

# Jackson LGBTQ Leader Loses Home, Pets to Arson



Chanting in  
Charlottesville:  
'Fuck You, Faggots'

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Trans Military Ban  
Halted By War  
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# AMERICA RESISTS FASCISM

Phil Elam Gathers with Hundreds in Ferndale



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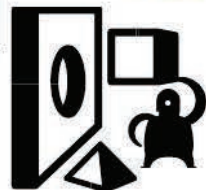
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Cover on photo: Phil Elam of Ferndale  
The Oakland County Times

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**PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP**  
20222 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48152  
Phone 734.293.7200

**PUBLISHERS**  
Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

**MEMBER OF**  
Michigan Press Association  
National Gay Media Association  
National Gay & Lesbian Chamber  
Q Syndicate



**EDITORIAL**  
**Editor in Chief**  
Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 12  
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

**Entertainment Editor**  
Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200 x 24  
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

**Senior News Editor**  
Kate Opalewski, 734.293.7200 x 10  
kate@pridesource.com

**News & Feature Writers**  
Emell Derra Adolphus, Todd A. Heywood,  
Jiquanda Johnson, Eve Kucharski, Ellen  
Knoppow, Jason Michael, David Ryals

**CREATIVE**  
**Webmaster & MIS Director**  
Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

**Columnists**  
Charles Alexander, Michelle E. Brown,  
Mikey Rox, Dan Woog, D'Anne Witkowski  
Gwendolyn Ann Smith

**Cartoonists**  
Paul Berg, Dave Brousseau

**Contributing Photographers**  
Andrew Potter  
Alexander Godin

**ADVERTISING & SALES**  
**Director of Sales**  
Jan Stevenson, 734.293.7200 x 22  
jan@pridesource.com

**Sales Representatives**  
Ann Cox, 734.293.7200 x 13  
anncox@pridesource.com

Donelle Kremke, 734.293.7200 x 16  
donelle@pridesource.com

**National Advertising Representative**  
Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

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# Hundreds Gather in Ferndale to Stand up for Love, Share Ideas

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE,  
OAKLAND COUNTY TIMES

Over 500 people packed the First United Methodist Church of Ferndale and the lawn in front overlooking Woodward Ave. Sunday evening to share a message of love and justice following violence in Charlottesville, Virginia connected to a rally by white supremacists over the re-naming of Lee Park to Emancipation Park.

Heather Heyer, 32, of Charlottesville lost her life when she and other counter-protestors were run down by a man who drove into the crowd. Nineteen others were injured in the crash, and countless others were injured in fights with those who were protesting the removal of Confederate icons through the South.

Rallies in support of equality have been held across the county, including Detroit, Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo. Inside the Ferndale church, the microphone was passed to people sitting in the pews.

"I want to honor those people who put their lives on the line and stood up against the Nazis and the [Klu Klux] Klan," said one man. "My father lied about his age in 1944 so he could go and fight the Nazis. We're still fighting, Dad."

Among the messages of solidarity were thoughts of how to do more than just hold signs and opine on social media.

"We need to look at how our actions are racist," said one attendee. "Not just stand up and say a Nazi in the south is wrong, but what can we do to be less racist?" He encouraged those in the room to be advocates for funding education in places like Detroit.

Several teachers in the room called for better educational resources, both in minority communities but also in the way predominantly Caucasian populations are taught. "I'd love to see teachers and principals get together and teach more beyond a Euro-centric culture," said Ferndale resident Jodi Berger. "White supremacy starts with being taught that white culture is the standard."

Angie Smith, a trustee with Farmington Schools, spoke about how cuts in funding mean that classes that deal with cultures and religions from around the world are no longer available to give students an appreciation for diversity. "I was elected for 2017, so I came after the cuts," she said. "I don't agree with them."

Another educator said "I hear people say why do we keep talking about slavery? Why do we keep talking about the Holocaust?" she said. "So we don't forget. So we can prevent this kind of thing from happening."



Ferndale was one of over 600 cities across the country that gathered in support of the city of Charlottesville, VA Sunday. Photos: Crystal Proxmire

Robert Cooper of the Association for Youth Improvement invited folks to get involved with the Bridging 8 Mile program which seeks to connect the city and the suburbs. "There's an opportunity to bring closure, to bring healing," he said.

Another person suggested that the suburbs stop sending their garbage to the city to be burned, and instead build an incinerator in the area to "deal with it in our neighborhood instead of pushing it on the Detroit neighborhood."

Discussion took place about how to have the hard conversations about race.

"Listen when people tell us they are being hurt or marginalized," said one attendee.

"People of color do not need us to speak for them," said another. "But we can create safe spaces and we can listen."

Another woman suggested that people practice what they will say if someone says racist things to them or in their presence. "I have heard horrible things, and I've been surprised at myself that I did not say anything," she said. "But if you practice what you're going to say it makes it easier."

The crowd also heard from local clergy, and



among the crowd were people demonstrating affinity for faiths including Christians, Buddhists, Muslims, and Jews. They all joined together to sing "Lift Every Voice and Sing" before gathering in front of the church to demonstrate on Woodward Avenue where they were met by constant string of supportive horn-honks.

A banner signed by many at the event will be on rotating display at several places of worship in the coming weeks. The banner says "Love is Bigger."

Ferndale Mayor Dave Coulter urged those in the crowd to carry on and do more. "Make sure tonight is a ripple in the pond that spreads from Ferndale, to Michigan, to the world."

For a complete photo album, go to...

<http://www.pridesource.com>

# Chanting in Charlottesville: 'Fuck You, Faggots'

BY LISA KEEN, KEEN NEWS SERVICE

One of the loudest chants by white supremacists rallying in Charlottesville, Virginia, Saturday was "Fuck you, Faggots." The driver of the car that plowed into counter-protesters appears to have associated himself with a right-wing group that believes LGBT people are "sexual deviants." And a national leader for white supremacists at the rally is a man who two years ago barred anti-gay participants from his group events.

The Charlottesville rally by white supremacists gained widespread international attention Saturday when street fights broke out in the streets between the rally participants and a large group of counter-protesters, and one of rally participants drove his car at high speed into a crowd of counter-protesters, killing one and injuring 19. Attention escalated dramatically after President Trump expressed his condemnation of the violence, but rather than take a stand against white supremacists, Trump blamed the bigotry on "many sides" and seemed to echo a claim by supremacists that they were just defending their "history" by rallying around a Confederate war general's statue.

