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## HOW TODRICK HALL FOUND HIS

# *Yellow Brick Road*

'Kinky Boots' Star and Doc Subject on Finding His Courage,  
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# Candidates Share Their Platforms at LGBT Detroit Forum

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

LGBT Detroit and the Center for Disparity Solutions and Equity at the University of Michigan Dearborn hosted this year's annual gathering of LGBTQ issues on July 28 at the UM Detroit Center.

The event, "Defeating Apathy: A Movement Towards Equitable Solutions in Detroit," coincided with Hotter Than July, a week-long social justice and equality celebration that combines cultural, spiritual and educational components in its programming.

The event was facilitated by Alfredo D. Smith, Linkage to Care Supervisor with UNIFIED - HIV Health & Beyond and David A. Nelson, Jr., who offers early intervention services and care coordination with Health Emergency Lifeline Programs.

Keynote speaker Dr. Truman Hudson, Jr., Director of Industry and Community Partnerships, Center for Disparity Solutions and Equity, UM Dearborn, focused the discussion around apathy.

"When you look at this term around equity, people who are apathetic influence the vote," he said, pointing to Robert's Rules of Order. "If you abstain from the vote, you agree with the affirmative. If you don't vote no, if you don't vote yes, you voted."

Hudson, Jr. makes some valid points as citizens in Detroit are getting ready to vote in the primary on Aug. 8 when the mayor, all nine city council seats, and the city clerk are up for election.

"If you are affirmative, you get what you want. If you are apathetic and not engaged, you're giving them what they want. So, if you don't get what you want, it's because you haven't exercised your voice," he said. "Make your voice count. If we're not active, it's on us. If we don't have what we want, it's on us."

Following Hudson, Jr. was a mayoral candidate forum organized by Ricky L. Jones, a volunteer with LGBT Detroit. This was an opportunity for candidates to speak directly to the LGBTQ community in Detroit.

"Just because they answer these questions doesn't mean it's going to happen once they get in office," said Hudson, Jr. "We have to hold the people we're voting for accountable when they tell us they're going to give us what we want. We have to engage our politicians and make sure they hear our voices."

There to share their campaign promises were Senator Coleman A. Young II (D-Detroit), Ingrid LaFleur, Garlin Gilchrist II, Nguvu Tsare and Brenda Jones. The forum was moderated by Phillips Simmons, founder and executive director of Pure Recovery, Inc.



Top: Phillips Simmons, Garlin Gilchrist II, Ingrid LaFleur, Nguvu Tsare, Curtis Lipscomb and Dr. Truman Hudson, Jr. Middle: Coleman A. Young II; Bottom: Dr. Truman Hudson, Jr. with Brenda Jones and Curtis Lipscomb. Photos courtesy of Ray O'Shay

## Where Candidates Stand

LaFleur, a write-in mayoral candidate, spoke about what she wants to accomplish in the city of Detroit. She believes in a new economy and a new government like the community has never seen before.

"The institutions, the systems that we are working within are literally created on the foundation of oppression and white supremacy and their patriarchy. It was never meant for me. It was never meant for you. It was never meant for us, right? So it's a state of emergency," she said to a room full of mostly African American men. "This is real. This is about more than survival. I want us to be living in Detroit. I'm tired of us struggling and being distracted with water shutoffs and people losing their homes and can't even afford to repair homes that are aging and over 100 years old – they're beautiful – but they're aging, so what can we do?"

When discussing the various ways to move forward, LaFleur said she's been investigating the possibilities, like cryptocurrency, decentralizing government, a digital society, and investing in the cannabis industry, which will be a \$50 billion industry in 2021.

"By bringing hemp to us, we can grow our manufacturing. That means we can create hempcrete that can repair our infrastructure that seems to crumble every single winter," she said calling out the racial disparity that already exists when out of 100 cannabis dispensaries that are open, only one percent are Black owned.

LaFleur envisions a creative economy, like Berlin's, that makes \$900 million a year off of techno music.

"We don't even have a cultural affairs department," she said. "We have not valued the culture and the skills and the talent of our people. We have a 64 percent poverty rate. This is ridiculous. That includes the working poor, which breaks my heart. You are working and you still can't pay your bills. You're still struggling. Enough of that. We need to be investing. We need to be looking at new ways to make sure that our people – Detroiters, Black Americans, Latinos, LGBT – we need everyone on the table to be thriving and living and wealth building. This is the time and we have to think of new ways forward. We need new methods that are outside of these oppressive systems."

Tsare, a write-in candidate for Detroit City Council in District 2 was applauded as the



only openly LGBTQ person running for office in Detroit this year. Tsare said he decided to run for office because "I got sick and tired of seeing people exploiting the people that I've dedicated my life to fighting for." Tsare jumped

See next page

## Public Invited to View, Discuss 'Detroit' Film

Members of the LGBT community will have the opportunity to view the film "Detroit," a 2017 American period crime drama directed by Kathryn Bigelow and written by Mark Boal. The film is based on and is being released to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Algiers Motel incident during Detroit's 1967 12th Street rebellion.

LGBT Detroiters are invited to the Bel Air Luxury Cinema at 10100 E. 8 Mile Road in Detroit at 4 p.m. on Aug. 6. Tickets are \$7. Seating is available for 87 people. A voucher can be purchased prior to the film at 3:45 p.m. and is good for a free drink with purchase from the concession stand. Please RSVP to Dani Woods, the Detroit Police Department's LGBT Liaison Officer, at 313-400-4450.

On Aug. 8, LGBT Detroit will host a community gathering to discuss the film during the organization's Talk Tuesday event at 6 p.m. at 20025 Greenfield Road in Detroit. The conversation will be facilitated by Woods, Dr. Tim Retzlaff, professor of the Department of History and Center for Gender in Global Context at Michigan State University, and Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of LGBT Detroit. Together, they will discuss the film's perspective of law enforcement and the LGBT presence of 1967. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information, visit [www.lgbtdetroit.org](http://www.lgbtdetroit.org) or connect with LGBT Detroit on Facebook [www.facebook.com/lgbtdetroit](http://www.facebook.com/lgbtdetroit).

### ► Detroit Forum

Continued from p. 4

in the race as an "authentic voice" to decrease crime, increase economic opportunity and strengthen public services in a city where 83 percent of African Americans live.

Through his One Dollar One Dream program, Tsare hopes to increase – on a micro level – home ownership, which acts as a firewall to gentrification, and create more entrepreneurs, which increases the employment rate and strengthens small Black-owned businesses.

"Millennials are coming forward with out-of-the-box ideas and approaches to solving some of the city's problems. If you want more of us in the room, you have to be willing to accept that, and our different positions on social issues," he said. "We don't care about who's pants are saggin', who's smokin' weed. We don't care about who's in church and who's not in church. We care about true equity, true equality and achieving it by any means necessary."

Young II said someone told him if he wanted to become the next mayor in the city of Detroit, he would have to come to LGBT Detroit's event, so he did, and listed the various reasons why he's running.

"Our people deserve better," he said announcing his plan to put people to work, rebuild roads and waterways, rebuild infrastructure and tear down abandoned buildings, keep schools open, sue the "racist, redlining" auto insurance companies, and enforce equal pay for equal work laws.

"And I think it's a shame before God in this state that you can be fired because you're gay. In this city, we will not tolerate that and we will not have that because discrimination of any kind is wrong," said Young II. "We want to attract new people, we want to bring new people in here, but that doesn't mean we abandon the folks who stay."

Like Jones, who has lived in Detroit since 1967. On the Detroit City Council for 12 years, Jones is running again this year for one

of two at-large seats because she said her job as a "citizen's voice" is unfinished. Her focus is Jones – jobs, opportunities, neighborhoods, education and safety.

When addressing the LGBTQ people in the room, Jones said, "I think about all of the fights that you guys have had. I think about all of the fights we have had as black folk. You've had your share of fights. We continue to have our share of fights. Not just blacks, not just LGBT, but everybody can tell you a fight that they've had... But I say how long have we been singing 'We Shall Overcome?' When are we going to overcome? When are we going to finally sing we have overcome? I'm ready to write the words for it... At what point do we stop fighting? But, I'm gonna' tell you, I'm gonna' continue to fight along with you."

Gilchrist II, who is running to be the next city clerk, said that fight includes making sure people have full access to the political process in Detroit.

"We have to fix the system that enables us to reclaim that aspect of our political power," he said about the elections process specifically. In his role, Gilchrist II said he is committed to "making sure that our votes are counted properly, making sure that we aggressively register voters in the city of Detroit, and making sure we make that all easy and trustworthy."

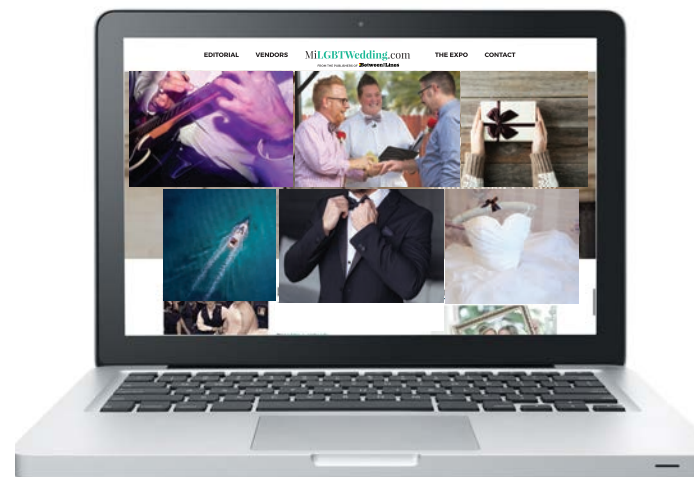
He plans to better inform people about what their government is doing or not doing.

"One of the reasons that our people are not voting at a high level is because our government has not been transparent. They haven't trusted it. They haven't gotten the results that they want," said Gilchrist II, adding that he will "open the doorway to our entire democracy in Detroit so we all can be active, informed, empowered participants in every decision making process that impacts us as individuals and our neighborhoods as a whole."

For more information about each candidate's campaign platform in the city of Detroit, visit their individual websites. Connect with LGBT Detroit online [www.lgbtdetroit.org](http://www.lgbtdetroit.org).

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## What is TRUVADA for PrEP?

TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is a prescription medicine that is used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1. To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV. 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?

#### Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- ◆ **You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA 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 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.

#### While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- ◆ **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- ◆ **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP:**
  - ◆ Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months.
  - ◆ If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- ◆ **To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:**
  - ◆ Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
  - ◆ Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
  - ◆ Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
  - ◆ Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- ◆ **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:

- ◆ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV and stop taking TRUVADA, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

## 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.
- ◆ **Also take** certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

## 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. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA.
- ◆ **Too much lactic acid in your blood** (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- ◆ **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: 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, or stomach-area pain.
- ◆ **Bone problems,** including bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

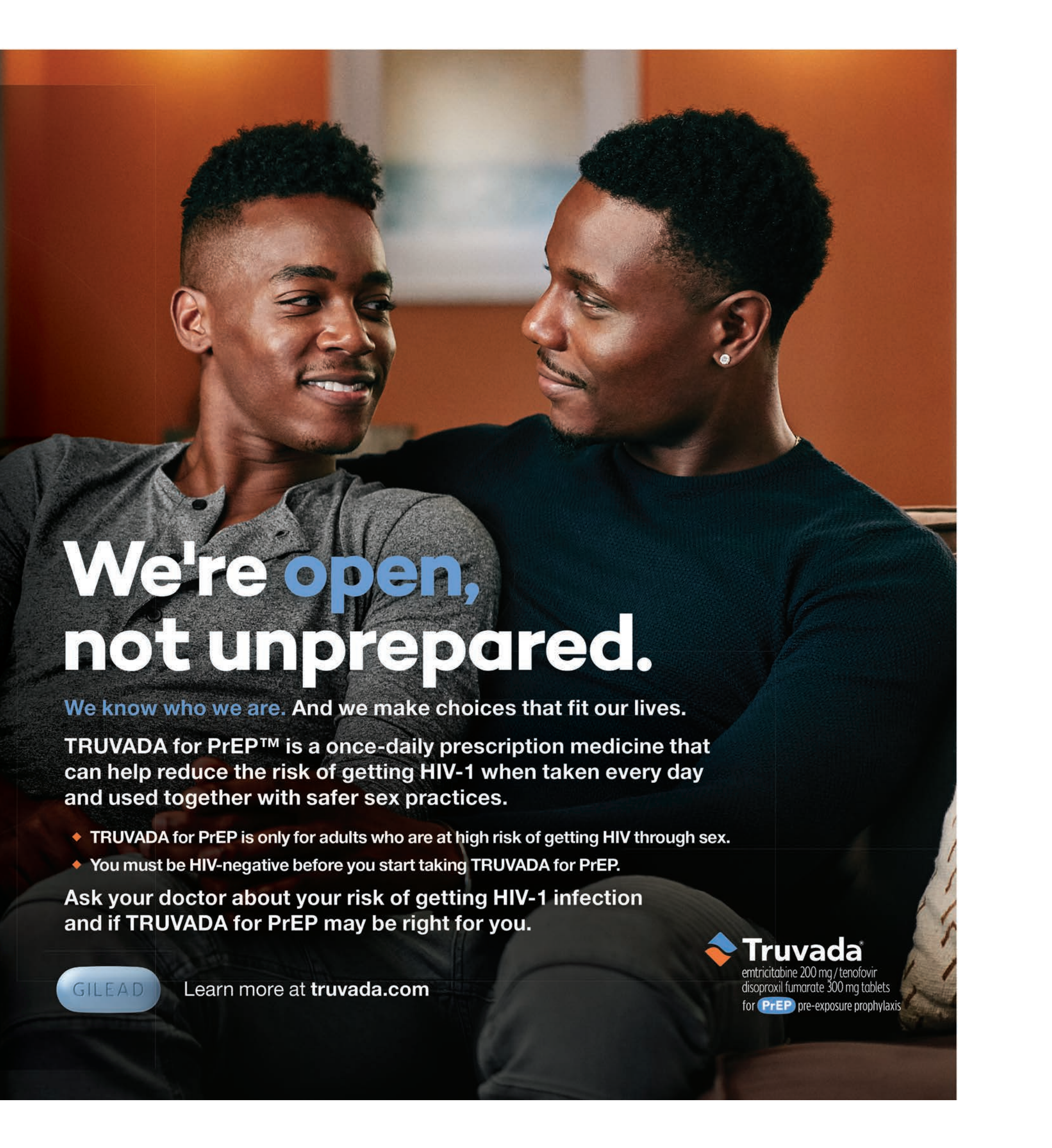
**Common side effects** in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

## 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.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV 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, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include certain medicines to treat hepatitis C (HCV) infection.

