tells the Los Angeles Blade. "The world projected a lot onto us. We were one dimensional. But we knew we have very complicated lives."

"The case was no way the hardest thing we've ever done," says Stier, noting the difficulties they've faced and the losses they suffered. "Blending families is hard," for instance, especially when her two sons didn't accept their parents' divorce and rejected Perry. It got better when "Kris took her foot off the gas and wasn't so authoritarian, becoming more like an aunt than a parent."

Television station KQED filed a motion April 28 with the U.S. District Court for Northern California to unseal the videotapes of the Prop 8 trial. It might be useful to read "Love on Trial" first to understand how much Perry and Stier's love story matters in shedding light on lesbian visibility everywhere.



Sandy Stier and Kris Perry. Photo by Karen Ocamb, Los Angeles Blade

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One of India's Biggest Stars, Priyanka Chopra, Pledges Support for LGBT Community Despite 'Ugly' Resistance

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Priyanka Chopra has your back. Though India's government still criminalizes homosexuality, Chopra – global icon, star of ABC's gay-inclusive "Quantico" and one of Time magazine's 100 most influential people of 2016 (she has nearly 18 million Twitter followers, more than Beyoncé) – is standing up for LGBT people *everywhere*. The actress-model-producer candidly affirms her support for the community during our recent call, from Miami, where Chopra, 34, speaks passionately about issues affecting her queer friends and fans – including whether "Baywatch" co-star Zac Efron's abs are real.

Have you done gay press in India?

Yes. I have because I am very pro-LGBT

community and pro-choice, and I think that's the conversation that exists all around the world.

What was your introduction to the gay community?

I was in high school in America when I was 12 years old and one of my best friends – I used to borrow his shoes! He used to dress in drag. In fact, I remember wearing his shoes to prom!

Wait, you were wearing his shoes?

Yeah, we were the same size! To me, there wasn't a difference. You never thought, "OK, this makes it different." He was just my friend and he had the best shoes. Shoes are expensive! And he always had the best ones!

You once said you'd been propositioned by

lesbians, so you obviously have a gay following. When were you first aware of your LGBT following?

I think when... when I was propositioned! (Laughs) (It was at) a nightclub after a couple of years of being an actress. It was extremely flattering, for sure. And you know, honestly, I believe that everyone has choices about their sexuality and who they are, more than anything else. I'm not judgmental about it at all, and I think it's actually amazing.

Because India deems homosexuality illegal, have you ever had any hesitation speaking openly about LGBT issues?

I mean, not really. I don't. I'm a very opinionated girl, and I was raised to be that way, so I'm not afraid and won't shy away from what I believe in. I always encourage everyone who likes my work or likes me to

be the same way. The world is such a small place today, and we all have to understand that if we don't stand by each other, then we're only creating divisions in the world. That's what I stand for everywhere, especially for the LGBT community. We're just people who want to be the best versions of ourselves.

Can you say that you are pro-gay in India and not receive flak for your progressive views?

I would, and I may or may not. Wherever in the world you go – I don't think it's just something that happens in India – you would get flak for it. But it's something I believe in, and I stand by whatever I say.

Were you propositioned at a gay nightclub?

It was in Indonesia, actually. In Bali. And it wasn't a gay nightclub. It was just a nightclub, and this girl was a big fan and she

was just super flattering, and I didn't know what to say. I just said, "I have a boyfriend!" (Laughs) Whether it was a girl or a boy, I think that's the best way to handle a situation like that – if you're not interested, that is!

Could you talk about the changing gayness of Bollywood over the years?

Modern-day Indian films are extremely accepting of different kinds of genres, whether it's the LGBT community or the storytelling, which is out of the box. We're at a place where we're just telling really great stories about so many different things, and the LGBT community is a big part of that.

As someone who's involved with regional cinema via your own India-based production house, Purple Pebble Pictures, do you plan on producing stories related to the LGBT community?

Yes. I don't think that's the way I look at storytelling, anyway. You don't pick up a subject or something to talk about and then make a movie. The story has to lend itself to that. But I'm definitely somebody who would be open to making a film about the LGBT community, completely, if the story lends itself to it.

Just because there are gay characters doesn't mean the plot needs to be about them being gay.

My TV show, "Quantico," has so many incredible very strong gay characters, and that is a part of diversity.

It's about treating gay people as just people.

Exactly. And not labels.

Regarding "Baywatch": I feel so bad for you. Having to work alongside two of the world's studliest studs – Zac and Dwayne – must've been hard.

(Laughs) Actually, it was really easy! And, yes, there is Dwayne and, yes, there is Zac, but if you look at the Baywatch babes, we compensate well.

After working with a shirtless Zac Efron, do you better understand the infatuation gay men have with him?

I guess I do understand the infatuation, definitely, that *everybody* has with Zac. I have a lot of friends who are fans of him and asked me to find out about the situation with his abs: "Are they real or not?" And I can vouch for the fact that they're real. We spent a lot of time doing scenes and I was like, "Wait a minute?" Honestly, all jokes aside, it takes an incredible amount of discipline, which both Zac and Dwayne have, when it comes their training and their working out. It's amazing to see.