The purported purpose of the "Unite the Right" rally, organized by a local alt-right blogger, Jason Kessler, was to demonstrate opposition to the city council's decision to rename a local park, named after Confederate General Robert E. Lee, and call it "Emancipation Park." But the rally was also part of a resurgence of white supremacists in the southern states that has been growing for at least the past two years, and it drew participants—most of whom appeared to be young, white, males—from many other states.

A Friday night march by "Unite the Right" protesters included hundreds of people, mostly appearing to be white young adult males, carrying identical torches and marching to the campus of the University of Virginia. ]

By Saturday, an equally large counter-protest had gathered, and local police erected a temporary fence and police line to separate the two crowds. But for reasons not yet clear, the police left the scene at some point and the two groups began to clash verbally and then physically, with fistfights, spraying of paint and chemicals at each other, shoving, and hitting each other with sticks. Then suddenly, a car that was sitting two blocks away began to speed toward the counter-protest group at the end of a street and rammed into the crowd. The driver of the car then executed a speedy reverse back down the street, where he was eventually stopped and arrested.

One counter-protester, 32-year-old paralegal Heather Heyer, a resident of Charlottesville, was killed and 19 others were injured, said Charlottesville Police Chief Al Thomas at a press conference Saturday evening. More than a dozen people were also injured during the melee between the two groups.

Kessler disavowed the actions of the driver of the car, saying, "he did the wrong thing." But a national

See Chanting, page 12

## LGBT Groups Condemn White Nationalist Rally

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS, WASHINGTON BLADE

LGBT rights groups are among those who have condemned a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Va., on Saturday that descended into violence.

"Everyday we partner with people and organizations across the state to make Virginia a more inclusive place where all can thrive," Equality Virginia Executive Director James Parrish told the Washington Blade in a statement. "Through sharing our stories, listening to intersectional voices, and working for fairness we strive for a more equal commonwealth. Intimidating communities with taunts and violence has no place here. Anyone who doesn't strongly condemn the Unite for the Right rally is complicit in supporting this dangerous and racist agenda."

Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin on Twitter wrote "hate and bigotry on display in Charlottesville must be challenged wherever it rears its ugly head."

Danica Roem, a transgender woman who is running against Virginia state Del. Bob Marshall (R-Prince William County), issued a short statement in which she said, "get that neo-Nazi white supremacy BS out of our commonwealth."

The Associated Press reported one person died and 19 others were injured on Saturday when a car plowed into a group of counter-protesters in downtown Charlottesville. Two Virginia State Police officers died a few hours later when their helicopter crashed outside the city.

White nationalists and counter-protesters clashed throughout the day in the city in which the University of Virginia is located. Reports indicate some of the white nationalists shouted anti-gay slurs as they marched through Charlottesville.

"We condemn in the strongest possible terms this egregious display of hatred, bigotry and violence on many sides," President Trump told reporters during a press conference at his golf course in Bedminster, N.J. "It's been going on for a long time in this country."

Trump also called for a "swift restoration of law and order and the protection of innocent lives" in Charlottesville. Griffin on Twitter said Trump has "emboldened this ugly hate and bigotry."

"The violence we are witnessing is horrifying, but is merely the latest manifestation of the growing racist, anti-immigration, anti-Semitic, sexist



White nationalists march in Charlottesville, Va., on Aug. 12, 2017. Photo courtesy of Charles Butler

and anti-LGBTQ hate in our midst," said Stacey Long Simmons, director of the National LGBTQ Task Force's Advocacy and Action Department, in a statement. "The continuing escalation of hate and white nationalist sentiment we are experiencing during the Trump administration has come to this -- targeted violence in the streets of Virginia led by the Klu Klux Klan and neo-Nazi organizations."

Vice President Pence, U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.), Virginia Congresswoman Barbara Comstock and former Republican National Committee Chair Ed Gillespie are among those who have publicly condemned the white nationalists.

"Our country encourages freedom of speech, but let's communicate w/o hate in our hearts," said first lady Melania Trump in a tweet. "No good comes from violence."

Log Cabin Republicans President Gregory T. Angelo in a statement to the Blade applauded Trump's response to the violence.

"Log Cabin Republicans stands with and echoes our president and his forceful statement today: All Americans must unite in condemnation of hate, regardless of our background, regardless of our political affiliation," said Angelo.

Hundreds of white nationalists on Friday who marched through the University of Virginia campus with torches clashed with counter-protesters. Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe on Saturday declared a state of emergency in Charlottesville.

"Sad note to leave the East Coast today after such a great week with all

this racism in my hometown area," wrote Troy Elmore, a gay man who grew up in Stuarts Draft, which is roughly 25 miles west of Charlottesville, on his Facebook page on Saturday. "And of course this idiot of a president is silent. He is a worthless piece of garbage. This Nazi-style protest should have been condemned immediately."

Hunter T. Carter, a New York-based lawyer who works to advance marriage rights for same-sex couples in Latin America, is a University of Virginia alum. He told the Blade on Saturday that he is "proud of my university and disgusted by what's happening in Charlottesville."

"I'm in Canada at the moment and this is hard to explain," said Carter.

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

See 28 Hate  
Groups  
Operating in  
Michigan

Page 13

# Jackson LGBTQ Leader Loses Home, Pets to Arson

## Recent Pro-LGBTQ Advances in City Met with Threats of Violence

### How to Help

Friends of Joly said he and Moore are being taken care of, but they do not have insurance. They were on a land contract and their contents are not covered, nor is the money they've put into the house. Baker said community members have been showing up to place rainbow flags on their front porch.

"The outpouring of community support has been absolutely phenomenal," said Baker pointing to a couple online fundraising efforts on the You Caring site [www.youcaring.com](http://www.youcaring.com) under the name Nikki Joly. Around \$5,500 has been raised so far. The goal of \$50,000 would afford the couple a new home in their neighborhood.

The community held a fundraiser for Joly and Moore on Tuesday at the Jackson Pride Center. Beyond that, Saint John's UCC in Jackson is also collecting cash donations, which can be made at [www.unitedcenterforcaring.com](http://www.unitedcenterforcaring.com).

Still "devastated that someone could do something like that with my babies in there," Joly wrote in a Facebook post on Aug. 12, "Please do not threaten violence. Yes, be angry, be very angry. Use that anger to force good! Use this anger to make change. Don't let this anger turn to hate. I'm trying very hard to remind myself every day. If we react in hate, ultimately they win. Love will win! I love you all."

*Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Holly Rose at 517-768-8724, or report information anonymously to Crime Stoppers of Mid-Michigan at 855-840-7867.*



BY KATE OPALEWSKI

A four-alarm house fire that burned down the home of Jackson resident Nikki Joly – director of the Jackson Pride Center – and his partner Chris Moore on Aug. 10 is confirmed to be an arson by the city's director of police and fire service Elmer Hitt.

As of Aug. 14, details regarding the type of accelerant used, whether or not the police have any leads and information regarding threats of violence toward the LGBTQ community are all "under investigation," according to Hitt. He said there is "still a lot of work left to do" and encourages the community to contact the department with any information.

FBI Public Relations Officer Timothy Wiley said the Ann Arbor Resident Agency of the Detroit Field Office of the FBI is providing assistance to the Jackson Police Department in an attempt to determine if the arson was a hate crime.

The incident on Pringle Avenue suggests that discrimination against the LGBTQ community persists.

Hitt told MLive.com that an accelerant was used in the fire, near the front door, which took more than three hours to put out. A firefighter on the ground thought it was "suspicious" how quickly the fire accelerated from the first floor,

up through the second floor and out the roof.

Onlookers confirmed there were bags of evidence being collected and that a Michigan State Police accelerant detection dog was onsite following reports of the "smell of kerosene."

A close friend, Karyl Baker, confirmed Joly was home mowing the backyard lawn when Moore called and asked him to bring her lunch. Not long after he left the house, the fire erupted.

Joly, an American Red Cross Worker, heard about the fire on an emergency scanner while at work. Baker said members of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church nearby, among others in the community, contacted them as well.

Their dogs, two German Shepherds, and three cats, died in the fire. Baker said the dogs' bodies were taken to the local animal shelter by the fire chief so they were safe until Joly and Moore were able to get to them. The cats were unrecoverable.

Jackson Detective Holly Rose is interviewing neighbors, bystanders, firefighters - two of which were taken to Henry Ford Allegiance Health to be treated for injuries - and the couple themselves.

"Most of their neighbors absolutely loved them and adored them," said Baker. "If this is arson, we don't think this is the end of it by any means."

Summit Fire, Blackman-Leoni Township

Public Safety, Henrietta Township Fire and Jackson Community Ambulance were on the scene, all of which Baker said "were absolutely fantastic."

### Threats of Violence in Jackson

No arrests have been made at this time, and while police say there is no clear motive and ask the community "not to jump to conclusions" as the investigation is still underway, it's hard not to when city officials speak to this as a hate crime on background.

A recent email obtained from the city confirms threats of violence toward the LGBTQ community one week before the pride celebration held on Aug. 5, from Jackson Area Landlord President Robert Tulloch.

Tulloch wrote in the email to members of Jackson's city council: "I saw something on a site about marching to Blackman Park and raising a flag? I hope they are not planning to raise a gay flag. That is an in your face declaration of war and will be met with a violent response. This IS the queer agenda."

Sources confirm efforts to advance equality policies and the increasing visibility of the LGBTQ community in Jackson have been met with threats of violence from the beginning – when the pride center was opened in February,

when the non-discrimination ordinance was passed in April, and when the city hosted its inaugural pride celebration early this month.

Joly and Moore have been at the forefront of that fight for equality in the city of Jackson. City officials confirm their presence at several council meetings when anti-LGBTQ members of the community said they shouldn't have rights. They have publicly been "damed to hell" and called "sodomites."

Leadership from Mayor Bill Jors is noticeably lacking in the community. Jors has not yet responded to inquiries from BTL about the incident. At the last city council forum on July 26, when Jors was asked by an audience member "what is the biggest mistake council has ever made," Jors unequivocally said the non-discrimination ordinance. This kind of sentiment expressed publicly can attract the wrong response.

While there is no conclusive evidence yet regarding this incident, it raises suspicion and speculation by many members of the community.

City officials who are responding, are treating this with as much attention and caution as they can.

"While we are extremely glad that Nikki and Chris are unharmed, Equality Michigan is gravely concerned about the devastating fire at their home, which is being investigated as a possible arson. As director of the Jackson Pride Center, Nikki has been an unapologetic voice for LGBTQ equality in Jackson and across Michigan. Without him, the Jackson NDO would never have passed. We have offered any and all assistance that EQMI can provide to Nikki and Chris," said Nathan Triplett, EQMI's director of public policy and political action.

"It's essential that this incident is being fully investigated and, if it is determined to have

been arson, that the perpetrators be identified and apprehended. The high-profile role that Nikki and Chris have played in pro-equality efforts in Jackson in recent months and the proximity of this suspicious fire to Jackson's first-ever pride festival raise serious concerns about the possibility that this may have been a hate crime. Equality Michigan has been in touch with officials in Jackson and law enforcement and will continue to monitor the investigation closely as it proceeds. No Michigander should fear for their safety or well-being based on who they are or who they love."

## Stabenow, Snyder Response

Asked for comment, Gov. Rick Snyder's deputy press secretary Tanya Baker said Snyder cannot comment on a specific law enforcement investigation that is still ongoing, but points to a statement he issued on Aug. 14 in response to Charlottesville, Virginia that is now inclusive of Jackson.

His statement reads: "History has shown time and again that hate begets hate and violence begets violence. On the other hand, unity and cooperation have shown how much we can accomplish when we respect our neighbors, embrace our differences and focus our energy on how we can all move forward and prosper together. Hate speech and violence are not welcome in Michigan - it's not representative of who Michiganders truly are or of the future we want to build for our children."

Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) said, "This is very disturbing news. Nikki and Chris were victims of a terrible and hateful act. Those responsible should be brought to justice immediately."



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# Leaders Urge the LGBTQ Community and Allies to Speak Up

## Detroit Police Asks ‘What Is Your Role?’ During Third Annual LGBTQ Community Chat

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

During the third annual LGBTQ Community Chat hosted by the Detroit Police Department in Palmer Park on Aug. 9, a moment of silence was held for community members and loved ones lost since last year’s gathering.

“They have names,” said Jaimie Powell Horowitz, Special Prosecutor with the Fair Michigan Justice Project.

Amber Monroe. Gregory Daniels. Norman Williams. Harrison Thornton (aka Cortez).

“These people, their lives had value. Close your eyes and imagine if it was you who was stabbed or shot and left out on the street in this community to die alone,” said Powell Horowitz, pointing to just a few of the many victims of LGBTQ hate crimes.

“Open your eyes. Who’s going to speak for you? Who’s going to speak for these homicide victims? People know what happened. It’s very clear that everybody knew what happened to these individuals. You’ve got to speak up. I know I’m asking for a lot. It’s hard to come forward,” she said. “If you’re worried, come talk to me. I can talk to you about all the resources that we have to help you and keep you safe. Don’t be afraid to come forward. One voice may be able to be silenced, but everybody’s voice can’t be silenced. A village can’t be silenced. Speak up for your community.”