**You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.FDA.gov/medwatch](http://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.**



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**TRUVADA for PrEP™** is a once-daily prescription medicine that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when taken every day and used together 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.**

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## MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

### Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must be HIV-1 negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. 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:

- **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.** Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you think you were exposed to HIV-1 or have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- **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:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV, your HBV may suddenly get 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.

## ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA for PrEP is a prescription medicine used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1.

- To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider 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 certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

## 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.
- Use TRUVADA for PrEP together with condoms and safer sex practices.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months. You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

## 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.

## 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.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: 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, or stomach-area pain.
- Bone problems.

**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.
- 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-positive, HIV can pass to the baby in breast milk.

### 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 FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having 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. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV infection.
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The Justice Department under Jeff Sessions rejected gay protections under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Photo by Gage Skidmore; courtesy Wikimedia Commons

## DOJ: Anti-Gay Discrimination Perfectly OK Under Federal Law

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

The U.S. Justice Department has declared anti-gay discrimination is lawful under current federal civil rights law, filing an friend-of-the-court brief in a case of alleging employment discrimination.

In a 23-page brief, the Justice Department under U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions rejects the notion that sexual-orientation discrimination is a form of sex discrimination under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

“The essential element of sex discrimination under Title VII is that employees of one sex must be treated worse than similarly situated employees of the other sex, and sexual orientation discrimination simply does not have that effect,” the brief says. “Moreover, whatever this Court would say about the question were it writing on a blank slate, Congress has made clear through its actions and inactions in this area that Title VII’s prohibition of sex discrimination does not encompass sexual orientation discrimination. Other statutes and rules may prohibit such discrimination, but Title VII does not do so as a matter of law, and whether it should do so as a matter of policy remains a question for Congress to decide.”

The brief is signed by Chad Readler, acting assistant attorney general for the Civil Division; Tom Wheeler, acting assistant attorney general for civil rights; Deputy Assistant Attorney General Hashim Mooppan; and Justice Department attorneys Charles Scarborough and Stephanie Marcus.

The Justice Department brief was

expected. Outside sources familiar with the department’s plan informed the Washington Blade earlier this week a brief would be forthcoming in a case alleging anti-gay workplace discrimination before the U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

However, the Justice Department was expected not only to reject the idea that anti-gay discrimination is covered under Title VII, but also transgender discrimination. The brief ultimately avoids the issue of discrimination based on gender identity, although its reasoning could apply to cases of transgender discrimination.

The brief was filed on the same day President Trump announced on Twitter he’d reinstate the ban prohibiting openly transgender people from serving in the armed forces. Coupled together, the brief and the president’s tweets span moves enabling discrimination across the entire LGBT community.

James Esseks, director of the ACLU’s LGBT and HIV Project, quipped upon review of the brief, “Trump and Sessions together have made it Anti-LGBT Day for the administration.”

The brief is just the view of the Trump administration and has no binding effect. Whether or not anti-gay discrimination will be considered lawful under Title VII is up the Second Circuit.

More to come.

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

## Judge Orders FBI to Release Docs on 1950s-Era Anti-Gay Purge

BY LOU CHIBBARO JR., WASHINGTON BLADE

A U.S. District Court judge in Washington on July 28 handed down a ruling ordering the FBI to search for and release thousands of documents it initially said it could not find or declined to release that pertain to an anti-gay “purge” in the 1950s that resulted in the firing of thousands of gay federal employees.

Judge Royce C. Lamberth’s ruling came in response to a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit filed last year by the Mattachine Society of Washington, D.C., an LGBT rights group that called on the FBI to release all government documents in its possession generated by a 1953 executive order issued by President Dwight Eisenhower.

Known as Executive Order 10450, the order gave the FBI and federal agency heads the authority to investigate and dismiss federal employees linked to “sexual perversion.” Historians knowledgeable in LGBT history say that term was a pretext used to purge gays from the government.

Mattachine Society President Charles Francis said the group filed its lawsuit after the FBI balked at releasing and searching for thousands of documents the group requested in what the lawsuit says was a violation of the Freedom of Information Act.

In his ruling, Lamberth stated attorneys for the U.S. Department of Justice, which represented the FBI in court, argued that the FBI was able to track down 552 pages of documents it released to the Mattachine Society while it withheld an additional 583 documents on grounds that they were exempt from the Freedom of Information Act.

“The FBI’s response fails to demonstrate that their search was reasonably calculated to uncover all relevant documents,” Lamberth states in his ruling.

In bluntly worded language, Lamberth said it “strains credulity” that the FBI claimed it could not find any documents prepared by or pertaining to former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Warren Burger, who was in charge of

carrying out Executive Order 10450 in the 1950s before Eisenhower appointed him to the Supreme Court.

“The Court finds it nearly impossible to believe that a search for every permutation of the name of the man who was charged with carrying out EOP 10450, the ‘overseer’ Warren Berger...yielded zero responsive documents,” Lamberth wrote in his ruling.

In his ruling Lamberth granted part of a motion by the Justice Department seeking summary judgment to withhold the release of a smaller collection of documents that Lamberth found to be exempt from the FOIA statute.

He ruled that for a large collection of documents that the FBI released in which names were redacted, the FBI would have to go back and replace the names with “alphanumeric markers, which are to be uniquely identifiable and consistent throughout all documents produced pursuant to this FOIA request.”

He added: “The parties are hereby ordered to meet and confer to determine appropriate terms for future searches. If the parties cannot agree to appropriate terms, plaintiffs may submit a proposed order with suggested terms to the court.”

Francis said Lamberth’s ruling would enable Mattachine Society to obtain most of the documents it believes exist as a result of the Eisenhower executive order.

“It is time for the government to release these historic FBI and DOJ documents that launched decades of discrimination against LGBT Americans,” Francis said. “Thousands of LGBT Americans were ruthlessly investigated, interrogated and fired because of this Order, and historians still do not know the full extent of its implementation and enforcement by such officials as then Assistant Attorney General [and later Chief Justice] Warren Burger,” Francis said.

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

## Ex-Navy Doctor Promises Free Surgery for Trans Military Patients

Dr. Christine McGinn, an ex-Navy surgeon, has vowed to offer free gender-confirmation surgery for transgender military patients.

McGinn told CNN’s Michael Smerconish that she will still perform operations for patients already on her list despite President Donald Trump announcing a ban on transgender people in the military.

“If the commander-in-chief won’t take care of our veterans, our veterans will. I will do surgery for free on the number of people that I have already lined up for surgery,” McGinn, who is also transgender, told Smerconish.

Trump stated that the reason for the ban was

that transgender people in the military caused “tremendous medical costs and disruption.”

McGinn says the cost of medical care for transgender people is one the military’s budget can afford.

“I think it’s being twisted and spun to make it seem like it would be more than it is,” McGinn says. “I think the cost of getting rid of very well specialized, trained military service people is exponentially larger than just taking care of them.”

McGinn transitioned in 2000 while a senior flight surgeon at Willow Grove Naval Air Station. She was also nominated flight surgeon of the year for the U.S. Navy.

## Grant Money Helps EQMI Continue Fighting Hate Crimes

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Equality Michigan is halfway through a short term grant designed to provide additional resources to its Victim Services Department. The \$60,000 grant from Open Society Foundations is part of the Communities Against Hate initiative. The Rapid Response Grant covers the period of May-September 2017.

“The Report, Respond and Rebuild Detroit (3-R Detroit Initiative) will provide ground level effective community education geared towards responding to hate crimes appropriately; dedicated rapid financial assistance for legal services and representation to greatly increase the successful resolution of the crime; and emergency financial assistance geared towards intersectional victim re-stabilization from the hate crime suffered,” said Serena Johnson, EQMI’s director of victim services.

Johnson said the grant was a natural for EQMI as it was in line with the work they already do. “The work is the same,” she said. “The EQMI Department of Victim Services has been dedicated to working to combat hate crimes and to educate the community for many years. The grant has provided additional resource, which has allowed our advocates to increase their client caseloads as well as increased the emergency financial resources we are able to provide to individuals who have suffered from a hate incident throughout these past few months.”

In addition to being able to provide greater financial resources to hate crime victims, the grant also allows for community meetings to increase awareness of hate crimes.

“3-R Detroit will provide deep community conversations and small group meetings to engage people more fully,” said Johnson. “We will create an atmosphere of openness that works to remove perceived stigma and shame of LGBT hate crime victimization. By increasing education, awareness and empowerment, we will increase reporting of hate crimes.”

Johnson, herself, designed the educational component of the grant.

It has included activities, brochures, group sessions and one-on-one meetings for clients in regards to gaining the knowledge of what a hate crime is, how they would report the crime, safety planning and prevention. To date, EQMI has held four such community meetings, with two taking place in Grand Rapids and two in Detroit.

“We have learned that the community is aware of the term ‘hate crime’ but in general have had no idea how to report, respond or heal past many of the horrible incidents that have happened,” Johnson said. “This short-term rapid response grant has provided tremendous help to many within the LGBTQ community. But it has also shed light on how grants and increased funding is needed far beyond a five-month period. So our work continues.”

*If you have experienced discrimination, violence or harassment, contact the EQMI Department of Victim Services at 313-537-7000 or visit the organization’s website <https://equalitymi.org/victim-services>.*

# Organizers Say 22nd Annual Hotter Than July was the Hottest Yet

View the Online Gallery  
PS [www.pridesource.com](http://www.pridesource.com)

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

How hot was Hotter Than July? This year, it was 80-plus degrees and sunny with no rain. The weather is important, according to Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of LGBT Detroit, because “it impacts the spirit of the picnic in Palmer Park on Saturday, and normally on any given day in July, rain is a possibility. So the fact that it stayed away this year made for a great day.”

Around 4,000 people attended the picnic on July 29, an event that many people look forward to at the end of a week-long celebration of black LGBT pride events hosted by LGBT Detroit.

The picnic featured live entertainment by local musicians like DJ Tone and DJ Romeo, appearances by Rico Pruitt and other models from event sponsor BlackBoyAddictionz.com, and the legendary House of Mizrahi mini-ball.

“We received great feedback on the ball,” said Jeynce Mizrahi, who gave away \$1,300 in cash and 15 AT&T tablets during the event. “People said it reminded them of something like Coachella. It was just a festival of celebration, freedom and love. People are already talking about they can’t wait till next year.”

Logan McClendon, who has been attending the picnic for the past several years said, “It’s the most I’ve enjoyed it in all the years I’ve been going. I actually stayed out there the longest amount of time I ever have. I don’t usually enjoy being outside, but I had fun. I got tested, I looked at all the booths and I enjoyed a little bit of the ball even at the end.”

For Dontelle Smith, this was his first time at the picnic or any pride activity.

“It was a really fun experience,” he said. “I would absolutely do it again. I enjoyed being around my friends and knowing there were so many people I could reach out to. It was great meeting new people.”

Like Smith, Telly Harris was new to HTJ. He drove up from Louisville, Kentucky, to party with friends.

“I really loved it,” said Harris. “One thing that I observed is when you go to different prides or different events, usually you’ll see a big generational divide and that wasn’t the case for this pride. Every generation and population had their spot there. But what was



Jeynce Mizrahi hosted the legendary House of Mizrahi mini-ball during Hotter Than July. Below Taneisha McCarthy. BLT Photos: Jason Michael

unique about it was they were mingling. It wasn’t just this generation over here and this generation to the left. They were merged and participating in conversation with each other. I think that was the best part about it – seeing everyone share the experience.”