Tell me about your feminist line in the movie when Zac calls you "crazy" and you tell him, "If I were a man, you'd call me driven."

I loved that. Playing Victoria was one of my favorite things. She's a woman in a man's

world, and she's ambitious and driven and there's nothing wrong with that. That is one of my favorite lines.

Can you relate to her and her drive?

I have to say, Victoria is a lot more evil than me, for sure. (Laughs) But ambition is a really great thing for young people and for people in general. It gives you goals and then you become whoever you wanna be, and if you don't have that drive, you'll never find the best version of you, so, yes, I definitely think I'm similar.

"Dostana," about two straight men who pretend they're gay to win your love, was called "rebellious" upon its release in 2008 because of its queer content. Did you make it as a pro-gay statement?

Well, there needs to be conversations. And entertainment, especially pop culture, is such a great way to make the conversation go forward. "Dostana" was extremely progressive, and our producer is one of the biggest producers in India and he's an openly gay man who just had two babies. Those are conversations that take the LGBT community forward. Him making the film and having the conversation and taking that forward was a big step in that direction.

You're referring to Karan Johar, I believe, who recently wrote in his autobiography, "(I) will not say the three words that possibly everybody knows about me," because "I live in a country where I could possibly be jailed for saying this." What did you make of his approach to coming out?

I guess, culturally, it's very hard to do. It's something that people face all over the world, but it gets really difficult when you have that kind of resistance. It can get really ugly. And for him to do it even in the way he did, it was extremely brave. He's always been someone who openly talks about it on his TV show ("Koffee with Karan") and he's really an icon for the LGBT community, and his struggles are real.

Generally, and not just with Karan, (coming out) is a hard thing to deal with, especially in countries where it's become hard to be who you are. The more and more I travel around the world, I see that it's something that you see in any country. There is such a resistance to people just being themselves, and, as humanity, we need to deconstruct it to the point where people can make their own choices and that's when we'll be in a progressive society.

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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Diana Krall Kicks off 34th Annual Ann Arbor Summer Festival

One of the biggest names in modern jazz music is returning to Ann Arbor to kick off the 34th annual Ann Arbor Summer Festival.

Jazz vocalist and pianist Diana Krall, Billboard's Jazz Artist of the Decade for 2000-09, is set to perform at 8 p.m. June 6 at Hill Auditorium at 825 N. University Ave in Ann Arbor.

With more than 6 million albums sold in the U.S. and 15 million sold worldwide, Krall is one of the best-selling artists of her time. The Canadian artist is best



known for her late-1990s and early 2000s output, including platinum-selling albums "Love Scenes" and "When I Look in Your Eyes."

Her most recent release, 2015's "Wallflower," interprets pop song classics from the 1960s and beyond. Krall is expected to perform new material from her upcoming album, which came out on May 5.

Ticket prices range from \$20-80 and can be purchased by phone at 734-764-2538, online or in person at the Michigan League ticket office, 911 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor.

Grillin' for Food Gatherers: A Picnic with a Purpose

Around 2,000 guests will gather from 3-8 p.m. on June 11 for a community picnic at Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor Saline Road in Ann Arbor. In its 28th year, Grillin' is an event for all ages featuring live music, food from more than 50 local restaurants, beer and wine, a silent auction and activities for kids.

While Grillin' is a light-hearted, family event, its mission is serious: to alleviate hunger in Washtenaw County. The event raises awareness and support for Food Gatherers' food rescue and food bank program, and enables the food bank to distribute food for 14,000 meals a day to 44,500 adults, seniors and children.

More than 250 local businesses are donating to the menu, silent auction, and entertainment offerings, and through cash sponsorships. Guests can look forward to a menu of grilled gourmet sausages, chicken, corn, tofu, vegetarian burgers, and side dishes from local restaurants, followed by desserts from Zingerman's Bakehouse, Zingerman's Creamery and Mity Nice Italian Ice. Vegan and gluten-free options are available. The

bar features Michigan wine and microbrews.

This year's band lineup includes blues and rock beats from Grillin's longtime headliner, George Bedard and the Kingpins. The stage also features Ann Arbor-based singer/songwriter Chris Dupont, and up and coming indie-pop artist, Lisa Richie. Grillin' is broadcast live on Ann Arbor's 107one with Grillin's master of ceremonies, Rob Reinhart.

Families can enjoy an area just for kids, with activities hosted by the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, a free photo booth, lawn games, and face painting.

Adult tickets are \$75 in advance and \$10 for kids ages 3-13 (kids under 3 are free). At the gate, adult tickets are \$85; kid tickets are \$10. Ticket price includes buffet, dessert and entertainment.

Tickets are available at www.foodgatherers.org/grillin or by calling 734-761-2796. Tickets are also available at ticket vendors: Zingerman's Bakehouse, Deli and Roadhouse; Bookbound Bookstore; Dexter Picture Frame Company; and Saline Picture Frame Company.



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Celebrate Author Stephanie Heit

Stephanie Heit is a poet, dancer, and teacher of somatic writing, contemplative dance practice, and kundalini yoga. She lives with bipolar disorder and is a member of the Olimpias, an international disability-performance collective. She lives in Ypsilanti with her partner and collaborator, Petra Koppers. The “Color She Gave Gravity,” is her first book. Join her at 7 p.m. on June 8 at Common Language Bookstore in Ann Arbor to celebrate with a reading, reception, and book signing.



by experiences of psychiatric systems and multiple hospitalizations.