That message was delivered again and again by people who play a key role in the movement for the betterment of the community. They stressed lives will continue to be lost if the community does not come together under their leadership.

“We must always bear in mind that working together helps us to help each other,” said Corporal Dani Woods, the DPD’s LGBTQ Liaison, about continuing to build a mutual trust, understanding and respect between the department and the LGBTQ community.

Woods titled the event “What Is Your Role?,” and invited a panel of guests - including the department’s LGBTQ Advisory Board - to explain their role in the community and how they can help.

“Taking up a role in the community does not necessarily mean being in the trenches or at the forefront. It sometimes means speaking up when you witness something, be it anonymous or not,” said Woods, noting that continuous



Detroit Police Department’s Corporal Dani Woods invited a panel of guests to the third annual LGBTQ Community Chat, “What Is Your Role?,” on Aug. 9 to explain their role in the community and how they can help. BTL Photo: Kate Opalewski

talk without action is not a solution. “Let’s reflect on our contribution and our role in creating the change we want to see.”

Woods spoke to the department’s commitment to that change focused on communication and training, which Alex Isaac, a citizen of Detroit, asked to hear more about. Woods said the state-certified curriculum composed of LGBTQ competency, sensitivity and awareness has been taught to more than 300 recruits and 600 law enforcement officers including two transgender women that Woods confirmed have been hired by the department.

The department’s Deputy Chief Todd A. Bettison informed attendees that they will be more proactive, will not sit on what they’ve accomplished and will ensure that safe spaces continue to exist for members of the LGBTQ community in Detroit.

“When I say we’ve got your back, we do. It’s plain and simple,” he said. When a couple of members of the community drew attention to their negative experiences with the department previously, Bettison said, “The DPD can’t overturn what they’ve done

in the past, but we’re moving forward and looking for solutions and working on giving the community solutions they can take back to their neighborhoods. We’re under federal consent decrees for a reason. The bad practices in the past are not going on now. We’re a whole new department under different leadership.”

In addition to training, tangible changes include redeploying officers from inside the department onto to the street, which Bettison said he realizes isn’t enough and encourages citizens to step up and join the force. Also, Project Green Light, a partnership with local businesses since January 2016 to install real-time camera connections with police headquarters. This effort has helped the department reduce crime by 50 percent in locations Bettison said they consider to be “hot spots.”

Several representatives from supporting organizations were on the panel including Julisa Abad, Director of Trans Outreach & Advocacy with the Fair Michigan Justice Project; Lilianna Angel Reyes, Program

Services Director with Affirmations LGBTQ community center in Ferndale; Jeynce Poindexter, Transgender Specialist & Victim Advocate with Equality Michigan; Ka’Juan Hill, Mr. “Let’s Talk About It” and Community Outreach Specialist with UNIFIED - HIV Health & Beyond; Lolita Davis, Outreach & Education Coordinator in the EEOC (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission) Detroit Field Office; and Kalimah Johnson, Founder and CEO of the SASHA (Sexual Assault Services for Holistic Healing and Awareness) Center in Detroit.

Hill said he would have liked to see more of his community in attendance, but attributes their absence to fear.

“I ask the police department to please be patient as we continue to work with people who are afraid of and continue to feel threatened by law enforcement,” he said, asking the department to keep in mind that, “These are people who have dealt with abandonment issues and they have been turned away so many times and they’ve dealt with police on so many levels to the point where



they are scared and don't want to deal with the police."

Hill expressed a sentiment that is shared by others in the community.

Reyes asked people who are at the forefront of the movement to understand that it can be "really scary" for transgender women of color, like herself, to be seen at the table or identified as the face of something.

"So please remember the transgender people who are here are outward and advocating for you, but please respect them because we also have to have lives outside of here so that we can really do what we're supposed to do," she said.

In her role, Reyes is working with Abad and Poindexter, among others, to uplift the voices of transgender women of color in the community, but also to connect transgender and gender non-conforming individuals with access to housing, employment, hormones, medical and dental care from inclusive providers, clothing vouchers, Bridge cards, bus passes, name changes, gender marker and ID changes, food, access to education, mental health services, and HIV prevention and treatment.

Beyond that, Powell Horowitz reassured the community that the FMJP is aggressively fighting for the protection of all LGBTQ

people in the courtroom.

With a 100 percent conviction rate, she said the organization is prosecuting "horrific" murder, extortion, rape and physical abuse cases.

But there is still work to do. Powell Horowitz explained that there is no such thing as a hate crime law on the books for LGBTQ citizens in the state.

"It simply doesn't exist. The legislature in Michigan wants to pretend this isn't happening," she said, urging the community to call their state senators to support Senate Bill 121 www.introduced by Sen. Steve Bieda (D-Warren) to add gender identity and sexual orientation to the state ethnic intimidation law.

"We need this law to effectively do our jobs," she said. "It's sitting in committee. You know who can move it out? Meekhof [Sen. Arlan Meekhof (R-West Olive)]. Call and raise hell. This needs to get passed so we can prosecute hate crimes as hate crimes. Speaking up is the most important thing the community can do right now."

*Follow Corporal Dani Woods on Facebook to learn more about her efforts to develop positive relationships between the Detroit Police Department and the LGBTQ community.*



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## O Those 'Revocable Waivers'!



### Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

On several sporty occasions I've dined at Angelina's Italian Bistro in Downtown Detroit with BTL co-publishers Jan Stevenson and Susan Horowitz, loyal Tiger baseball fans.

From our window-side table, the Comerica Park fireworks are spectacular; as are many of the attendees parading by in cutoffs for my out fielder benefit. Straight owner and BTL advertiser Tom Agosta has been a supporter of Detroit's LGBT community for many years.

Grrrrr! The Tigers aren't doing their best this year. Justin Verlander has a case of revocable waivers. As far as Justin's concerned, I'd revoke my waivers any time — or, position on the playing field — for him.

(I was in the downtown vicinity when the team won the '68 World Series. The celebration was wild; pitcher Denny McClain a hero, whose future seemed bright, promising, a natural for the Baseball Hall of Fame. Unfortunately, he, too, had some later revocable waivers of another kind.)

On our last visit I redeemed a gift card at the bar, recalling that Angelina's was once the Madison movie house. Where I stood was its lobby, and there in my late teens I got a special "blessing" by the Right Reverend James Francis Jones. Prophet Jones (1908 - 1971).