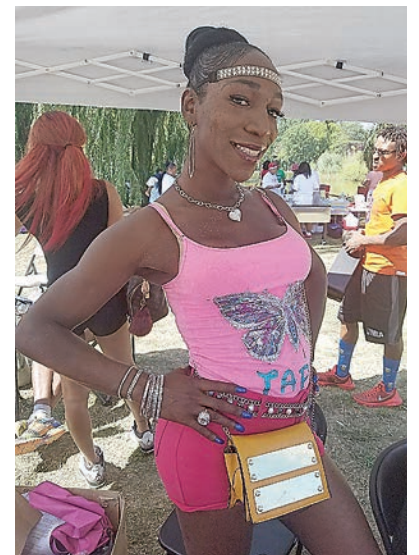
Even Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan stopped by the picnic to show his support.

“It was good that our mayor made an appearance,” said Taneshia McCarthy. “It made me feel like our voices are finally being heard and things are finally starting to get done.”

Lipscomb said the week went “well” and he noticed an increase in attendance at all the events from the candlelight vigil to the opening party co-sponsored by Equality Michigan to the fine arts reception and the annual gathering.

“Hotter Than July is the longest running gay black pride in the world,” said LGBT Liaison Officer Dani Woods of the Detroit Police Department during the opening ceremony on July 25. “There’s not a whole lot of things you can say ‘in the world’ about. This is a week-long event. It should be a year-long event. Seriously. Because this is pride and we should be proud of who we are and loving who we want to love and being out in public doing our thing. We need to show people who we are.”

The week wrapped up with 100 or so



people who gathered on July 30 for a worship service at Whosoever Ministry United Church of Christ and brunch at Granite City Food & Brewery in Detroit’s Renaissance Center, hosted by the Billionaire Boys Club.

“The week was amazing,” said Jameson King of LGBT Detroit. “A lot of people really enjoyed themselves. It was a wonderful experience.”

*To help LGBT Detroit plan for next year’s Hotter Than July celebration, connect online at [www.lgbtdetroit.org](http://www.lgbtdetroit.org).*



Carl Struble (left) cuts a ribbon to open the Jackson Pride Center with Nikki Joly, director of the center. BTL photo: Todd A. Heywood

## Jackson Hosts Inaugural Pride Celebration

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

The city of Jackson is getting ready for its first ever LGBTQ Pride celebration this month with a parade, flag raising and festival Aug. 5. The festivities, hosted by Nikki Joly and the Jackson Pride Center, show support for the LGBTQ community in Jackson, but also to let people outside of the community know that Jackson is an accepting and inclusive town.

"I'm incredibly geeked," said Joly, who is expecting well over 1,000 people to attend the inaugural event.

Joly said members of the Jackson community kept saying "let's do something" following the passing of a non-discrimination ordinance in April, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

"The NDO was important to provide those protections, but also to make sure that we are a city that practices tolerance and inclusion, and outwardly shows that we view diversity as a strength, particularly within the city where we've lost 40 percent of the population over the past decades," said Vice Mayor and Sixth Ward Councilman Derek Dobies, who will challenge Mayor Bill Jors for his seat in the November election. Jors, who voted against the NDO several times, did not respond to BTL's inquiry about the pride celebration in Jackson.

"We need to put up a welcoming sign and work to attract new residents and businesses and we certainly aren't going to do that by continuing to allow discriminatory practices within our city," said Dobies. "The NDO was a good first step toward progress and really showed people that if they love their city, the city is going to love them back."

Progress was made when the Jackson Pride Center opened in February, and now with



Jackson Vice Mayor and Sixth Ward Councilman Derek Dobies. BTL Photo: Todd A. Heywood

the first pride celebration, which council unanimously approved in June.

The parade will start at noon on the corner of Mechanic and Biddle Streets, and will march to Michigan Street. The flag raising and pride festival will be at Horace Blackman Park following the parade at 1 p.m. There will be a Miss Jackson Gay Pride drag queen pageant and a Drag Queen Extravaganza Show hosted by Delicious with special guests Paris Wilson and Destiny Deville. The festival will close with a DJ dance party from 6-9 p.m.

On Aug. 6, the Jackson community is invited to the second annual "Love Is Love Is Love" interfaith worship service at 4 p.m. followed by a picnic sponsored by PFLAG.

Joly said they scheduled Jackson's pride in August because they want people from other communities to be able to attend. Everyone is welcome to attend. A \$10 donation is suggested.

For more information, visit the Jackson Pride Center's Facebook page [www.facebook.com/jxnmipride](http://www.facebook.com/jxnmipride).



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# Remembering My 'Friends of Dorothy'



## Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

I was in the Sunday habit, a few years back, of taking a suburban bus to Birmingham. Riding with me were regulars, most of whom were off to church, or gave that halo'd impression by dress or demeanor.

Motivated by whimsy by a half-hour drive of boredom, uneventful scenery, I dubbed these weekend travelers with romantic titles: The Dowager Empress, The Princess Royal, The Countess, The Waterloos.

Looking up now and then from my newspaper, I made mental notes on this group of not unreasonably friendly faces, although as the saying goes, "distance lends enchantment to the view."

Dowager Empress and Princess Royal were Aunt Jean and niece Linda. (They were Catholic. Aunt Jean would dutifully – and quickly – cross herself when passing Royal Oak's International Shrine of the Little Flower.) Aunt Jean had raised niece Linda "properly from early on."

Charitably, the two were wallflowers who blushed, rarely bloomed, lived mostly sight unseen. They had limited social life, used public transportation to get to shops, Big Boy restaurants for small and low-caloric, treaty non-adventures.

**When I came out, gays all went by nicknames. We led a double life. Anonymity was a must. You told no one where you worked, where you lived, who your dates were.**

Countess was middle-aged, a school teacher. Prim, proper, pleasant. She got off at People's Community Church. She was white. The congregation, persons of heavenly color. I admired her spirit of integrated belonging.

Waterloos, Angie and Tony, were seniors. Tony told bus driver Stella he was "an energetic 85," his girl friend, a "keep-pace 67".

They were health food faddists, living on combined SS incomes. Angie, once a ballerina, chatted on and on about her glory days. Tony was an "expert" on New Testament numerology. 666. That sort of nonsense.

Abruptly, the Waterloos went AWOL. I learned sometime later from SMART driver Stella that Angie had died in Tony's arms following a brief illness. (I never saw ballerina-bereft, "energetic" Tony again.)

What's in a nickname? There was a time when gays and lesbians lived and survived with only a nickname to negotiate by. Sometimes campy, sometimes exotic, a colorful bit of ID rainbow.

When I came out, gays all went by nicknames. We led a double life. Anonymity was a must. You told no one where you worked, where you lived, who your dates were. It was a big sin to out someone as gay, especially to anyone who unfortunately happened to be straight.

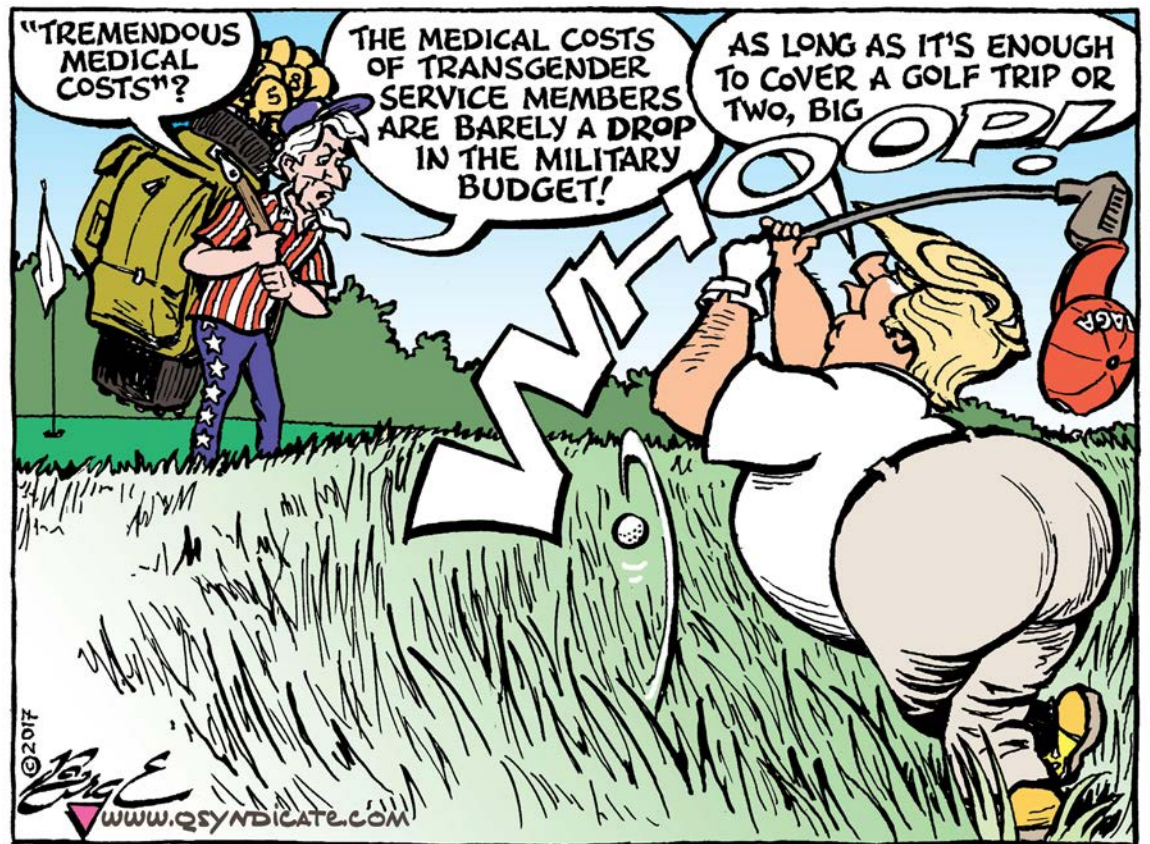
Nicknames did provide a clue as to whether or not a new face was "family," "a friend of Dorothy" – reference to Judy Garland's "The Wizard of Oz."

Among my friends were Little Bobby, Marshmallow, Butch Jimmy, TD (Tall Dick - vertically speaking!), Estralita, Miss Bruce, Streeta Gayworth. Among dykes: Drano, Speedy, Rusty, Sky, Big Red, Big Mamoo, Mack, Bombshell Betty.

As my imagination then was a long way behind in coming out – I was shy, skinny, 19 – I called myself – rather uneventfully, I must confess – Al. (Alexander the Great might have opened many doors, both private, public and revolving.)

A friend, Tom Ingersoll, a police precinct captain's son (later caught in an after-hours police raid) took perverse delight in bestowing secret

See next page



BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

## Transmissions

### Transition the Battlefield

No matter how I put this, it feels like an understatement: we are living in increasingly frightening and dangerous times. This is especially true for those of us who are transgender.

Sitting in a subcommittee right now in our House of Representatives is HR 2796, aka the Civil Rights Uniformity Act of 2017. I spoke of this before. It would do nothing less than void protections for transgender people under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare"), the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Fair Housing Act, and "any Federal civil rights law, and of any related ruling, regulation, guidance, or interpretation of the various administrative bureaus and agencies of the United States."

Not apparently interested in waiting for HR 2796 to pass or fail, the Department of Justice under beleaguered Attorney General Jeff Sessions, has filed a legal brief in *Zarda v. Altitude Express*, claiming that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 doesn't cover sexual orientation. While the brief doesn't mention gender orientation specifically, we can guess where Session's DOJ might side. Oddly enough, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has filed its own brief,

disagreeing with the DOJ.

Meanwhile, a move by Vicky Hartzler (R-Mo) to ban health care for transgender military personnel and their families failed to pass in the House of Representatives, in spite of a pair of odd speeches in support by Steve King (R-IA) and Louie Gohmert (R-TX). King conflated transgender troops to slaves forcibly conscripted and castrated in the ottoman empire, and suggested that trans folks would join to somehow "game the system" for surgical care, while Gohmert tried to draw a comparison between money spent for transgender care and that used to defeat "radical Islam," as if one would take away from the other.

While the Hartzler amendment failed, it apparently was not unnoticed President Donald Trump, who took to Twitter for one of his now-infamous tweetstorm cum policy statements.

"After consultation with my Generals and military experts, please be advised that the United States Government will not accept or allow Transgender

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## ► Transmissions

Continued from p. 12

individuals to serve in any capacity in the U.S. Military,” said Trump. “Our military must be focused on decisive and overwhelming victory and cannot be burdened with the tremendous medical costs and disruption that transgender in the military would entail.”

This is all nonsense.

The military responded with surprise, having apparently not been consulted on this policy. What’s more, Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, General Joseph Dunford, has stood in opposition, stating in a memo that there are “no modifications to the current policy until the President’s direction has been received by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary has issued implementation guidelines.”

To date, no such implementation guidelines have arrived.

Trump seems somehow unaware that there are already transgender troops in our military. While reported numbers have varied from as little as 250 to as many as 50,000, a study by the RAND Corporation in June 2016 estimated somewhere between 1,320 to 6,630 active-duty trans service members out of a total pool of 1.3 service members. What’s more, this same study noted that trans-related health care for these troops would cost somewhere between \$2.4 and \$8.4 million per year. This is a drop in the bucket compared to current military spending.