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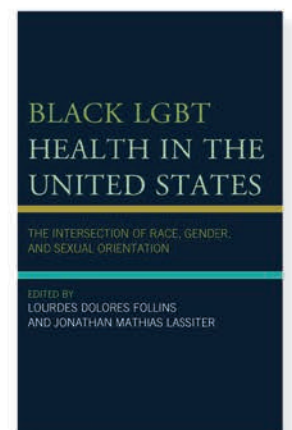
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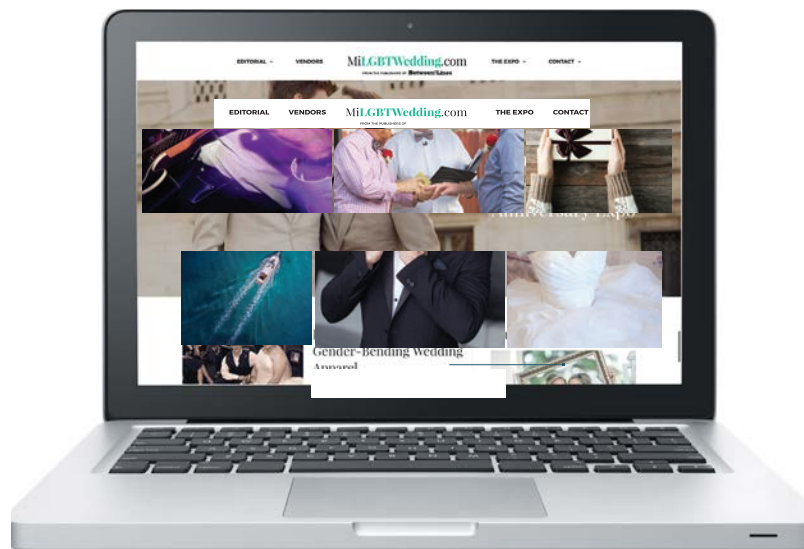
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Reasons Why Hotel Sex Is Better Than Bangin' at Home



BY MIKEY ROX

There's something about a hotel room that makes you want to get frisky. From the ultra-plush mattress to on-demand XXX movies – assuming they have same-sex options (though I prefer straight porn myself) – a quick getaway in a decked-out suite is as much about relaxation as it is fulfilling your adult desires. Here are seven reasons why hotel sex is better than bangin' at home.

1. Voyeurism heightens the experience

The first thing I think when I walk into a hotel room with floor-to-ceiling windows, or – better yet – a balcony is, “That’s where I’m gonna fuck.” For starters, at least. I love the idea of a hot body pressed against the spotless glass, both of us enchanted by the dancing city lights below, or taking the activity outside the sliding doors to bend that boy over a sturdy railing (Hello, Vegas!). Lights out at night, nobody can see what we’re doing, but I’ve let the sun shine where it usually doesn’t on occasion. Just make sure none of your naughty bits are in full view of anyone nearby; there are plenty of prudes out there who will call your bluff.

2. Get it on loud and proud

“Think they can hear us?” If you haven’t asked that question about your next-door hotel neighbors out loud, you’ve definitely thought it – and the answer is yes. Yes, your neighbors can hear you, and they’re probably just as turned on by listening to your pleasure as you are by the idea of their ear to the wall. If you have to keep your moans and groans to a dull roar at home for one reason or another, now’s your chance to

raise the roof. Sing your partner’s praises at the top of your lungs and give the whole floor something to tweet about.

3. They have industrial bleach for the sheets

Sex is messy, which is why at home I still fuck fratboy style and put a towel down. All bets are off at the hotel, however, because it’s not me who has to go up and down the stairs every other day because my Wamsuttas are covered in too much splooge to sleep on. Dirty job, but somebody’s got to do it.

4. Your hotel room is a child- and pet-free zone

First thing I do when I get to my room? Put the “Do not disturb sign” on the handle, and that’s generally where it hangs for the duration of my stay. Because there’s a certain measure of fulfillment knowing that my smash sesh is focused without any chance of interruption. No children bursting into the room, no animal in the corner giving you the side-eye for hittin’ his best friend from the back. Just you and your bang buddy, together at last.

5. New furniture provides new positions and angles

Sure, spreading those legs in bed is fantastic – but it’s even better on a chaise or a desk or a bench in the shower. (Check out the new Hotel LeVeque in Columbus, Ohio, to take advantage of the latter). Various furniture you may not have at home become props for your sexcapades to help you shake things up even more. Rewrite the “Kama Sutra,” why dontcha.

6. So what if you break the bed

Hey, it happens, but they don’t need to know how – and you don’t have to pay for it. (Also – high-five, sexpert!)

7. Post. Sex. Room. Service.

Gettin’ that good-good works up an appetite – if you’re doing it right, anyway – but nobody wants to fry up bacon naked (and nobody should!). Load up on the protein and carbs, replenish your fluids, and have it all delivered directly to your room right after your workout. Besides, you’ll need all the energy you can get for round two. Give the attendant a tip – but just the tip.