When I approached Prophet Jones he was alone. I hadn't a clue what he was doing unescorted, but I recognized him from TV and newspaper pictures. "Aren't you Prophet Jones?" I asked. He was cordial, gracious, conservatively dressed. Soft spoken in voice, cultured in diction.

As a lark I asked for a blessing. He gave me a who-is-this-presumptive-white-person look, and said, "Thirty years fallow, twenty years a harvest of your good." He also invited me to call his secretary and make an appointment to visit his fabulous 54-room Arden Park mansion. I never did.

Jones's flamboyant lifestyle as a Detroit preacher was praised and damned in Time, Newsweek, The Saturday Evening Post, Ebony, The Pittsburgh Courier, and Detroit mainstream and African-American newspapers.

Although he received birthday greetings from Michigan Governor G. Mennen Williams and had been an invited guest at Dwight D. Eisenhower's 1952 presidential inauguration, many African-American civil and religious leaders called him a showbiz phoney.

Jones wore one gold earring (God whispered into his right ear), ruled from an ornate \$5300 throne, and wore a full-length mink coat -- price tag \$13,500 -- a gift from Chicago schoolteacher sisters whose mother he had healed before coming to Detroit in 1938.

He held court at the Universal Triumph, the Dominion of God, Inc., with his flock of lords, ladies, princesses and princes (and presumably many queens) at the Oriole Theater, a renovated movie house.

Doors were locked to keep drowsy royalty and commoners from sneaking away during the three-hours-long midnight telecast services. He preached that Mother Mary was black, that she was turned away from the inn because of racial discrimination, and that Jesus was not crucified but lynched.

Jones's followers couldn't join social clubs, drink coffee or alcohol, or bear children out of wedlock. They could, however, be patriotic. (They purchased over \$12,000 in Victory Bonds during the war effort.) The Prophet was suspected of dealing in numbers big time and an undercover cop was assigned to find out just how.

The novice vice cop, John Henry, 24, uncovered little evidence of numbers involvement by Jones, other than giving out three-digit Bible verses for donations of \$5, \$10, and \$20. Unfortunately, Jones blessed

See next page



## Publisher Viewpoint

### A Dog Whistle is a Dog Whistle Is a Dog Whistle



BY SUSAN HOROWITZ

We started penning this week's op-ed last Thursday when the sad and horrific arson attack on a Jackson LGBT couple took their home and five dear pets. Since then the spectacle of hate has gripped the nation with the events in Charlottesville, Virginia tearing at our hearts and minds.

National television captured the gathering of thousands of people promoting Nazi, KKK and white supremacist ideology and also showed the citizens of Charlottesville standing up to these un-American ideas. The violence was hard to watch, and then on Saturday afternoon the cameras captured the domestic terror attack by Nazi sympathizer James Alex Fields, Jr., 20, who deliberately drove his car into peaceful protestors, resulting in the murder of Heather Heyer, 32, and the injury of 19 others.

It took President Trump two days and two awkward statements to condemn the racist agitators — first attempting to offer a moral equivalency between those gathered to promote hate and those standing in opposition. It was repulsive. It was on purpose and it was one more wink and nod by Trump to part of his base that they should feel emboldened to air

these white supremacist sentiments. Every American who has fought back in war and peace against these un-American ideas was on our minds as Trump's surrogates defended this weak and cowardly man. Any fleeting hope that this man would become the president for all Americans was over.

It was really not any surprise. We knew Trump would never get it right. It is not who he is. He reaffirmed who he truly is in the first press conference Saturday. He was exactly who candidate Trump offered us all through the campaign last year. He is an unabashed pussy-grabbing, bigot at heart. He demonstrated this clearly and firmly for over 16 months of campaigning, regularly affirming his racist and bigoted world view and inciting violence at his rallies. And as President he has surrounded himself with the views of alt-right activists Steve Bannon, Steve Miller and Sebastian Gorika at his side. As a country we need to open up and admit, learn and humbly ask why we allowed this. It will be a long, national reflection.

Trump's lack of presidential leadership at this moment continues to inflict harm. From the beginning we knew his policies were terrible choices for moving the country forward. And while the resistance has had some success stopping some of the most heinous efforts through ardent grassroots lobbying and the court

## ► Viewpoint

Continued from p. 10

Trump shouted, "I could shoot somebody in the middle of Fifth Avenue and they would still vote for me!" And in essence he was right. No amount of insults and injury to immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people and women would be enough to stop the road to hell we find ourselves on today. Hate and loathing are powerful emotions and they are tearing at our country's foundations.

system – we are just at the beginning.

In the LGBTQ community in 2015 – as we celebrated marriage equality – some people thought our work was done. They questioned the need for different programs, services, community centers and other important institutions. We were "post-gay" – we had moved on up. Today no one should question the need for safe spaces and the need to step up our support of these precious resources.

During the 2016 campaign season we witnessed how easily hate tears at the hearts and minds of our citizens and how a right-leaning, populist presidential candidate could stir the lowest parts of the soul into action, setting back our fight for equality. This hubris and righteousness is infectious. Unfortunately the invitation to go low was accepted by millions of our citizens. The herd was ready to inflict pain and suffering – ironically even on themselves.

Trump shouted, "I could shoot somebody in the middle of Fifth Avenue and they would still vote for me!" And in essence he was right. No amount of insults and injury to immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people and women would be enough to stop the road to hell we find ourselves on today. Hate and loathing are powerful emotions and they are tearing at our country's foundations.

We still wake up in a state of disbelief, shake

our heads and commit to another day of resisting.

Locally, Nikki Joly, director of the Jackson Pride Center and his partner, Chris Moore, are in the crosshairs of this hatred right now. They have paid an unthinkable price – their five beloved pets are dead – burned to death in a fire that brought down their home. They now face the task of rebuilding their life – left only with just the clothes on their back, and even those were taken as police and firefighters look for evidence of arson.

They are not the only target. A hate crime is always much larger than an attack on just an individual. It aims to strike fear and intimidate whole groups of people. Today it is the Michigan LGBTQ community, tomorrow it could be an attack on a mosque or ugly graffiti. It is to not hate right back, yet we need to try.

We need to find ways to go high as we hope to make positive changes in the world. Right now we need to support Nikki and Chris with money, clothes and fierce love.

And we need to demand that the Jackson City Council and Mayor Bill Jors speak out against this heinous act. Jackson cannot allow this to define who it is.