It is also a fifth of spending that the military currently doles out for erectile dysfunction

**Trump seems somehow unaware that there are already transgender troops in our military. While reported numbers have varied from as little as 250 to as many as 50,000, a study by the RAND Corporation in June 2016 estimated somewhere between 1,320 to 6,630 active-duty trans service members out of a total pool of 1.3 service members.**

medications to all troops, trans or otherwise.

So we have a scattershot policy, dictated via social media without adequate consultation and not tethered in fact. Transgender troops are in no way bankrupting our armed forces, nor is there any evidence of them disrupting the service.

Now plenty have said that Trump’s tweets were nothing more than a distraction, something to steal the spotlight from news of the health care bill and its failure, or the increasingly dysfunctional Administration, or the continuing Russia probe. Maybe there is some truth to that, but I find myself considering that a distraction ceases to be a distraction when it is harming people.

Trump’s insistence on attacking transgender soldiers, while his Department of Justice and others attack transgender rights and protections at the Federal level is causing real harm. It is seeking to establish a second – or even third – class status for transgender people in America, barring us from rights and protections throughout our Federal Government.

These are policies that could prevent our employment, our ability to find and retain housing, to gain adequate healthcare, and an education in addition to halting those willing to kill people in the name of our country. These send a message that transgender people are simply unwelcome, and no longer a part of American society.

Of course, that also simply lumps us in with every other “undesirable” group that have already been singled out: immigrants, people of color, and other are certainly no strangers to the machinations of this administration.

There is a bright spot in all this, however. While Trump and his administration – and, of course, those who seem hell-bent on following him no matter what – are willing to demonize trans people, a growing coalition of others isn’t.

A Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll held between 226-18 July found that 58 percent felt that transgender people should be allowed to serve in the military, compared to only 27 percent who said no. Even amongst Republicans only, only 49 percent weren’t willing to support transgender people in the armed forces.

These are dark times, and I fear they will grow grimmer, but we have one thing on our side: public support for transgender people is growing as the dinosaurs fade. In that, we can find hope.

*Gwen Smith has never wished to serve in the military. You’ll find her at [www.gwensmith.com](http://www.gwensmith.com)*

Entertainer names were always used as forms of polite show-biz address. Miss Rae Bourbon. Miss Chunga. Miss Lola Lola. Miss Vicki Marlane. Fat Jack. Tabu. Chi Chi Latrine. My favorite drag name’s a classic. Gay Cocken! It has a feygeleh ring to it. Yiddish: Little bird. Queer. Gai Kokken. Go take a dump!

And not in the Betty Davis “what a dump” sense, either. Oy, veh!

*Connect with Charles Alexander at [Charles@pridesource.com](mailto:Charles@pridesource.com)*

# Creep of the Week

## Donald Trump

BY D’ANNE WITKOWSKI



**Trump, of course, cannot meet and never has met the military’s high standards, or the high standards of the presidency, for that matter. He can’t even meet the most basic standards of human decency.**

On July 26 at 8:55 a.m. Donald Trump Tweeted: “After consultation with my Generals and military experts, please be advised that the United States Government will not accept or allow.....”

For nine long minutes there was no followup Tweet. In fact, some members of the Pentagon initially feared that Trump was about to declare war.

It turns out that Trump was declaring war, only it wasn’t on North Korea. It was on transgender troops right here in the United States.

He followed his initial Tweet with two more that read, “...Transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the U.S. Military. Our military must be focused on decisive and overwhelming victory and cannot be burdened with the tremendous medical costs and disruption that transgender in the military would entail. Thank you.”

Yes, he really ended the third Tweet with “Thank you,” you know, like a Commander In Chief does when he’s singled out a vulnerable minority in his own country’s military and fired them, opening them up for scorn and ridicule.

Since this radical policy change we’ve seen many different responses to it. Everything from “the military spends more money on Viagra than it does on trans health care” to “Uh, we’re the generals and military experts and we weren’t told shit about this” to “Trump is a draft dodger who should be thankful there are people willing to volunteer for the armed forces.”

In fact, as of July 31, the Pentagon had received no formal guidance regarding trans troops, according to ABC News. And until that happens, well, nothing really happens.

So is Trump’s tweet just a meaningless temper tantrum? Hardly.

Note that President Obama lifted the ban on trans service members. Conservatives were not happy. The Family Research Council’s Tony Perkins, for example, lamented back in December

that “feminists” and “the left” were emasculating the military’s culture “of manhood and masculinity.”

The right-wing demonization of transgender people has been unrelenting in the past few years. Having lost the battle against marriage equality, keeping trans folks out of public restrooms became the new right-wing obsession. And since they couldn’t keep gays and lesbians out of the military, they’ve moved the goal posts again and put trans troops in the crosshairs. And they see Trump as their political savior.

And Trump, who loves to be fawned over, is more than happy to sacrifice trans troops if it means that the religious right will stick by him and his total failure of a presidency.

As Alex Wagner pointed out in Slate, trans troops are already serving. Wagner warns that if Trump’s Tweets become policy it would result in “a horrifying witch hunt”

“The military will be tasked to delve into the private lives of our armed forces to identify trans troops—who were, just a year ago, encouraged to serve openly,” Wagner writes. “Such a purge of transgender individuals from the ranks would represent an unprecedented attempt to socially engineer a military that is finally is open to all Americans who can meet its high standards.”

Imagine being a trans troop member, open and brave and serving your country. And the President of the United States publicly declares you an enemy.

Trump, of course, cannot meet and never has met the military’s high standards, or the high standards of the presidency, for that matter. He can’t even meet the most basic standards of human decency. Trump is a failure and a fraud. Lashing out against Americans who are dedicated to this country and willing to risk their lives for it, when Trump is neither, is beyond shameful.

## ► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 12

put-down nickies on rivals. Victory Garden. No No Nannette. H. Livonia Beckons. Lovely Hula Hands. Tiny Tears (who cried non-stop during President Kennedy’s televised funeral).

Tom’s nickname – bestowed by lover Paul – was Beads O’Bleach, given for hitting the peroxide bottle, with not infrequent patchwork results. (God bless you, Tom. Missed now some 45 years.)

## 10 Days In, Pro-LGBT Scaramucci Out From White House Role

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

Ten days after his appointment as White House communications director, which some hoped would change the administration's approach to LGBT rights, Anthony Scaramucci has left the role.

White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders confirmed Scaramucci, nicknamed the "Mooch," was set to exit the White House after major media outlets reported the news.

"Anthony Scaramucci will be leaving his role as White House Communications Director," Sanders said. "Mr. Scaramucci felt it was best to give Chief of Staff John Kelly a clean slate and the ability to build his own team. We wish him all the best."

The 10 days Scaramucci occupied the White House were marked by open assaults in the press against former White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus, whom Scaramucci derided as being a leaker to the press and mocked as a "paranoid schizophrenic" using colorful expletives.

Scaramucci's remarks to the *New Yorker* on Priebus soaked up a lot of the attention last week, when the Senate was considering and failed to pass a measure to repeal and replace Obamacare.

The Wall Street financier-turned-White House communications director also bemoaned the publication of his personal finance document, even though they're publicly available. Additionally, Scaramucci's wife, Deidre Scaramucci, announced last week she'd file for divorce shortly after his appointment even though she's nine months pregnant, citing his "naked ambition."

Priebus, former chair of the Republican National Committee, reportedly objected to Scaramucci's appointment as White House communications director on the basis of his outsider status. Also opposing Scaramucci's appointment was former White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer, who resigned in the aftermath.

A self-proclaimed "gay rights activist," Scaramucci in November predicted Trump would support LGBT rights as president and said he gave money to LGBT groups.

"I'm also a gay rights activist," Scaramucci said. "You can look it up. I've given to American Unity PAC, I've given to the Human Rights Campaign, I'm for marriage equality. And by the way, this'll be the first American president in U.S. history that enters the White House with a pro-gay rights stance."

Some hoped Scaramucci would move the administration away from assaults on LGBT rights upon his appointment as communication director, but those hopes were quickly dashed. Days after Scaramucci came to the White House, the Trump administration unleashed a torrent of anti-LGBT attacks.

In one day, Trump announced he'd ban transgender people from the armed forces "in any capacity," his Justice Department voluntarily filed a legal brief asserting gay people have no legal protections under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and he appointed as ambassador at large for international religious freedom Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback, who's renowned for undermining LGBT rights in the name of "religious liberty."

It's not the first time Scaramucci was given a White House position that was later gone. At the start of the administration, Scaramucci was initially named head of the White House Office of Public Engagement, but the appointment was later rescinded.

## Gen. Dunford: 'No Modifications' to Trans Military Service for Now



Gen. Joseph Dunford has said there will be "no modifications" to transgender policy until further guidance. File photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Dominique A. Pineiro via Wikimedia

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

The top uniformed military adviser to President Trump has told his subordinates the U.S. military will have "no modifications" to its policy allowing transgender troops to serve until further guidance from the White House.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joseph Dunford made assurances the policy will be the same for time being — despite Trump's tweets announcing a ban transgender service — in a message to the military service chiefs, commanders and senior enlisted leaders obtained by the *Washington Blade* and other media outlets.

"I know there are questions about yesterday's announcement on the transgender policy by the President," Dunford writes. "There will be no modification to the current policy until the President's direction has been received by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary has issued implementation guidance."

Under the Obama administration, former Defense Secretary Ashton Carter lifted the medical regulation barring transgender people from serving openly in the armed forces, allowing them to come out without fear of discharge. They were also eligible to receive transition-related care, such as hormone therapy and gender reassignment surgery, through the military's health system.

Trump's tweets last week declaring transgender people won't be allowed to serve in the U.S. military "in any capacity" changed that, although the

exact nature of his policy isn't yet fleshed out.

"In the meantime, we will continue to treat all personnel with respect," Dunford writes. "As importantly, given the current fight and the challenges we face, we will all remain focused on accomplishing our assigned missions."

During the White House briefing July 27, White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders was unable to provide information on whether additional guidance from Trump would be forthcoming — or whether it would affect transgender people currently in service.

"As I said yesterday, the White House will work with the Department of Defense and all of the relevant parties to make sure that we fully implement this policy moving forward, and do so in a lawful manner," Sanders said.

Asked if Trump was aware he can't make policy changes on Twitter, Sanders replied, "I think he was making the announcement of the policy change."

Pressed further on whether that means his policy hasn't yet been formulated, Sanders said the White House and the Pentagon "will have to work out the details on how that all moves forward to lawfully implement that policy changes from this point."

Sanders also professed to have no information when asked how long it would take until the White House knows the details of the new policy.

"I don't have a specific timeline but I believe they're going to start moving on it quickly, but we'll keep you posted as

those details come out," Sanders said.

Pressed further on the timeline, Sanders said, "Again, I don't have a specific timeline on what that looks like, but I know they're ready to start moving and working on that implementation."

Meanwhile, public officials and transgender advocates continue to comment on Trump's decision to ban transgender people from the military.

Carter told CBS News Trump's ban on transgender service is "social policy" that would interfere with the mission of the U.S. military.

"Quality people in uniform are what make our military the finest fighting force the world has ever seen," Carter said. "I continue to maintain that what matters in choosing those who serve is that they are best qualified. To choose service members on other grounds than military qualifications is social policy and has no place in our military. There are already transgender individuals who are serving capably and honorably. This action would also send the wrong signal to a younger generation thinking about military service."

Trump's decision to bar transgender service in the armed forces comes after the U.S. House rejected an amendment proposed by Rep. Vicky Hartzler (R-Mo.) to bar transition-related care for transgender service members.

Media outlets reported Trump issued his ban on transgender military service in exchange for lawmakers who supported the measure to support funding for his U.S.-Mexico border wall.

During his weekly news conference, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) said he'll await the forthcoming guidance from the Pentagon before commenting on the transgender ban.

"The concern here in the House was whether or not the military will be forced to pay for these surgical procedures," Ryan said. "I share those concerns. The question on the broader issue — that is being reviewed by the DOD and the White House, and I look forward seeing what it is that they actually produce."

Pressed further on the issue, Ryan repeated, "DOD is reviewing this with the White House. I want to see what it is they actually produce."

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

# 45 Senators Call on Mattis to Resist Trump's Transgender Military Ban

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

A bipartisan group of 45 senators led by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) are calling on Defense Secretary James Mattis to resist President Trump in his plan to bar transgender people from the U.S. armed forces.

"We strongly oppose this policy change, and urge you to advise the president against it," the letter says. "This announcement contradicts existing Defense Department policies, undermines our military readiness and puts our transgender service members as well as their commanders in an impossible situation."

In the letter, dated July 28, the senators write "at a minimum" the Pentagon shouldn't separate any service members based on their gender identity until the transgender service review Mattis announced June 30 is complete; he's reported back to Congress challenges he foresees in retaining and recruiting transgender troops; and has determined the Pentagon is

unable to meet these challenges.