JUNE 17, 2017

1pm - 11pm

PARADE: Steps off from Adado Park at Noon. Ends at the Capitol.

RALLY AT THE CAPITOL: Immediately following parade. Variety of speakers about Trans*, Equality, and Diversity issues that aim to unify our community

FESTIVAL (the main event): We're shutting down Turner Street in Old Town to show our Pride!

Featured Entertainment: StarFarm Band, a local Lansing 80s cover band.

Kid-friendly entertainment

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Beer Tent

From Traveler to Aesthete: Charles Lang Freer and Indian Art

The Detroit Institute of Arts welcomes Brinda Kumar, Assistant Curator of Modern & Contemporary Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York at 2 p.m. on June 4 at the Marvin and Betty Danto Lecture Hall, 5200 Woodward Ave. Kumar will situate Detroit's Charles Lang Freer's enduring passion for India and Indian art within his larger collecting project that resulted in one of the finest early collections of Asian art in America. A post-lecture tour and reception, for \$5-10, includes a special dance performance by Sreyashi Dey at the Freer House, 71 East Ferry. For more information contact Rose Foster at: 313-664-2509 or rmfoster@wayne.edu



OUTINGS

Thursday, May 25

LGBTQ Youth Meeting 6 p.m. Celebrate May birthdays OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. michael@kglrc.org www.outfrontkzoo.org

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

Friday, May 26

Burlesque, Body Positivity, and Fun 7 p.m. Part of the Healthy Living Series with Luna Legare. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**.

248-398-7105. www.facebook.com/events/513406792176014/

Saturday, May 27

LezRead 4 p.m. Email Kerene Moore to join Ann Arbor's premier book club for lesbians. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. kerene@jimtoycenter.org www.jimtoycenter.org/

Wednesday, May 31

Recycle Your Old Used Eyeglasses 10 a.m. Drop off your old, used eyeglasses to benefit New Eyes for the Needy. 20/20 Vision, 3110 Walton Blvd., **Rochester Hill**. 248-375-0040. www.new-eyes.org/

Thursday, June 1

The League of Extraordinary Genders 7 p.m. Transgender support group

OutCenter, 132 Water St., **Benton Harbor**. 269-925-8330. info@outcenter.org www.outcenter.org

Taste of Her Speed Dating

8 p.m. "The evolution of connecting women to other women," hosted by Detroit's own Red with sensual poetry by Natasha T. Miller. Tickets: \$35 in advance. PiecesofLighthead and Moore Culture Media, **Ferndale**. 2488356002. https://tasteofher.eventbrite.com

Friday, June 2

Book Signing and Discussion on Black LGBT Health in the U.S. 6 p.m. Featuring editors Dr. Lourdes Dolores Follins and Dr. Jonathan Mathias Lassiter with special guest Dr. Amorlie Robinson (Kofi Adoma), See page 26 of this issue. 77 Victor St., **Highland Park**. www.ruthelliscenter.org

Happenings

First Annual Ypsi Pride Block Party 6 p.m. Music, poetry, art, fashion, local support and love. Ypsi Pride, **Ypsilanti**. ypsipride@gmail.com www.facebook.com/YpsiPride/

Saturday, June 3

Ferndale Pride Ferndale Pride, **Ferndale**. 2483987105. www.ferndalepride.com

Rainbow Run and Canine Color Walk 8:30 a.m. A 5K and 2K family-friendly run and walk for acceptance and diversity. Also a 2K Canine Color Walk. Each participant receives a Rainbow Run T-shirt. Ferndale Area Chamber of Commerce, Nine Mile and Woodward, **Ferndale**. 248-542-2160. info@ferndalechamber.com http://ferndaleareachamber.com

"Run As You Are" In-Person Training Session 9:30 a.m. For women who want to learn how to run for political office. Seminar led by VoteRunLead.org's co-founder and board chair Shannon Garrett. VoteRunLead.org, 1409 Buchanan Ave. SW, **Grand Rapids**. www.voterunlead.org

Do Dah Parade 10:15 a.m. Crazy outfits are required. OutFront is hosting a crazy outfit crafting night on 5/31 at 5 p.m. at 320 S. Rose St. Bring supplies. Kalamazoo Pride and OutFront Kalamazoo, E. Lovell St., **Kalamazoo**. www.facebook.com/dodahkzoo

Caregiving Resource Workshop 1 p.m. Please register by phone. Free event. Discuss nutrition, finances, veterans resources, exercise and fitness, and community resources. AARP and DMC, 6071 Outer Drive, **Detroit**. 877-926-8300.