*Online fundraising efforts are on the You Caring site [www.youcaring.com](http://www.youcaring.com) under the name Nikki Joly. Saint John's UCC in Jackson is also collecting cash donations, which can be made at*

(but not so simple). As Jones left the courtroom in dark glasses his followers chanted, "All IS well, prophet!" But they were wrong.

No matter who you bailout with, you can't walk on water without sinking. Especially in high heels. Oh, ah-men! The Prophet's last church venue is now the current Fine Arts building housing the Detroit ACLU office. (All is not well! Prophet Trump now holds court.)

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

County Commission in 2010. But that bid was unsuccessful and Covey wanted to sit behind the mayor's desk once more."

Here is the correction:

"Covey ran for Oakland County Commission in 2010 and won the primary in a three-way race, then went on to win in the general election. He served one term but was then gerrymandered out of his seat along with four other Democrats. He ran and lost in the 2012 primary. He then ran for sheriff in 2016 and lost, but garnered 259,000 votes."

# Creep of the Week

## Donald J. Trump

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI



As I write this, the name of the woman killed while protesting white supremacist Nazi alt-humans has just been released. Heather Heyer, 32 years old, was murdered at a Nazi rally by a Nazi terrorist slamming his car into a crowd. In America. In 2017.

If you find yourself totally dumbstruck by this or saying, "This is not the America I know!" I'm going to go ahead and guess that you're white and of some kind of Christian ancestry. Not that there's anything wrong with being white or even Christian for that matter. It's just that white Christians in America – especially the heterosexual male ones – have it real good.

So good that they can ignore racism and anti-Semitism and write off white supremacist Nazis as a fringe element that should just be ignored. This is not as easy to do if you're Jewish, say, or African American. Then the evil shit coming out of the mouths of Nazis is aimed directly at you. You don't have the privilege of ignoring it.

While the white right is always crying about being discriminated against in America, that's total bullshit. America has a long, deeply rooted racist history which has never ended for people of color. Obama's election signaled "the end of racism" only for whom racism was essentially already over. Don't get me wrong. Obama winning the presidency (twice!) was a historic victory and I don't begrudge anyone their pride in that. But the fact that so many white people were completely unprepared for a Trump presidency is pretty telling.

This is part of why there are so many white people who said they believed that racism increased under Barack Obama (and why many of them even blame him for it). Racism didn't get worse. It just got more visible. White

Trump may not have driven the car that killed Heather Heyer and injured so many others – while he may not have held a lit tiki torch while screaming, "White lives matter," make no mistake that Trump is the Grand Wizard of this horrific nationwide parade.

people, for whom the day-to-day racism had been largely invisible, suddenly started seeing it everywhere in a backlash against our first black president.

Well, if racism dared show its ugly face in public with Obama as President, under Trump racism is basically streaking naked through the streets with impunity, rubbing its genitals on anything and everything. A white guy who a couple of years ago might have limited his racist thoughts to memes posted in certain dark corners of Reddit now feels totally fine raising a blazing pitchfork at a public rally in front of news cameras.

Trump's election has given racists the permission and recognition they've been longing for. Trump ran a racist campaign. Racist people then voted for him (was everyone who voted for Trump racist? I can't answer that. I can say that in order to vote for Trump you had to be at least not bothered by racism, which is kind of a hard thing to be neutral about). Trump then brought racists into the White House and Department of Justice (Steve Bannon, Stephen Miller, Jeff Sessions, just to name a few high profile white supremacist faces). So it's really not a surprise that racists read this as a green light to go full Breitbart in public.

So while Trump may not have driven the car that killed Heather Heyer and injured so many others – while he may not have held a lit tiki torch while screaming, "White lives matter," make no mistake that Trump is the Grand Wizard of this horrific nationwide parade.

## ► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 10

Henry's exposed ripcord when they were alone during a private healing service, or so the paratrooper-turned-vice-cop alleged.

"Prophet Jones Jailed on Morals Charge" blared the February 21, 1956 banner Free Press headline, with other papers gleefully tooting in. Thanks to a smart lawyer, the jury found Prophet Jones not guilty. It was a case of entrapment, pure

## CORRECTION

An error of fact was reported in the story, "Ferndale Mayor to Run Unopposed Again," on Aug. 10 regarding Craig Covey's career. BTL reported the following:

"Covey had crafted his career contrary to Coulter's. He was elected to the Ferndale City Council on his second try and ran for mayor in 2007. In 2009, he won re-election before stepping down to run for the Oakland

## Trump Sued Over Plans to Ban Transgender Military Service

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

President Trump's recently announced plan to bar transgender people from the armed forces isn't yet policy, but LGBT legal groups have already initiated a lawsuit seeking to enjoin enforcement of the ban.

The 15-page complaint was filed Aug. 9 in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia by National Center for Lesbian Rights and GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders on behalf of five anonymous transgender service members identified as "Jane Doe."

Although the Pentagon has said there would be "no modifications" to transgender service until further guidance from the White House, the lawsuit – known as *Doe v. Trump* – maintains Trump's announcement "upset the reasonable expectations of plaintiffs and thousands of other transgender service members and the men and women with whom they serve and fight."

"Execution of the president's directive will result in an end to service by openly transgender service members and has already resulted in immediate, concrete injury to plaintiffs by unsettling and destabilizing plaintiffs' reasonable expectation of continued service," the lawsuit says.

This undermining of transgender service members' expectation of continued military service amounts to a violation of the right to equal protection and due process under the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, the lawsuit alleges.

Also violated by the intent to ban transgender people from the U.S. armed forces, the complaint says, is the legal doctrine of estoppel -- a legal doctrine against making assertions contradictory to a previously held position. Trump's transgender military ban violates estoppel, the lawsuit says, because the Obama administration assured transgender people the ability to serve last year by lifting the medical regulation barring their service.

The complaint seeks a declaration Trump's proposed ban on transgender military service is unconstitutional and an injunction barring it from going into effect.

See the entire story online  
>> [www.PrideSource.com](http://www.PrideSource.com)

### ► Chanting

Continued from p. 5

white supremacist leader, Alexandria, Va., resident Richard Spencer, told reporters in Charlottesville that "Unite the Right" rallies would return to the University of Virginia town.

"We are going to make Charlottesville the center of the universe, said Spencer, according to USA Today. "We are going to come back here often."

Spencer, an increasingly prominent national voice for alt-right efforts, reportedly barred anti-gay participants from an event by his group, the National Policy Institute, in Washington, D.C., two years ago. According to a profile of Spencer in *The Atlantic* magazine in June, Spencer, University of Virginia alum, denied "widely whispered rumors" among his UVA classmates that he was gay.