An estimated 15,000 service members in armed forces are transgender. They were able to serve openly as result of former Defense Secretary Ashton Carter lifting the ban on transgender military service last year. (A plan to allow openly transgender people to enlist starting July 1 was put on hold six months by Mattis, who announced he needed to further time review the issue.)

On July 26, Trump made a surprise announcement on Twitter transgender people won't be able serve in the armed forces "in any capacity," raising questions about the extent of his plan and whether openly transgender people already in the military will be able to keep their jobs.

Chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joseph Dunford wrote in a memo there would be "no modifications" to the policy allowing transgender people to serve until further White House guidance.

"Forcing these brave Americans out of our

military would be cruel and discriminatory," the letter says. "It would harm our readiness by denying the military of these service members' capabilities and requiring the military to replace them at a time when the recruiting pool for the services continues to shrink."

Among the signers of the letters are Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.), the only out lesbian in Congress, as well as Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.). The sole Republican to sign the letter is Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine).

The senators may find a sympathetic ear. During his confirmation hearing in January, Mattis indicated he didn't plan to reverse the changes in the U.S. military for gay and female service members.

"I believe that military service is a touchstone for patriots of whatever stripe," Mattis said. "It's simply the way that they demonstrate their commitment. And I believe that right now the policies that are in effect – unless a service chief brings something to me where

there's a problem that's been proven – then I'm not going in with the idea that I'm going to review these and right away start rolling something back."

Dana White, a Pentagon spokesperson, said in response to the letter the Defense Department remains in a holding position on transgender service.

"The Department of Defense is awaiting formal guidance from the White House as a follow-up to the Commander-in-Chief's announcement on military service by transgender personnel," White said. "We will provide detailed guidance to the Department in the near future for how this policy change will be implemented. The Department will continue to focus on our mission of defending our nation and on-going operations against our foes, while ensuring all service members are treated with respect."

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

## Texas Senate Advances Anti-Transgender Bathroom Bill

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

The Texas State approved legislation on July 25 that would bar transgender kids from using certain restrooms consistent with their gender identity, inching the state closer to enacting the law despite objections from transgender advocates, the business community and law enforcement.

By a 21-10 vote, the chamber approved Senate Bill 3, which would bar schools from allowing transgender students to use the restroom of their choice and undercut municipal non-discrimination protections for transgender people in restrooms, locker rooms and athletic activities.

The bill now heads to the House, where its fate is uncertain. Texas House Speaker Joe Strauss has objected to legislation that seeks to undermine transgender people's access to the restroom, but that might not be enough to stop passage of the bill.

State Sen. Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham), the sponsor of the bill in Senate, made the

case on the Senate floor would be a "solution for Texas" to ensure safety and privacy in the restrooms, according to the Texas Tribune.

Although the Texas legislature couldn't agree on anti-transgender bill during its general session, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott called lawmakers back into a special session this summer to ensure passage of legislation. Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick has made barring transgender from using restrooms consistent with their gender identity a personal legislative priority.

The Texas Senate approves the legislation despite objections from companies large and small that operate in Texas. In a letter dated July 17, 16 Dallas-area CEOs – including American Airlines, AT&T and BNSF Railway – urged Abbott to reject the bill because it "threatens our ability to attract and retain the best talent in Texas, as well as the greatest sporting and cultural attractions in the world."

Law enforcement officials have also voiced opposition. On Tuesday, police chiefs from large cities in Texas gathered at the Capitol

to reject the nation's transgender bathroom bill is necessary for privacy, according to the Texas Tribune.

On Friday, a Texas Senate committee approved the legislation by an 8-1 vote despite 10 hours of testimony in which opponents of the legislation outnumbered its supporters 13 to 1.

Transgender advocates blasted the Texas Senate for approving the measure, saying its passage would harm transgender children trying to learn in school.

Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, said in a statement the advancement of Senate Bill 3 is a "groundless attack on transgender children."

"When hundreds of Texans – including educators, law enforcement officers, women's rights activists, business leaders, and more – came to Austin last Friday to testify on SB 3, the overwhelming majority spoke out in opposition to discrimination, outnumbering the supporters of the bill 13 to 1," Keisling

said. "That should have sent a message to senators: Texans don't want their government to write discrimination into law. They don't want their legislators to be chasing phantom problems, especially not when the purported solution could send shockwaves through Texas' economy and harm transgender and non-transgender Texans alike."

Senate Bill 3 is similar to North Carolina's anti-LGBT House Bill 2, which resulted in an estimated loss of \$600 million for the state in economic boycott before lawmakers replaced the measure. LGBT rights supporters say the new law is still discriminatory.

JoDee Winterhof, senior vice president of policy and political affairs at the Human Rights Campaign, said in a statement Senate Bill 3 is a "blatantly discriminatory bill, demonstrating yet again that these lawmakers care more about pursuing cheap political points than protecting the lives of transgender Texans."

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

### DESCOVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.

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

### IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

##### DESCOVY may cause serious side effects:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** DESCOVY is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV and stop taking DESCOVY, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking DESCOVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

#### What are the other possible side effects of DESCOVY?

##### Serious side effects of DESCOVY may also include:

- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking DESCOVY.
- **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking DESCOVY if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain,

being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.

- **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: 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, or stomach-area pain.
- **Bone problems,** such as bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

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

#### What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking DESCOVY?

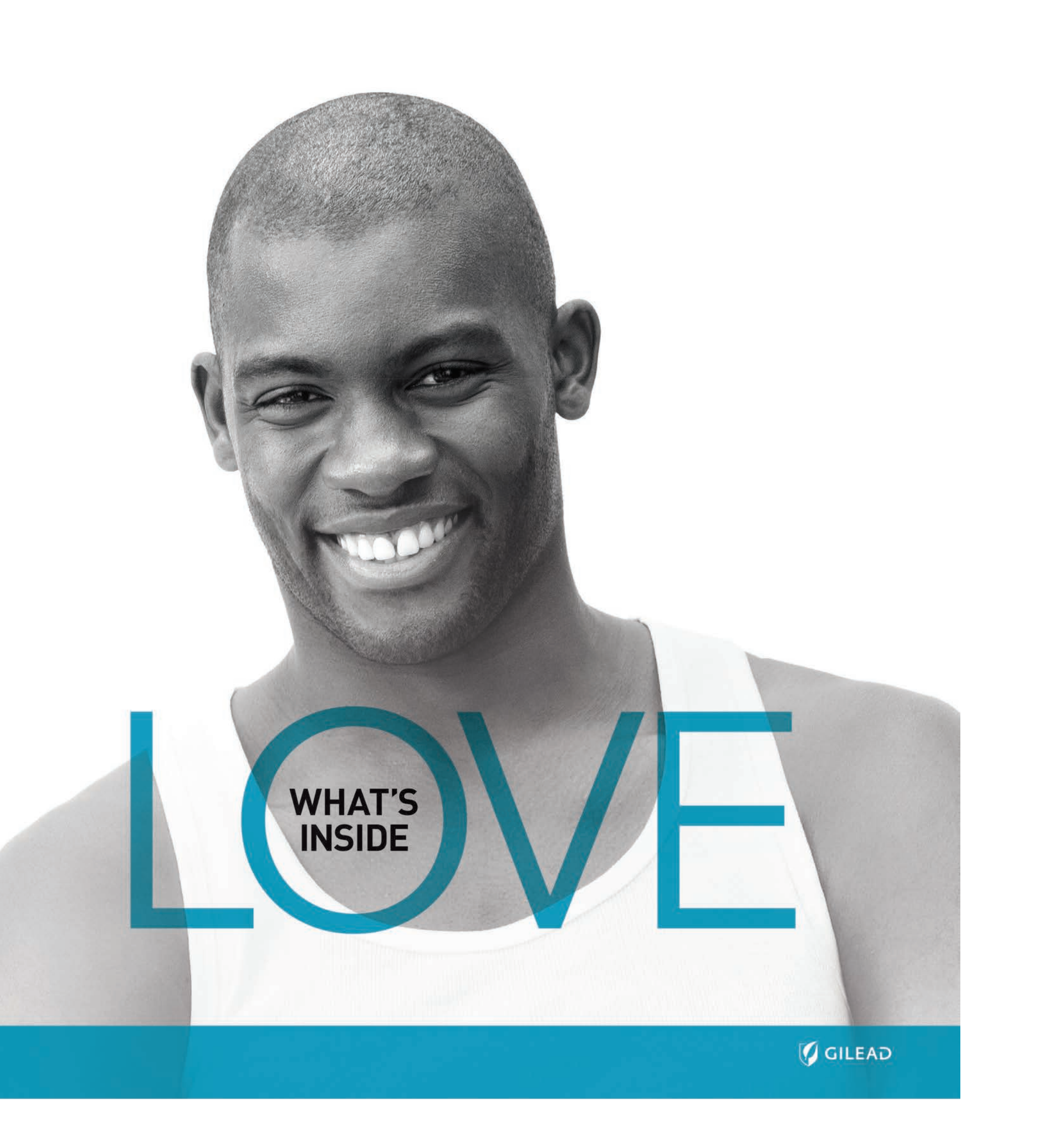
- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Other medicines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

**You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch), or call 1-800-FDA-1088.**

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

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





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## MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DESCOVY

**DESCOVY may cause serious side effects, including:**

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** DESCOVY is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking DESCOVY. Do not stop taking DESCOVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

## ABOUT DESCOVY

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

## BEFORE TAKING DESCOVY

**Tell your healthcare provider if you:**

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

**Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:**

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

## HOW TO TAKE DESCOVY

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

## IMPORTANT FACTS

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

## POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF DESCOVY

**DESCOVY can cause serious side effects, including:**

- Those in the “Most Important Information About DESCOVY” section.
- Changes in your immune system.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: 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, or stomach-area pain.
- Bone problems.

**The most common side effect of DESCOVY** is nausea.

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

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

## GET MORE INFORMATION

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



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# NGLCC Celebrates 15 Years of Supporting LGBT Businesses

BY MARK LEE, WASHINGTON BLADE

The historically unparalleled accelerated advancement in LGBT cultural acceptance and civil equality has been successful and strengthened in large part due to the engagement of the business community. No greater ally has served as a more effective advocate for fair treatment and evenhanded opportunity.

A disproportionate engagement in commerce by the LGBT community is a primary contributing hallmark of this accomplishment.

The National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce will be celebrating both that legacy and the organization's 15th anniversary this week in Las Vegas.

More than 1,000 entrepreneurs, corporate decision-makers, leaders from 52 affiliated local chambers nationwide - alongside federal, state, and city government officials from across the country and representatives from around the world - will gather Aug. 1-4 at the 2017 NGLCC International Business and Leadership Conference.

This benchmark is the result of a shared vision by co-founders Justin Nelson, NGLCC president, and Chance Mitchell, who serves as CEO.

An organization literally launched around a coffee table is now the voice for the nation's 1.4 million LGBT business owners and the \$1.7 trillion those enterprises add to the national economy each year. NGLCC enjoys the support and participation of more than 150 corporate partners as well as prominent executive leadership in striving to promote pro-business and LGBT-inclusive policies.

"Back in 2002 we realized that too few government leaders and corporate executives had considered the economic equality of LGBT people or the impact economics could have on the future of the equality movement," notes Nelson. "So with a few forward-thinking corporate partners and a small network of LGBT business owners willing to tell their story, NGLCC was born."

Co-founder Mitchell describes those early days, recalling that "word began to spread about NGLCC very quickly, thanks to outlets like the Washington Blade and Out magazine recognizing the previously underreported strength and promise of the LGBT business community. That proved what we, and our NGLCC corporate partners, always believed: economic and social visibility go hand-in-hand as we march toward equality and opportunity for all."

"We needed a way to showcase that LGBT people were a vital part of America as business owners and employers," Nelson emphasizes. "LGBT business owners were, and are, an essential part of the engine that makes the U.S. economy run and therefore deserve an equal place at the table."

LGBT businesses have always represented a uniquely large proportion of the community, contrasted with other demographics. An estimated 10 percent of lesbians and gays are among the ranks of corporate owners, small and moderate-sized business operators, and leadership in commerce.

"Business ownership thrives in the LGBT community because we have all learned to be the entrepreneurs of our own lives," explains Mitchell regarding this modern gay metier. "LGBT business owners prove that being out and being successful does not have to be mutually exclusive."

Mitchell hastens to add, looking to the future, "the American workforce will be younger, more diverse, and more inclusive than ever before in the years ahead, and with that comes the opportunity to innovate and collaborate across communities in ways that continue to shatter stereotypes and misconceptions.



NGLCC co-founder Justin Nelson is celebrating the organization's 15th anniversary. Washington Blade photo Michael Key

LGBT people exist in every community, and as industries modernize there will always be LGBT business owners at the forefront delivering the goods and services this country needs to stay competitive in a globalized economy."

NGLCC is continuously connecting with LGBT businesses throughout the country, and increasingly interacting with owners and operators in localities large and small. In order to better reach them, NGLCC has initiated regional "road shows" and digital interfaces to provide communities new service platforms.