TGMI Table 1 p.m. Transgender Michigan, Downtown Ferndale, **Ferndale**. www.transgendermichigan.org

Tobacco Cessation Discussion 1 p.m. LGBT Detroit, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.facebook.com/lgbtdetroit/

Gender Creative Reading Hour 2 p.m. Explore gender and expression through books and coloring. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

It's Time to Dance 2 p.m. DJ Dav, Dangerous Curves, DJ Jace, Octavia and Players Club featuring fire spinner Alexa Rae. Scheduled from 2-10 p.m. See

schedule online. Arcadia Marketplace, Ferndale Pride, **Ferndale**. www.ferndalepride.com

Youth Prom: Travel to Galaxy 6 p.m. Free and open to youth ages 13-20. Out of this world dance party with DJ Tone. Free snacks, raffle prizes for "crowd-voted" Prom Court King, Queen and Ace. Come in costume or as you are. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. iunger@goaffirmations.org www.goaffirmations.org

Sunday, June 4

"Always in Our Hearts" Celebration of Life Display Panels from the NAMES Project Foundation AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display to honor the lives lost to AIDS as well as those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Transcendence Behavioral Health, 618 E. 11 Mile Road, **Royal Oak**.

Kalamazoo Pride Brunch 10:30 a.m. Email for tickets. \$35 includes breakfast, live entertainment and a two-day pass to Kalamazoo Pride. Featuring Retro Pop Shuffle OutFront Kalamazoo, **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. jay@outfrontkzoo.org www.outfrontkzoo.org

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

After-Pride Drag King and Queen Brunch 3 p.m. Ferndale Pride, 279 W. Nine Mile Rd., **Ferndale**. www.ferndalepride.com

MUSIC & MORE

Go Comedy! Improv Theater "Teacher's Lounge" Tickets: \$10. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. May 18 - May 25. 2483270575. www.gocomedy.net

Benefits/Social Events

Vault of Midnight "LGBTQ Game Night" Tickets: \$10. Proceeds to benefit Jim Toy Community Center in Ann Arbor. Raffles, games, coffee and other goods donated by local businesses. Literati Coffee, 204 S. 4th Ave., **Ann Arbor**. 6 p.m. May 26. www.vaultofmidnight.com

vaultofmidnight.com

Comedy

Go Comedy! Improv Theater "The Skit Parade" Tickets: \$10. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. May 25 - May 26. 2483270575. www.gocomedy.net

Concerts

Ferndale Pride "Performance by Nwoye". MotorCity Casino Hotel, Main Stage, **Ferndale**. 4 p.m. June 3. www.ferndalepride.com

Festivals

Movement "Movement" Electronic music festival. Hart Plaza, **Detroit**. May 24 - May 29. www.Movement.us

Film & Video

Affirmations "Screening of "Gender Revolution" and discussion" Discussion of Katie Couric's documentary about gender identity. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 7 p.m. May 30. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

THEATER

Civic/Community Theater

Countdown to the Happy Day Tickets: \$17-20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, **Detroit**. May 25 - June 25. 313-868-1347. www.detroitreptheatre.com

Three Sisters Tickets: \$12. Slipstream Theatre Initiative, Slipstream Theatre, 460 Hilton Road, **Ferndale**. Through June 4. 313-986-9156. www.slipstreamti.com

Professional

Silence! The Musical Tickets: \$10-25. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. Through June 5. 2485455545. www.theringwald.com

Taking Shakespeare Tickets: \$25-30. Students: \$10 with valid ID. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, **Williamston**. Through June 18. 517-655-SHOW. www.williamstontheatre.org

Editor's Pick

Art & About

Every second Friday, from June through October, the Downtown Development Authority's new Art & About event will turn Downtown Berkley into a district-wide gallery and performance space. Throughout the district, businesses will host an artist or performer as well as offer beverages and snacks. Mark your calendar for this inaugural event from 6-9 p.m. June 9 at 3338 Coolidge Hwy. For more information, visit the DDA's Facebook page www.facebook.com/DowntownBerkley.



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

Farmington DDA and Cultural Arts Division "ART on the Grand" Admission is free. Downtown Farmington, 33316 Grand River Ave., Farmington. June 3 - June 4. 248-473-1870. www.artonthegrand.com

Ferndale Pride "Summer of Pride Art Show" Exhibit honors the struggles of the LGBTQ community through activism during Ferndale Pride, Motor City Pride, Hotter Than July and Transgender Pride. Pittman-Puckett Gallery, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. June 1 - July 28. www.goaffirmations.org

goaffirmations.org

Integrity Shows "Kensington Metropark Art Fair" Free admission, park pass required. Kensington Metropark, 4570 Huron River Parkway, Milford Charter Township. May 27 - May 29. 810-227-8910. www.metroparks.com/parks/kensington-metropark/

Kalamazoo Pride and the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo "Love Who You Art 2017" Join Art Hop and view the showcase of LGBTQ artists at OutFront. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., Kalamazoo. 5 p.m. June 2. www.facebook.com/events/25089982035143/

Kristi Faulkner Dance "ASSEMBLE Exhibit" ASSEMBLE exhibit 26 artists from around the country who are taking a stand on social, political, environmental or economic issues that are meaningful to them. What do you think is worth fighting

for? Proceeds from tickets sales will benefit Not My House - a collaboration between KFD and the Ruth Ellis Center. Tickets: \$15-25. Marlene Boll Theater, 1401 Broadway, Detroit. 8 p.m. June 2. 4195094375. www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2938942

Lawrence Street Gallery "Grapheeti World" Reception on June 2 from 6-9 p.m. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. May 31 - June 30. 2485440394. www.lawrencestreetgallery.com

Youth Workforce Development Programs "Summer Arts and Crafts Bazaar" Contact Lilianna Reyes via email for more information. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 12 p.m. June 4. 248-398-7105. www.facebook.com/events/1780283438859181/

Editor's Pick

ART on the Grand

The ART on the Grand juried art fair brings a variety of high-quality artists to downtown Farmington for a free two-day event. The eighth annual fine art fair has found its way into the heart of Michigan art lovers and is known for being "art-focused," featuring different artistic categories including painting, pottery, photography, jewelry, mixed media, wood, wearable art, glass, leather, sculpture, and more. Art booth hours are 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. June 3 and 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. June 4 at 33316 Grand River Ave. For more information, visit www.artonthegrand.com.