Another national leader in the white supremacist movement, David Duke, a former national KKK leader, was in front of cameras during the weekend's "Unite the Right" rally. He told reporters he and the rally participants represent a "turning point for the people of this country."

"We are determined to take our country back. We're going to fulfill the promises of Donald Trump. That's what we believed in. That's why we voted for Donald Trump, because he said he's going to take our country back. And that's what we've got to do."

## Trump generates more heat

President Trump, late Saturday afternoon, took the occasion of a press conference regarding a veterans' bill he was signing, to read from a statement about events in Charlottesville. According to a White House transcript, he said:

"We condemn in the strongest possible terms this egregious display of hatred, bigotry and violence, on many sides. On many sides. It's been going on for a long time in our country. Not Donald Trump, not Barack Obama. This has been going on for a long, long time.

"It has no place in America. What is vital now is a swift restoration of law and order and the protection of innocent lives. No citizen should ever fear for their safety and security in our society, and no child should ever be afraid to go outside and play, or be with their parents, and have a good time.

"I just got off the phone with the Governor of Virginia, Terry McAuliffe, and we agreed that the hate and the division must stop, and must stop right now. We have to come together as Americans with love for our nation and true affection – really – and I say this so strongly – true affection for each other.

"Our country is doing very well in so many ways," continued Trump, who then listed



ways he believes the country is doing well. He then thanked various state and federal law enforcement officers then said, "Above all else, we must remember this truth: No matter our color, creed, religion or political party, we are all Americans first. We love our country. We love our God. We love our flag. We're proud of our country. We're proud of who we are. So we want to get the situation straightened out in Charlottesville, and we want to study it. And we want to see what we're doing wrong as a country, where things like this can happen.

"My administration is restoring the sacred bonds of loyalty between this nation and its citizens, but our citizens must also restore the bonds of trust and loyalty between one another. We must love each other, respect each other, and cherish our history and our future together. So important. We have to respect each other. Ideally, we have to love each other."

Many political commentators focused on what Trump did not say. He did not make any statement condemning the white supremacist base behind the Charlottesville attack.

Others criticized what he did say.

"Listen to that: 'Cherish our nation's history,' in the context of Charlottesville," said Republican commentator Roger Traynham, who was an advisor to former President George W. Bush. "To me...as an African American –not even as a Republican— but as an African American, to me, that is an homage or a nod to the alt-Right [and] racist supremacy."

U.S. Senate Marco Rubio (R-FL) posted a statement on Twitter saying, "Very important for the nation to hear [the president] describe events in [Charlottesville] for what they are, a terror attack by white supremacists."

By Sunday, the White House issued a statement saying that, when Trump condemned the "egregious display of hatred, bigotry and violence, on many sides," "Of course that includes white supremacists, KKK Neo-Nazi

and all extremist groups."

In the Charlottesville Unite the Right rally, protesters carried signs that referred to the KKK, Confederate flags, Nazi flags, and many of the flags associated with extreme right-wing groups, such as the blue-and-white flags of "Identity Evropa," an Oakdale, California-based group that recruits young white men to discuss the interests of white people. The flags of the latter use a triangle at the center of their flag.

In the counter-protester crowd, there was a sign saying "KKK = Homophobic Terrorism."

The driver of the car that sped into the counter-protesters has been identified as a 20-year-old man, James Alex Fields Jr. of Maumee, Ohio. By Sunday evening, many news reports showed a photograph of a Unite the Right rally participant they identified as Fields. The man was standing alongside other white supremacists rally participants, holding a round black-and-white shield with a logo similar to one used by a right-wing group called Vanguard America.

The most recently posted article on the group's website is "A Statistic on Homosexual Pathology." The article calls LGBT people "degenerates" who "regularly commit a disproportionate amount of sexual crime," and "deliberately prey upon children."

Its membership page states, "No Homosexuals." But Vanguard America posted a statement on Twitter Sunday, saying the driver was "in no way, a member" and that the shields "do not denote membership."

## National LGBT response

National LGBT groups were quick to respond to the weekend's conflicts in Charlottesville.

"Hate and bigotry must never be met with silence or half-hearted rebukes," said HRC President Chad Griffin. "The horrific events unfolding in Charlottesville [Saturday] are a stark reminder that the racism and white supremacy that has been allowed to fester for generations has recently been emboldened by the policies and rhetoric of politicians like Donald Trump. There are no two sides. Donald Trump's refusal to clearly condemn white supremacists, white nationalists, neo-Nazis, and the 'alt-right' is a failure of leadership and once again proves he is unfit to serve. All national leaders, from the President and Vice President on down, must explicitly and unequivocally condemn this violent extremism."

Lambda Legal Executive Director Rachel Tiven issued a statement saying the Unite the Right rally was a march "against the rest of the country: against the polyglot, racially and religiously diverse America that is real and the truth. And they are absolutely marching against LGBT people of all colors."

# 28 Hate Groups Operating in Michigan

BY BTL STAFF

The Southern Poverty Law Center has compiled a list of organized hate groups that SPLC said all have one thing in common - "beliefs or practices that attack or malign an entire class of people, typically for their immutable characteristics."

## Neo-Nazi

American Nazi Party, Westland (headquarters)  
Gallows Tree Wotansvolk Alliance, Grand Rapids (headquarters)  
NS Publications, Wyandotte

## Neo-Nazional Socialist Movement

National Socialist Movement, Detroit

## Ku Klux Klan

Loyal White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Trenton (headquarters)  
Ku Klos Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Battle Creek  
Great Lakes Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Alpena  
Militant Knights of Ku Klux Klan, Alpena (headquarters)

## White Nationalist

White Boy Society (statewide)  
Foundation for the Marketplace of Ideas, Clinton Township (headquarters)  
White Rabbit Radio, Dearborn Heights (headquarters)  
Social Contract Press, Petoskey

## Anti-Muslim

Act for America, Grand Rapids  
American Freedom Law Center, Ann Arbor (headquarters)  
Secure Michigan, New Baltimore  
ACT for America, Detroit (headquarters)

## Christian Identity

Yahweh's Truth, Linwood(headquarters)

## Holocaust Denial

Deir Yassin Remembered, Ann Arbor

## Black Separatist

All Eyes on Egypt Bookstore, Detroit (headquarters)  
Black Riders Liberation Party, Detroit  
Israelite School of Universal Practical Knowledge, Detroit  
Israel United In Christ, Detroit  
Nation of Islam, Grand Rapids

## Nation of Islam

Nation of Islam, Grand Rapids  
Nation of Islam, Detroit  
Nation of Islam, Benton Harbor (headquarters)

## Racist Skinhead

Northern Hammerskins, Detroit

## Hate Music

NSM88 Records, Detroit

## Anti-LGBT

TC Family (Traverse City Family), Traverse City

## 10 Ways To Fight Hate

The SPLC distributed a community response guide as hate in America has become commonplace. The organization suggests 10 ways the community can stop hate.