In 2004, the organization introduced a best-in-class diversity certification program that, according to NGLCC senior vice-president Jonathan Lovitz, distinguished "the organization [as] the exclusive national third-party certifying body for LGBT-owned businesses. LGBT Business Enterprise (LGBTBE) Certification is now in use by more than one-third of Fortune 500 companies, as well as federal, state and local governments."

Mitchell added, "the positive responses received when we began certifying LGBT Business Enterprises showed us we were on the right track. In the little more than a decade since, we have certified nearly 1,000 companies. The spikes in certification and the influence of the LGBT business community and our business allies parallel the milestones in LGBT community advancement. That will only be further strengthened as more corporations intentionally stand with the LGBT community by including our businesses in their daily operations and supply chains."

More than 150 corporations now seek out LGBT suppliers and recent changes to the HRC Corporate Equality Index, fully implemented last year, now measure LGBT supplier contracting policies as a stand-alone scoring criteria. This motivates more than 500 large enterprises to interface with LGBT businesses in order to attain a positive ranking or preserve a perfect rating. In addition, several states now require or promote inclusion of LGBT businesses in contracting.

Four years ago, the organization launched NGLCC Global, connecting LGBT-owned and allied companies, multinational corporations and international affiliate chamber leaders and members on five continents.

NGLCC this year released a groundbreaking "America's LGBT Economy Report" - the first-ever exploration of the economic impact of LGBT-owned businesses on the U.S. economy.

Beyond its signature role as the business voice of the LGBT community, the largest advocacy organization dedicated to

expanding economic opportunities for LGBT people, and the exclusive certifying body for LGBT-owned businesses, NGLCC and its affiliate local chambers provide direct B2B networking opportunities. Resource sharing, skills training, corporate collaborations and business policy advocacy make membership a value-added premium proposition for local LGBT enterprise.

Nelson looks to the future first by looking back at the successes so far, pointing out that "NGLCC has spent the last 15 years helping more LGBT Americans gain access to the American Dream than ever had it before. And yet, we've barely scratched the surface of what we can do. As more corporations and government agencies intentionally include our certified LGBTBEs, more opportunities to create jobs and innovate industries will spring up in every state in the country. NGLCC-certified companies are continually proving one of our favorite mottos true: 'If you can buy it, a certified LGBT Business Enterprise can supply it.'"

"Every single day our community is building equity by opening new local businesses, and by expanding operations of larger LGBT-owned companies to countries around the world," Mitchell adds.

Nelson confidently predicts, "The next 15 years will be focused entirely on gaining more ground for our community to thrive economically - in America and around the globe."

*Additional information on NGLCC programs and activities, membership opportunities, and identification of local chamber affiliates nationwide is available online at [NGLCC.org](http://NGLCC.org).*

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# How Todrick Hall Found His Yellow Brick Road

## 'Kinky Boots' Star on Finding His Courage and Inspiring 'Little Todricks'

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Todrick Hall grew up in Plainview, Texas, with a dream to be “one of these black women who could sing all these crazy notes.” It is, after all, in his blood – his cousin is none other than “Dreamgirls” song slayer Jennifer Holliday.

But first, as a child, the aspiring soul singer found life in “The Little Mermaid,” replicating Ariel’s crimson hair with a red towel on his head and gadgets and gizmos a-plenty. Clasp a fork, he created a makeshift fishtail by binding his feet together with a water hose. Meanwhile, to channel another shero of his, Catwoman, he got his hands on some blue tape, nails and a jump rope, which doubled as his whip and tail.

“My backyard was my playground,” the 32-year-old singer says of his childhood, when he discovered another one of his female role models: Mariah Carey. His adoration for the biracial diva ran deep. “I think I just was more inspired to be *like* Mariah Carey,” he says.

In 1993, he made a revelation after seeing the “Dreamlover” music video: “I was like, ‘Oh my god.’ I had never seen anyone who appeared to be Caucasian sound like that. I was just fascinated.”

His propensity for female vocalists extended to Lauryn Hill’s singing in “Sister Act 2” and Brandy in the Whitney Houston-as-the-fairy-godmother version of “Cinderella,” along with ’90s R&B girl-group sensation SWV. And, because he felt destined to become all these ladies, “I would practice day in and day out.”

That practice led Hall beyond his own backyard, from ballet at age 9 to “The Color Purple” with “American Idol” alum Fantasia Barrino. Then, in 2009, he impressed the “American Idol” judges himself, nabbing a spot in the semi-finals. With vocal tributes to artists such as Rihanna, Taylor Swift and Beyoncé, his “4” series on YouTube gave his career a nice boost. (Soon, he says he’ll be honoring his childhood idol with a webisode dedicated to Mariah Carey: “I just have to be on vocal rest for, like, three weeks; her music is so hard!”)

After releasing an ambitious, 57-minute conceptual album in 2016 and replacing Billy Porter in “Kinky Boots” on Broadway that same year, Hall says, “I think my younger self would be really shocked (about my career now) because I didn’t have very high expectations for my life, and I’ve just gotten to do some really, really cool things I never thought I’d get to do.”

Photo: AwesomenessTV

The album, called "Straight Outta Oz," reflects thoughtfully and powerfully on Hall's coming-of-age as a gay black kid in Plainview, through his rise to fame while struggling to adjust to a new life in Los Angeles. "Color" ruminates on his first boyfriend, a handsome Londoner named Garrett, "the first to really know me." Visually, it replicates Dorothy's own life in a new world, as yellows, blues and greens pop into the video's stark, black-and-white frame.

Guest stars include "RuPaul's Drag Race" vets Kim Chi, Bob the Drag Queen and Willam Belli, as well as Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Nicole Scherzinger and, as Hall's mother, Amber Riley, who contributes the moving tearjerker "See Your Face," about a woman yearning for her distant son. "Got a picture framed of you on stage at your very first ballet, and I know that you won't answer," she wrenchingly sings, "but I'll call you twice a day, just in case today might be the day I get to see your face."

For Hall, "I think I was honestly very naive growing up and thought I was a Disney princess my whole life," he says, laughing. "I still kind of think I do feel that way! So, I didn't feel super different as a child, minus the moments where my dad made me feel really weird. My mom always applauded me for wanting to do ballet. But I didn't attach a sexual orientation to my life until much later."

Though he grew up feeling fearless, when he moved to L.A. to pursue showbiz, "I learned how to be insecure and I learned how to doubt myself." Ashamed of his race and sexuality, he admits, "I didn't really believe in myself."

"I wished I could change so I could be more successful commercially," he recalls. "I remember being on 'American Idol' and I couldn't be myself. I had to talk a certain way to (host) Ryan Seacrest. I was just so nervous that people would figure out my secret."

Even if "this is gonna sound really crazy," during a rough patch with his mom caused by his relationship with Garrett (they've since reconciled), he found comfort in Nicole Richie. He says the star and her reality show, "The Simple Life," were his pick-me-ups. "I just think she's so funny and so whippety," he says. "I literally had dreams about being friends with her. So, when I meet her one day, I'm gonna lose my mind."

Now, "not only am I not ashamed," he asserts, "I'm so proud to be an openly gay black man and so proud that me using my voice to tell my story can help people." His journey through self-discovery and into empowerment is mirrored in his work, where

being himself has been his greatest asset. He says he was offered the role of Lola, the lead in "Kinky Boots," "without even auditioning, because they felt my story was so similar to that of Lola's."

"It's opened up so many doors," he blithely adds.

Hall's galvanizing story is the kind that makes for movie magic, which is what filmmaker Katherine Fairfax Wright set out to create with the new documentary "Behind the Curtain: Todrick Hall," currently making its film fest rounds. The documentary goes deep into the entertainer's struggles to find his place in Hollywood as a gay black man. "There's not a lot of roles for gay African-American men," he says during the film. "I was like, 'I'm gonna create my own opportunities because they don't exist if I don't.'"

His moxie and unflappable ambition resulted in 16 videos – miraculously, all shot in two weeks – for "Straight Outta Oz," its creation covered in depth during Wright's "Behind the Curtain." Post "Straight Outta Oz," he began receiving calls from Broadway producers. Publishers offered him book deals. Even Taylor Swift, who came to see him in "Kinky Boots," is a fan – and friend – now.

During Thanksgiving last year, Hall celebrated with Swift and her crew, and – like a full-circle dream come true – the two even sat down at a piano to sing "Part of Your World" from "The Little Mermaid." "It was such an epic moment," he recalls, gushing about how she's the "ultimate great best friend."

"She gives me the best advice," he continues, "and when I watch her, it's much like watching RuPaul – RuPaul is not only where he is because he's a legend in his own right, he treats every single person who he works for and works with so well and that's why he has people who've been around him for years."

After guest-judging "RuPaul's Drag Race," Hall's relationship with the drag and cultural icon has given him new aspirations: He, like RuPaul, hopes to empower people who once felt as discouraged and hopeless as him.

"Every time I sit next to RuPaul on our panel, I'm like, 'I want to be this one day.' When you walk into a room and people say, 'Thank you for doing what you have done.'"

"I wanna be somebody who's a trailblazer for our community – so a little Todrick in Texas right now can look up to me and say, 'You know what? I can do it because Todrick did it.'"

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

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7:00PM / PRIDE FEST OFFICE

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**SATURDAY, AUGUST 12**

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**SUNDAY, AUGUST 13**

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**INFO**

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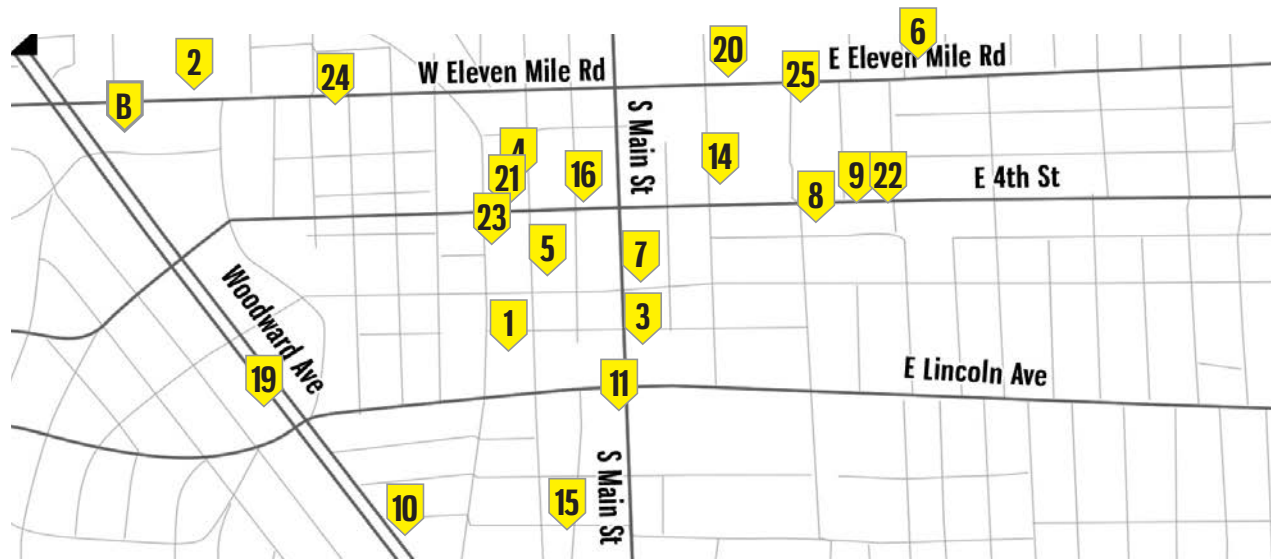
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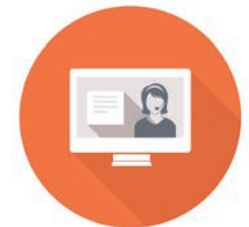
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## Royal Oak Mayor Says Farmers Market Will Stay Open

Residents in Royal Oak have expressed their concerns on Facebook about redevelopment plans in the city. A petition called “Save the Royal Oak Farmers Market” has been circulating after the city commission proposed a new city hall and police headquarters, which residents believe will threaten the ROFM’s existence “by eliminating significant surface parking through poorly planned city development projects and gifts to developers.”

In response to the petition, on July 27, Mayor Michael Fournier issued a statement on the ROFM’s Facebook page.

“At no point have city officials ever considered closing or jeopardizing the market. The city has invested thousands of dollars improving the market over the

past few years and values its role in our community,” he wrote.

“We can all agree, the Royal Oak Farmers Market is a jewel in our city. The proposed Royal Oak Civic Center development will enhance the market by adding parking, additional outdoor vendor space and creating more opportunities for both residents and visitors to enjoy what we think is the best suburban farmers market in the region. The implied suggestion that the city commission is forsaking the farmers market is unfounded and untrue. We encourage you to visit [romi.gov/civiccenter](http://romi.gov/civiccenter).”

Visit the ROFM’s Facebook page <http://gaybe.am/V5> to read more about what the residents in the city of Royal Oak have to say.