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DATE & TIME
Sat, June 17, 2017
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LOCATION
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DJ Steve Parsons, light refreshments, Cash Bar, a 50/50 raffle and glow necklaces for attendees.

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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Community Activists Will Discuss Groundbreaking Book on Black LGBT Health

The co-editors, Lourdes Dolores Follins and Jonathan Mathias Lassiter, of the academic text, “Black LGBT Health in the United States: Intersections of Race, Gender, and Sexual Orientation,” will be available to discuss their work from 6-8 p.m. on June 2 at the Ruth Ellis Health and Wellness Center, 77 Victor St. in Highland Park.

Various sponsors – LGBT Detroit, Pride Source Media Group, REC, SAGE Metro Detroit and the Metro Detroit Association of Black Psychologists – will host the book signing event and discussion focused on black LGBT perspectives on the health and well-being of people of African descent living in the U.S. who identify as LGBT, raising awareness of the need for quality cultural competency from health care providers including mental and spiritual health.

Joining Follins and Lassiter, who edited the compilation of nearly two-dozen contributions from researchers and health-care professionals, is local community activist, Dr. Amorie Robinson (aka Dr. Kofi Adoma) who will discuss the book’s first chapter entitled “The Forgotten Intersection: Black LGBT Youth in Juvenile Justice in the United States.”

Adoma said, “I wholly believe the concept of having black LGBT people write about the experiences of black LGBT people and their health. This is one of the unique aspects of this collection of writings. I felt very honored to be invited

to offer my expertise and knowledge regarding, specifically, black LGBT youth in juvenile justice, given my work experience at a juvenile court psychiatric clinic.”

Adoma has worked at the Clinic for Child Study at the 3rd Circuit Court Family Division in Detroit for 12 years. Adoma has been involved with the Ruth Ellis Center since 1999 as the co-founder and former board member. She also does clinical supervision for master’s students at the Michigan School of Professional Psychology and is a psychotherapist at Northland Clinic in Farmington Hills.

“I was already familiar with the fact that black youth are disproportionately represented in juvenile justice, but

“I was already familiar with the fact that black youth are disproportionately represented in juvenile justice, but discovered that LGBT youth are also overrepresented. It occurred to me that being a teenager that is both black and LGBT (as well as gender nonconforming) increases that risk.”

- Dr. Kofi Adoma



discovered that LGBT youth are also overrepresented. It occurred to me that being a teenager that is both black and LGBT (as well as gender nonconforming) increases that risk. Using Kimberle’ Crenshaw’s intersectionality theory, I needed to examine literature on both black youth and LGBT youth, as studies about LGBT youth of color in juvenile justice is sparse. I looked at the resilient and protective factors for black LGBT/GNC youth and made recommendations for the juvenile justice system, social services, family, and community. I see this as a groundbreaking book that can be a resource for health care entities that believe in best practices and seriously considers intersectional identities as a way of ensuring inclusive physical and mental health services. I am impressed with how Drs. Follins and Lassiter compiled a group of scholars that not only care about fair, unbiased treatment of black LGBT community members, but also has insights into the complex sociocultural and historical contexts of the lives of the intersectional experiences of being black and LGBT/GNC at the same time.”

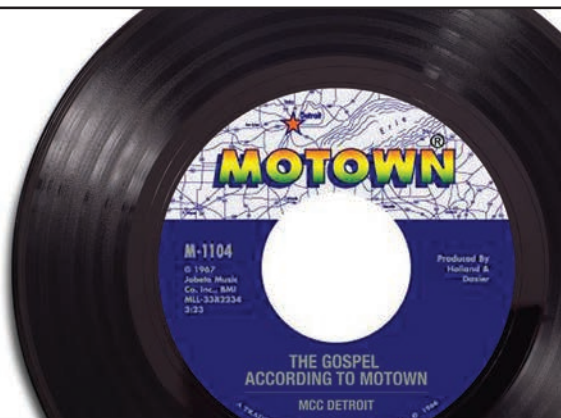
Follins is associate professor at

See next page



As MCC Detroit prepares to celebrate our 45th anniversary later this year, during the month of May we will focus on the “Motown Sound” in our **The Gospel According to Motown** series. It will be fun as we take titles of popular Motown songs and apply a practical and gospel message for our community.

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New LGBTQA Section at State Bar of Michigan

In an effort to ensure consistency within Michigan law and conformity to federal rulings, a new State Bar of Michigan section - the LGBTQA Law Section - will research and identify areas of state laws that may need revisions or updates, and will seek to educate the public and members of the legal community in how their clients may be affected as laws and new precedents develop.

The LGBTQA Law Section was launched to promote the fair and just administration of the law for LGBTQ people and their allies. At an organizational meeting in January of 2017, the Section elected a council: Chair Richard Roane, Chair-Elect Hon. Richard Halloran, Secretary-Treasurer Timothy Cordes and council members Lori Frank, Douglas Meeks,

Meri Stowe, Laura Volkmann, Susan Klooz and Peter Kulas.

According to the SBM website, the LGBTQA Law Section will review law, cases, regulations and other matters that affect LGBTQ persons and their allies, and will write and educate the State Bar and the public, be a resource for the State Bar on LGBTQ-related issues and coordinate its activities with other sections and affinity bar associations. To accomplish its goals, the section will sponsor meetings and conferences of educational value and support the publication of articles.

It costs \$45 to join the LGBTQA Law Section. Find out more about the by visiting the SBM website <http://connect.michbar.org/lgbtqa/home>.

Holland LGBTQ Community Center Hosts Open House

Area LGBTQ residents and their allies can get a look at the new Out On The Lakeshore Community Center and mingle with professional comedienne Mimi Gonzalez at the same time from 5-7 p.m. on May 30.

The Community Center, 451 Columbia Ave., will provide a central, safe place for LGBTQ youth and adults to gather in Holland. The approximately 1,000 square-foot location is envisioned to be a space where LGBTQ people, their families and allies can find support, participate in programs, or simply be together in safe space.

Opening the Center has been a goal of OOTL since it formed in the fall of 2015 by leaders of Holland is Ready and Holland PRIDE, who wanted to unify program, fundraising, and supportive efforts toward LGBTQ inclusion and rights in the greater Holland area.

“Holland needs a physical presence that’s central and visible – a means by which groups and individuals can come together for support and advocacy,” said Jennifer Adams, an OOTL board member. “LGBTQ youth and adults

need a safe space to which they can come. We need a community center to continue to raise awareness of LGBTQ issues and concerns.”

Gonzalez, who will headline the 2nd annual “Go Girl Saugatuck” event June 2-4 at The Dunes Resort in Saugatuck (for details on that event go to www.gogirl.saugatuck.com), has made comedic appearances throughout the world, including entertaining U.S. armed forces in Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Kosovo, Korea, Japan and Guam. Her television appearances include LOGO’s “One Night Stand Up,” the “Today” show, Ellen and “Latino Laugh Festival.”

Gonzalez is no stranger to the area. She was the headline act at the 2013 Holland PRIDE Festival and part of the proceeds from the “Go Girl” weekend will benefit the OOTL Community Center.

For more information on OOTL and the Community Center, email outonthelakeshore@gmail.com or go to www.outonthelakeshore.org or www.facebook.com/outonthelakeshore

► Black LGBT Health

Continued from p. 26

Kingsborough Community College/CUNY with an MSW and Ph.D. in Clinical Social Work from New York University. Lassiter is an assistant professor of psychology at Muhlenberg College focusing on health at the intersections of race, spirituality, gender, and sexual orientation.

“I’m excited about the community coming together for this event. It will give us all a chance to see firsthand the Ruth Ellis Center and its brand new health center for homeless LGBTQ youth, and to participate in a discussion about health issues in black LGBT communities across the country,” said Adoma.

“There will be an exchange of ideas for resources that can best serve these communities using a cultural lens, as well as a chance to meet like-minded health care providers all in one space. Everyone will enjoy meeting Dr. Lourdes Follins and Dr. Jonathan Lassiter, who I am grateful to for supporting me in publishing my chapter.”

The discussant for this event is Leseliey Welch, Deputy Director of the Health Department in Detroit. Attendees to the book-signing can enjoy a tour of the REC drop-in center and health facility. Books can be purchased and signed at the event.

For more information, contact the Ruth Ellis Center at 313-252-1950 or visit the REC Facebook page www.facebook.com/RuthEllisCenter.

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LOOKING FOR FREE CONDOMS?



GET CONNECTED WITH CARE.



THINK YOU WERE PUT AT RISK?



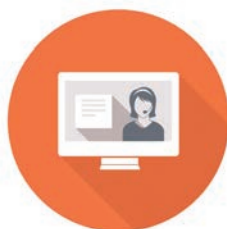
NEED HEALTH INSURANCE?



FIND SUPPORT GROUPS.



LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES?