## Comedian Returns Home for Royal Oak Performance

J Chris Newberg is funny. Ask him. He will disagree, but in a way that is probably humorous. He has performed on “America’s Got Talent,” but lost to dancers that sparkle. He has also been on the “Tonight Show,” “Jimmy Kimmel Live” and Comedy Central. He has toured nationally in arenas with Dane Cook, internationally in stadiums with Russell Peters and written songs for “American Idol”. He is, in fact, the funniest person that you have never heard of. Yet. Cedric The Entertainer agrees saying, “He has got an odd sense of humor and he is unique in his point of view. His quirkiness and his own kind of demeanor are things that can go a long way in this business. Talented folks will see it, and the industry will see it.” Newberg also writes jokes, a lot of them. Some of your favorite comedians have used his jokes on “SNL,” “Late Night With David Letterman,” “Chelsea Lately” and “The Conan O’Brien Show.” Newberg recently finished being lead writer on “Idiotest” for GSN



and is currently writing at E! He doesn’t ask you to think. He’ll do that for you. Just watch and listen and then tweet your friends and pretend you wrote it. Newberg will perform Aug. 10-12 at Mark Ridley’s Comedy Castle, 310 South Troy St. in Royal Oak. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Daniel Weingarten will also appear with MC Melanie Hearn. Tickets are \$10 for the 18 and over show. For more information, visit <http://comedycastle.com>.





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# Happenings

## Support the Fight Against Human Trafficking

Detroit bred heartthrobs Brother Son will perform during the first ever Free Flow Festival and Waterfront Concert from 6-10 p.m. on Aug. 4 at the historic Belle Isle Boathouse to benefit Sanctum House - a safe home in Royal Oak for survivors of human trafficking to heal and rebuild their lives. Other performers include Gwen Foxx and Kory Barksdale. Food will be provided. Cash bar with beer and wine available. Tickets are \$20. All proceeds benefit Sanctum House. For more information, call 248-918-3547 or visit [www.sanctumhouse.org/belleislefundraiser](http://www.sanctumhouse.org/belleislefundraiser).

## OUTINGS

### Thursday, Aug. 3

**Trivia with Terry** 8 p.m. Aut Bar, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. [www.autbar.com](http://www.autbar.com)

**Karaoke Night** 10 p.m. 18+, free cover 21+ Lipgloss Productions, 1247 Center St., **Lansing**. [www.spiraldancebar.com](http://www.spiraldancebar.com)

### Friday, Aug. 4

**Turn Up Fridays** 9 p.m. \$5 for 18+ until 11 p.m., \$10 after. No cover for 21+ until 11 p.m., \$5 after. Music by Klees. Spiral, 1247 Center St., **Lansing**. [www.spiraldancebar.com](http://www.spiraldancebar.com)

### Saturday, Aug. 5

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

### Coming Out Over Coffee

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

**Neighborhoods Day** 11 a.m. Help beautify LGBT Detroit's #SafeBraveSpace. Free food and drinks provided. LGBT Detroit, 20025 Greenfield Road, **Detroit**. [www.lgbtdetroit.org](http://www.lgbtdetroit.org)

**Jackson Pride March and Parade** 12 p.m. Flag raising and rally immediately following the march in Horace Blackman Park on the corner of Jackson and Michigan streets. Jackson Pride Center, 801 S. Mechanic, **Jackson**. [www.facebook.com/Jackson-Pride-Center-342478499468836/](http://www.facebook.com/Jackson-Pride-Center-342478499468836/)

**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, 3990 John R. Road, **Detroit**. 877-926-8300.

### 1st Annual Miss Jackson Gay

**Pride Pageant** 2 p.m. Winner takes cash, crown and the title of the first ever reigning queen. Winner will also headline the Drag Queen Extravaganza following the pageant. Registration fee: \$50 Paris Wilson and Jackson Gay Pride, 212 W. Michigan Ave., **Jackson**. [www.facebook.com/Jackson-Pride-Center-342478499468836/](http://www.facebook.com/Jackson-Pride-Center-342478499468836/)

**Men's Discussion Group** 6 p.m. Field trip to Belle Isle, Aquarium, Conservatory Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**GLBT AA** 8 p.m. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. [www.jimtoycenter.org](http://www.jimtoycenter.org)

**Kiki Saturdays** 9 p.m. 18+, guest entertainers, 10 p.m. drag show Spiral, 1247 Center St., **Lansing**. [www.spiraldancebar.com](http://www.spiraldancebar.com)

**DJ & Dancing** 10 p.m. Aut Bar, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. [www.autbar.com](http://www.autbar.com)

### Sunday, Aug. 6

**OUTFest & Pride Picnic** A community celebration. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. [www.jimtoycenter.org/outfest](http://www.jimtoycenter.org/outfest)

### Love is Love is Love Interfaith Worship

**Service** 4 p.m. Hosted by Jackson Together, Jackson Pride Center, First Congregational Church UCC of Jackson, St. Johns United Church of Christ/United Center, Westminster Presbyterian Church of Jackson and Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty. Jackson Together and others, 212 W. Michigan Ave., **Jackson**. <http://gaybe.am/Yi>

### Monday, Aug. 7

**Brotherhood of Support** 6 p.m. For transmasculine identified people ages 16 and older. Group is affiliated with FtM Detroit. FtM A2 Ypsi, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. [www.jimtoycenter.org/](http://www.jimtoycenter.org/)

**Transition 2.0** 7 p.m. Facilitated by Hannah Hartley, this group is focused on the art of transition. Integrate safely and positively into society. Open to all. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

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

### Tuesday, Aug. 8

## Editor's Pick

### Detroit Dance City Festival

Share your love of dance in the city at 1:30 p.m. on Aug. 18-20 with performances by dancers, musicians and performance artists. Detroit Dance City Festival is a three-day international festival full of performance, networking, classes and more that will give participants, dancers and non-dancers alike a further connection to dance and the city of Detroit. The event takes place at the Detroit Institute of Arts - Summer Stage, 5200 Woodward Ave. in Detroit. For more information, call 313-833-7900 or visit [www.detroitdancecityfestival.com](http://www.detroitdancecityfestival.com).



**Talk Tuesday** 6 p.m. The topic of discussion will be Detroit. LGBT Detroit, 20025 Greenfield Road, **Detroit**. [www.lgbtdetroit.org](http://www.lgbtdetroit.org)

**Coming Out Together** 7 p.m. A confidential discussion group covering all aspects of coming out and the effects it may have on your life. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

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

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

support-discussion-groups

### Wednesday, Aug. 9

**Senior Koffee Klatch** 1 p.m. A discussion and networking group for people 45 years of age and older. Various discussion topics, social outings and potlucks are incorporated throughout the year. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups](http://www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups)

**3rd Annual LGBT Community Chat** 6 p.m. LGBT Liaison Officer Dani Woods will host this event where members of law enforcement will engage with the community, allies, and local organizations to help improve public trust and establish positive relationships. Detroit Police Department, 19013 Woodward Ave. and Merrill Plaisance, **Detroit**.

**Breaking the Cycle** 6 p.m. Help with quitting tobacco class for LGBTQ people. Deadline to register is Aug. 8. Email or call Heather Aymer. LGBT Detroit, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [haymer@goaffirmations.org](mailto:haymer@goaffirmations.org) [www.lgbtdetroit.org](http://www.lgbtdetroit.org)

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

### Thursday, Aug. 10

**All Day Fundraiser for Affirmations** 11 a.m. A percentage of the day's net sales will be donated to the center, including dine-in and carry-out orders. Affirmations, 240 W. Nine Mile Rd., **Ferndale**. [ktaylor@goaffirmations.org](mailto:ktaylor@goaffirmations.org) [www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/)

# Editor's Pick

## 5th Annual Sidewalk Festival of the Arts

This year's two-day Sidewalk Festival of the Arts explores the power of a moment and the lasting impact of people's choices – both as individuals and collectively as a society. For the first time, over 50 curated artists were invited to create original work around the theme, "Radical Moment(um)." Each year artists are challenged to create work in alleys, storefronts, sidewalks, parking lots and the roofless warehouses of Artist Village. The festival is from 7-10 p.m. on Aug. 4 and 3-10 p.m. on Aug. 5 at 17336 Lahser Road in Detroit. For more information, visit [www.sidewalkdetroit.com](http://www.sidewalkdetroit.com).



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

**Support group for parents and transgender youth** 7 p.m. Youth meet in the "youth lounge." Parents meet in room 100. Second and fourth Thursday of each month. Stand with Trans, 30450 Farmington Road, **Farmington Hills**. 248-739-9254. [roz@standwithtrans.org](mailto:roz@standwithtrans.org) [www.standwithtrans.org](http://www.standwithtrans.org)

**Red Umbrella Support Group** 7:30 p.m. For individuals involved in the erotic labor industry. Sex Workers Outreach

Project Michigan, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

## MUSIC & MORE

### Concerts

**Queer Women's Community and OutFront Kalamazoo** "Music Night" \$5 cover. Louie's Trophy House Grill, 629 Walbridge St., Kalamazoo. 7 p.m. Aug. 11. [www.outfrontkzoo.org](http://www.outfrontkzoo.org)

### Film & Video

**Aut Bar** "Campy Movie Night" . Aut Bar, 315 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. June 28 - Aug. 30. 734-994-3677. [www.autbar.com](http://www.autbar.com)

**Jim Toy Community Center** "Movie Night: Hairspray" Domino's pizza, popcorn, pop and water provided. Suggested

donation: \$5. All proceeds benefit JTCC. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 9 p.m. Aug. 4. 734-995-9867. [www.a2outfest.com](http://www.a2outfest.com)

### Other

**Aut Bar** "Women's Music on the Patio" Featuring Marsha Gayle and Debbie Vogel. Aut Bar, 315 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. June 28 - Aug. 30. 734-994-3677. [www.autbar.com](http://www.autbar.com)

**Aut Bar** "Live Jazz with the Jesse Kramer Trio on the patio" . Aut Bar, 315 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. June 27 - Aug. 29. 734-994-3677. [www.autbar.com](http://www.autbar.com)

### Theater

**Dirty Prancing** Tickets: \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through Aug. 7. 248545545. [www.theringwald.com](http://www.theringwald.com)

**The Seagull** Tickets: \$12 . Slipstream Theatre Initiative, Slipstream Theatre, 460 Hilton Road, Ferndale. Through Aug. 13. 3139869156. [www.slipstreamTI.com](http://www.slipstreamTI.com)

## ART 'N' AROUND

**Affirmations** "Remix Reframe: the Work of Aimee Michele Coldren" Opening reception Aug. 3 at 7 p.m. Pittman-Puckett Gallery, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Aug. 3 - Sep. 30. [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**Casa de Rosado** "Intersections: a Todd Heywood photo exhibit" reporter Todd Heywood shares images of extremist and hate groups taken in Michigan in the past 15 years. Casa de Rosado, 204 E. Mt. Hope, Lansing. July 16 - Aug. 6. [www.facebook.com/Casa-de-Rosado-805030536302750/](http://www.facebook.com/Casa-de-Rosado-805030536302750/)

**DIA** "Art of Rebellion: Black Art of the Civil Rights Movement" Explore powerful artworks by African American artists who formed collectives during the Civil Rights Movement of the '60s and '70s. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. July 23 - Oct. 22. 313-833-7900. [www.dia.org](http://www.dia.org)

**Integrity Shows** "Belle Isle Art Fair" Detroit juried fine art fair brings in 100 visual artists who sell a wide array of handmade and creative items plus 10 arts and cultural organizations from Detroit. New this year is the Heritage Artists Tent and a Theater Arts tent. Food trucks, fresh lemonade and Detroit-made Italian ice will be available. For the first time, a bar offering local beer and wine will be available to benefit the Detroit Repertory Theatre. Belle Isle Park, 6925 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit. Aug. 6 - Aug. 6. 313-821-9844. [www.belleisleartfair.com/](http://www.belleisleartfair.com/)

**Lawrence Street Gallery** "30th Anniversary Celebration 1987-2017" Opening Reception: Aug. 4, 6-9 p.m. Mid-month Party: Aug. 13, 2-5 p.m. Gallery is offering 30 percent off

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coupons for any sale over \$100 to be used in August. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale. Aug. 2 - Aug. 25. 248-544-0394. [www.lawrencestreetgallery.com](http://www.lawrencestreetgallery.com)

**MOCAD** "99 Cents or Less" A major group exhibition of 99 artists based in the U.S. that addresses Detroit's ongoing economic crisis and its 2013 bankruptcy. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 23 - Aug. 6. 313-832-

6622. [www.mocadetroit.org](http://www.mocadetroit.org)

**Scarab Club** "May Contain Fruit" The scientific basis for humanity's fascination with fruit is explored. The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. July 20 - Aug. 19. 313-831-1250. [www.scarabclub.org](http://www.scarabclub.org)

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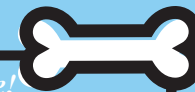


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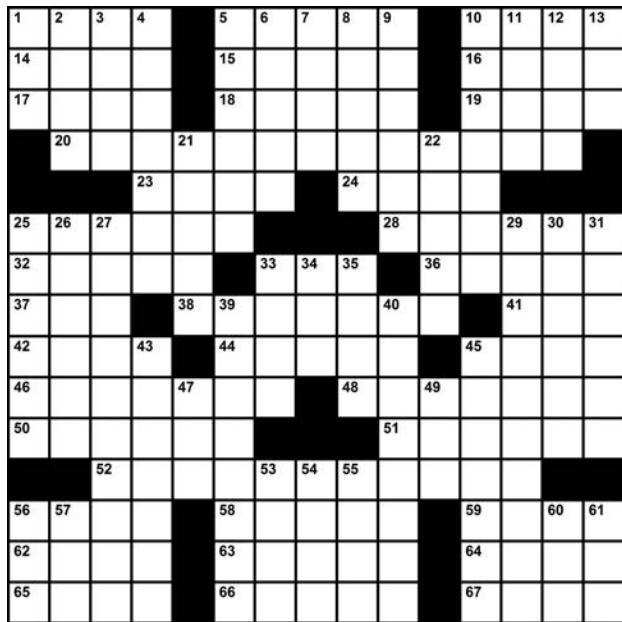


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# Q Puzzle



- 33 With 38-Across, movie about a gay activist who became an anti-gay minister  
 36 Norse race  
 37 Unknown degree  
 38 See 33-Across  
 41 "Get thee \_\_\_ nunnery"  
 42 Renege, slangily, with "out"  
 44 Takano and Baldwin hold them  
 45 Sea eagles  
 46 Amelia recently in the news  
 48 Initial phase  
 50 Greek city of tough guys  
 51 Pulled on a stallion's strap  
 52 Portrayer of 38-Across  
 56 Favorite holiday ending  
 58 Rest atop  
 59 Stone of "Easy A"  
 62 Masseur's target  
 63 It dangles on a private  
 64 Songwriter Holly  
 65 Give some lip  
 66 Rendezvous request  
 67 Greek love

- Tucker  
 11 Cut  
 12 Hole entered by a Minuteman  
 13 Allen-wrench shape  
 21 Place for women who live together  
 22 Rupert Everett's "An \_\_\_ Husband"  
 25 Chops finely  
 26 Lure into wrongdoing  
 27 Big Indians  
 29 One who looks at Uranus  
 30 "I Say a Little Prayer" singer  
 Warwick  
 31 Used rubbers  
 33 Thespian rapper  
 34 "So, it's YOU!"  
 35 Sweaty guys get pinned to them  
 39 A guy named Sharon and others  
 40 Queer online?  
 43 "Lesbians Ignite" and such  
 45 Androgynous  
 47 It swallows plastic and spits cash  
 49 Fabric suffix  
 53 "West \_\_\_ Story"  
 54 Lavish party  
 55 Knock around  
 56 "Jumpin' Jack Flash," to Mick Jagger  
 57 Zenith rival  
 60 Noted Warhol subject  
 61 Pirate interjections

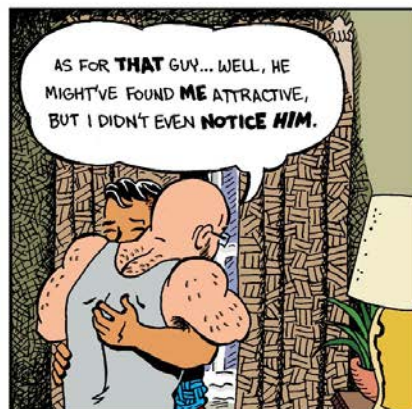
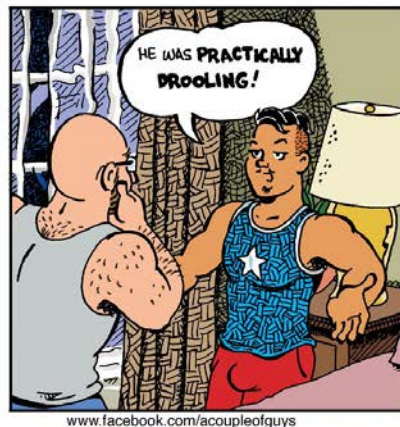
## Down

- 1 James Dean's "East of Eden" role  
 2 The whole shebang  
 3 Scroll at Beth Chayim Chadashim  
 4 "O" of Sappho  
 5 Smooth  
 6 Enjoys phone sex  
 7 Firm member (abbr.)  
 8 Baghdad resident  
 9 Equatorially ample  
 10 Clown accessory for Cam

# Hell of a Choice

## Across

- 1 Opponent of Caesar  
 5 Position in Bernstein's orchestra  
 10 Deep pink  
 14 "Exotica" director Egoyan  
 15 Like bell-bottom jeans  
 16 Jannings of old films  
 17 Petty of "Orange Is the New Black"  
 18 Patronize, as a Star Canyon restaurant  
 19 Cucumber wasted on a hamburger?  
 20 Portrayer of Bennett, the one-time companion of 38-Across  
 23 Butts  
 24 Prefix with European  
 25 Hit from "Cats"  
 28 S&M namesake  
 32 Cockamamie



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## ARTS.BLACK to Host Book Fair, Fundraiser

ARTS.BLACK is a journal of art criticism from black perspectives predicated on the belief that art criticism should be an accessible dialogue – a tool through which we question, celebrate, and talk back to the global world of contemporary art. ARTS.BLACK was founded in 2014 by editors Taylor Renee of Detroit and Jessica Lynne of Brooklyn to support, uplift and cultivate a new generation of black art critics.

ARTS.BLACK will offer a thematic collection of new, used and rare books on art and labor during a book fair from 1-5 p.m. on Aug. 26 at Good Lab, 14720 E. Jefferson Ave. in Detroit.

The book fair in the Jefferson Chalmers neighborhood will serve as a fundraiser for the publication to gather matching funds for their Knight Grant and will feature catalogs, contemporary zines, history books pertaining to art and labor.

“Labor and ingenuity is at the crux of most artistic and creative practices here in Detroit,” said Renee. “Using literature and other writings as a tool, I see this fair as an opportunity to talk about exchange, and fellowship around themes that are central to Detroit art practices.”

The funds raised will help support the publications upcoming writing series, which will include essays, interviews and reviews on art making in the city, informed by its history, politics, race and class. The series will

include contributions from Renee and Lynne, as well as other black writers in the city.

The Knight grant and matching support will allow for the publication to pay its writers, cover publication costs and continue operations.

“In the spirit of our personal and collaborative practice, we are thrilled to use this event as a site of knowledge exchange and friendship, support



and dialogue,” said Lynne. Prior to the event, ARTS.BLACK will be collecting book donations to sell at the book fair.

If you are interested in donating books on art and or labor to ARTS.BLACK, please send an email to [team@arts.black](mailto:team@arts.black).

ARTS.BLACK is the 2016 recipient of the John S. and James L. Knight Arts Challenge Award and is a sponsored project of Allied Media Projects. For more information, visit <https://www.alliedmedia.org/arts-black>.

## Help Students Affected by Homelessness Get an Education

### Ozone House Seeks Volunteers to Pack Backpacks in Late August

The Ozone House in Ann Arbor needs to pack 750 backpacks to start the school year. There are opportunities for the community to help during the last two weeks in August. By way of The Education Project, students experiencing homelessness or unstable living situations can enroll, regularly attend and succeed in school. Under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, students who experience homelessness must have equal access to free and appropriate public education. The Ozone House will provide resources for youth to stay in school.

The Education Project relies on a combination of grant support from the state and donations from members of the community. Many of the items provided to families, like toiletries and school supplies, are supplied through donations. This allows The Education Project the ability to fund other school related expenses like field trips, sports/activities, tutoring services and temporary transportation for students.

Volunteers are needed to help with the followings tasks:

#### Inventory Management

Count, sort and organize school supplies, toiletries, clothing, etc. to be distributed to students and families. Assemble school supply and toiletry kits as needed.

#### Distribution of Supplies

Deliver backpacks and other supplies to schools, shelters, etc. to be given to students. (Completion of Volunteer Orientation/ Training, Background Check and Fingerprinting required.)

#### Shoppers

Volunteers are needed to shop (sometimes with families) at Meijer, Wal-Mart, Target, etc. (using donated gift cards) for these items. (Completion of Volunteer Orientation/Training, Background Check and Fingerprinting required.)

#### Organize a Drive

Organize a drive for school supplies, socks and underwear, toiletries or gift cards at your local religious organization, place of work, neighborhood, schools, etc. Contact us for specific needs.

#### Join the Extended Family Network

The Education Project's Extended Family is a group of volunteers who give the Ozone House permission to contact them approximately 1-2 times per month when families have requests that the Ozone House may not have funding for or for supplies the organization does not have.

#### Make a donation

We are always in need of gift cards (Meijer, Target, Big Lots, etc.), school supplies, toiletries (shampoo, soap, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, toothpaste, lotion, etc.) and cash to be used to fund special needs of students that may arise during the year.

For those who are interested in volunteering, joining the Ozone House network, organizing a drive, or making a donation, contact the organization at [volunteer.educationproject@gmail.com](mailto:volunteer.educationproject@gmail.com) or sign up to volunteer online at [www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f49afac2aaaf85-theeducation](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f49afac2aaaf85-theeducation).



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# Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

## 'L Word' revival in development

Showtime knows what you want. And because you're like us, you want – you have always wanted – more “L Word.” It was trashy, it was silly, it was like very few actual lesbians you know in real life, and it was glorious. Jennifer Beals knows this. So does Leisha Hailey and Kate Moennig. The three of them are working as producers on a revival of the series, currently in development at Showtime. Should it all go well and come to series – that's what “in development” means, btw; it could all disintegrate over the course of a lunch gone wrong – the premise for now is that Bette, Alice and Shane would still be living in Los Angeles, surrounded by a pack of fresh lesbians. Or maybe more of the original cast will come back, too. Who knows. It's all so very up in the air that it's almost jinxing to talk about it. But Beals recently spoke to Entertainment Weekly about the project and she took the words out of our mouth: “We are needed.” Yes, they are. Start praying to the goddess, y'all.



Jennifer Beals

news special titled, “The Homosexuals” – has been in need of a good solid biopic for some time. Now Netflix is shooting one now called “Gore.” Little is known about the production besides its director, Michael Hoffman (“The Last Station”), and its star, Kevin Spacey. But that star name is enough for now, because it raises some issues, not the least of which is the

ongoing dance of denial Spacey has going with the press regarding his own sexuality. On the subject he's tight-lipped, he's playfully sarcastic, he's antagonistic, he's merely silent. He says what he wants, unless he doesn't want to talk about it at all. And now, like Queen Latifah in “Bessie,” he's playing a historical queer public figure while refusing to speak up about the absolutely normal. In the end, though, it's the performance that counts in art, and Spacey will be great as Vidal because he'll bring the author's prickly, agitated intelligence to the part. Just don't blame us for wanting a little more than that.

## Tony Kushner is writing a play about Donald Trump

In Tony Kushner's acclaimed '90s play “Angels In America,” there's a scene in which the closeted politician Roy Cohn reacts to his AIDS diagnosis with an infamous monologue. In it, he declares that “Homosexuals are men who know nobody and who nobody knows.” Well, it turns out Roy Cohn and a younger Donald Trump were quite close in the 1980s, call the former a shark-like mentor to the latter, teaching him all the worst possible lessons of public life. And now it also just so happens that Kushner, the man who immortalized Cohn's true legacy, is writing a play about the current sitting President of the United States. It has no title, and there are no details to share, but it's happening, which means that we may yet see a definitive piece of art related to this person, one that is more substantive than a late-night talk show host's impersonation or blistering response on Twitter, from a playwright who knows very well how to contextualize history at its most mind-boggling. And why is he doing it? Call it a writer's challenge. “The Daily Beast,” quoting Kushner: “[Trump]'s the kind of person, as a writer, I tend to avoid as I think he is borderline psychotic. I definitely think that incoherence lends itself well to drama, but he really is very boring. It's terrifying because he has all the power, but without the mental faculties he ought to have. I think he is seriously mentally ill, and the fact that he is in the White House is very frightening.” We'll wait, patiently.

Romeo San Vicente has a very long memory.

## Barry Jenkins is going his own way

The temptation for a filmmaker feeling the first flush of success – let's call that filmmaker Barry Jenkins, whose magnificent “Moonlight” won the Academy Award for Best Picture – is to take the next big paycheck. And in Hollywood, in 2017, the big paycheck often means joining the Marvel Cinematic Universe and, let's keep it real here, stifling your own creative vision and fitting yourself into the one-handed you by a corporate entity. But Barry Jenkins has other ideas. His next move will be to adapt the 1974 James Baldwin novel, “If Beale Street Could Talk.” Set in Harlem, the story revolves around a young engaged couple, with the man falsely accused of rape. Baldwin, who was black, gay, and could never once be accused of going along to get along (see the incredible documentary about his life, “I Am Not Your Negro,” to learn more), would probably be very pleased to see his work adapted by the serious-minded Jenkins. And while we'd also be thrilled to see what he'd do with a superhero story, this feels just right.

## Kevin Spacey is (and is not) Gore Vidal

Author and public intellectual Gore Vidal died in 2012, and his legacy – in the late 1960s, before Stonewall, he calmly and defiantly declared that his homosexuality was absolutely normal on a not-exactly-progressively-minded Mike Wallace

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