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THE MICHIGAN HIV/STD HOTLINE IS A PROGRAM OF UNIFIED - HIV HEALTH AND BEYOND



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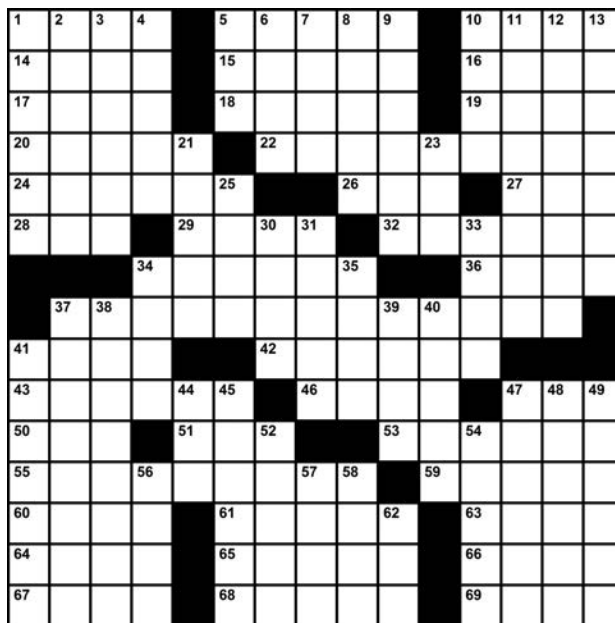
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Q Puzzle



- 34 Experiencing REM, maybe
- 36 Guitarist Townshend
- 37 More of the quote
- 41 Head for the hills
- 42 Syracuse setting
- 43 15-Across, for one
- 46 Dorothy's dog
- 47 Von Trapp rank in "The Sound of Music" (abbr.)
- 50 Join the Kneelers
- 51 Sch. for Rev. Spahr
- 53 Win the favor of
- 55 End of the quote
- 59 Manager Kief, husband of 20-Across
- 60 Just one of those things
- 61 Not erect
- 63 Women on top, at times
- 64 Green stones material
- 65 "Over my dead body!"
- 66 "Hold your horses!"
- 67 Nonheterosexual conception
- 68 "SNL"'s Cheri
- 69 Inn inventory

- 9 Negative to a dominatrix
- 10 What there oughta be
- 11 Strainer in Feniger's kitchen
- 12 Jeremy Irons' Rome, in "The Borgias"
- 13 "Modern Family" installment
- 21 It helps a baker get it up
- 23 Island necklace
- 25 Barneys event
- 30 Cincinnati team
- 31 Itty-bitty, to Baudelaire
- 33 Able to bend over
- 34 Start to climax
- 35 A little, to Leonard Bernstein
- 37 Male prostitute's discharge?
- 38 Cockpit reading
- 39 Trifling amount
- 40 "___ Comes Mary" (The Association)
- 41 Barkless pooch
- 44 Digits used to "render unto Caesar"
- 45 Selena's music style
- 47 Some like it hot
- 48 Early release
- 49 No-tell motel meetings
- 52 Choral work
- 54 Country house, to Nureyev
- 56 Top draft level
- 57 Center of activity
- 58 Glenn Burke, formerly
- 62 Bi plus one

In So Mandy Words

Across

- 1 Scottish head covers
- 5 "The Wizard of Oz" dropout Buddy
- 10 BenGay target
- 14 Sinead O'Connor's country
- 15 Frida known for self-portraits
- 16 Fruit ___ (gay district)
- 17 Plot unit
- 18 Big name in fairy tales
- 19 "___ want is a room

- somewhere ..."
- 20 "Mandy" singer Manilow
- 22 Start of a quote from 20-Across made at the 2016 Ella Awards
- 24 Battery terminals
- 26 "Diff'rent Strokes" actress Charlotte
- 27 Sgt. or corp.
- 28 M. Hirschfeld's land
- 29 PAC of seniors
- 32 Performed wrongly

Down

- 1 Dip it in your cup
- 2 Hard to know
- 3 "Snow White" fairness judge
- 4 Mortimer, with a wooden head
- 5 Heart test
- 6 Adriatic seaport
- 7 Tough guy penetrator
- 8 Recipient of Bugs' kisses

Find solution to this puzzle at www.pridesource.com

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A Couple of guys®
by Dave Brousseau
"A Kink in Their Plans"

Panel 1: "I JUST SPOKE TO HECTOR." "AND...?"

Panel 2: "THEY PICKED UP AUDREY AND TOOK HER TO THEIR NEW PLACE TODAY. SHE'S SETTLING IN FINE."

Panel 3: "GREAT!" "ALL OF THIS GOT ME THINKIN', THOUGH..."

Panel 4: "WE'RE PACKIN' TO GO TO I.M.L. SO WE CAN RUN AROUND IN LEATHER ALL WEEKEND, LIVIN' OUT A HYPER-MASCULINE SEXUAL FANTASY..."

Panel 5: "WHILE HECTOR AND ARI ARE DOIN' THE MOST ADULT, SELFLESS THING THEY POSSIBLY CAN."

Panel 6: "ARE WE JUST SELFISH, IMMATURE OLD MEN? SHOULD WE RE-EXAMINE OUR PRIORITIES, GIVE UP ALL OF THIS NONSENSE AND FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE?"

Panel 7: "JUST KIDDIN'. NOW HAND ME THE NIPPLE CLAMPS!" "YES, SIR!"

Panel 8: "www.facebook.com/acoupleofguys"

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Art. Naturally.



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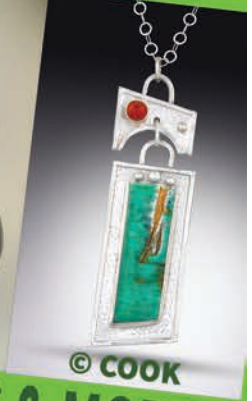
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