**1. Take action:** Apathy may be interpreted as acceptance by the perpetrators, the public and victims.

**2. Join forces:** Reach out to allies from churches, schools, clubs, and other civic groups and create a diverse coalition that includes children, police and the media.

**3. Support victims of hate, who are especially vulnerable:** Victims should report every incident — in detail — and ask for help. If you know about hate victims in your community, show support for them and let them know you care, surrounding them in a bubble of comfort and protection.

**4. Speak up, expose and denounce hate:** Help news organizations achieve balance and depth in their coverage and don't debate with hate groups in conflict-driven forums. Instead, speak up in ways that draw attention away from hate and toward unity.

**5. Educate yourself:** An informed campaign improves its effectiveness. Determine if a hate group is involved, and research its symbols and agenda. Understand the difference between a hate crime and a bias incident.

**6. Don't attend hate rallies:** Instead, find another outlet for anger and frustration and for people's desire to do something. Hold a unity rally or parade to draw attention away from hate.

**7. Pressure elected officials and other community leaders to take a stand:** Help them overcome their reluctance and perhaps even their own bias.

**8. Remain engaged after an initial incident and promote acceptance before another hate crime occurs:** Step out of your comfort zone and reach to people outside your own groups.

**9. Teach acceptance:** Bias is learned early, often at home. Schools can offer lessons of tolerance and acceptance; encourage them to host a diversity and inclusion day on campus. Reach out to young people who may be susceptible to hate group propaganda and prejudice.

**10. Look inside yourself for biases and stereotypes:** Commit to disrupting hate and intolerance at home, at school, in the workplace and in faith communities.

*SPLC has documented 917 organizations meeting its criteria that are currently active nationwide. Read more online [www.splcenter.org](http://www.splcenter.org).*

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# Trans Military Ban Halted By War Threat

BY KAREN OCAMB, WASHINGTON BLADE

It took the threat of nuclear war with North Korea to reportedly get the White House to put a hold on the policy re-instituting the ban on open transgender service in the military.

A White House source, who spoke to the Blade on condition of anonymity, said “A Guidance Policy for Open Transgender Service Phase Out”—which had been certified by the White House Counsel’s Office after repeated advice that it would result in lawsuits—was expected to be sent to Defense Secretary James Mattis sometime during the week starting Aug. 7.

However, according to a Pentagon source, after President Trump and North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un got into a fiery verbal sparring match on Aug. 8, the Defense Secretary sent a message to major U.S. commands letting them know that the threat by North Korea was his overriding priority and that other issues “were to be temporarily sidelined.”

Additionally, the Pentagon source says that Mattis intends to put a hold on all personnel matters, though disciplinary issues such as discharges will continue. However, anything that affects military strength and readiness, specifically troop numbers, will be put on hold. Meanwhile, the Pentagon confirmed to the New York Times Aug. 9 that it has not yet received the trans guidance.

More pressing is possible nuclear war. On Aug. 5, the United Nations Security Council imposed tougher economic sanctions on North Korea after the isolated country tested two intercontinental ballistic missiles. China and Russia voted with the United States, something of a diplomatic coup, considering China’s connections to North Korea. Trump and his advisers had been warned by President Obama and National Security Adviser Susan Rice that Kim Jong-un was developing a threatening nuclear program—a fact made more concerning when the Washington Post reported that North Korea has developed a miniaturized nuclear weapon that can fit on top of an ICBM, which is capable of reaching the United States. Los Angeles, considered a prime target, is 5,935 miles from North Korea.

“North Korea best not make any more threats to the United States,” warned Trump from his golf club in Bedminster, N.J. “They will be met with fire and fury like the world has never seen. He has been very threatening -- beyond a normal statement,” Trump said of Kim Jong-un. “As I said, they will be met with fire, fury and frankly power the likes of which this world has never seen before.”

North Korea threatened a preemptive



President Donald Trump caved to pressure from religious conservatives and announced a ban on trans service members.

strike creating “enveloping fire” against Guam, a sovereign U.S. territory that’s home to combined Navy and Air Force forces at Joint Region Marianas, with 6,000 service members, a port for nuclear submarines and other major military forces and more than 162,000 Americans. Last June, Guam held its first LGBT Pride parade with 150 people, including Guam Legislature Speaker Benjamin Cruz.

While Mattis did not specifically mention tabling the transgender service ban, it can be extrapolated that dealing with such a major policy change would be exceedingly disruptive during a time of crisis, especially when a military leader would want the ability to deploy all available troops.

Meanwhile, GLAD and the National Center for Lesbian Rights filed a “Doe v. Trump” lawsuit on Aug. 9 in federal court in D.C., seeking an injunction against Trump’s directive to reinstate a ban.

“President Trump is needlessly attacking courageous transgender service members who put their lives on the line for our country,” GLAD and NCLR said in a press release. “Trump’s efforts to reinstate the ban are already harming service members, who have been blindsided and are scrambling to deal with what this means for their families and their futures—including the loss of job security, retirement benefits, healthcare, and other serious harms.”

The two LGBT-focused law firms note that the military has already carefully studied the ban, which led to former Defense Secretary Ash Carter agreeing to lift the ban on open trans service in June 2016 after a RAND

Study he commissioned indicated there would be no problems either with service or limited costs for medical care. Thousands of trans service members subsequently came out and have been serving openly without incident. The firms represent five of those active duty service members.

The lawsuit asserts that Trump’s tweeted directive violates the equal protection and due process guarantees of the Constitution, discriminates against one group with no legitimate purpose and contradicts the military’s own conclusion that there is no reason for the ban.

Transgender service members also relied on the continuity of the policy after Mattis’ Jan. 12 confirmation hearing in which he assured lawmakers that he would not roll back the Obama administration rules. Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) asked specifically if Mattis thought there was anything innate about being a woman or LGBT that would disqualify them from serving in a lethal force, Mattis said, “No,” The Hill reported.

“We are heartened by Gen. Mattis’ stated commitment during his testimony not to reverse the profound progress we have made in ensuring LGBT service members and their families are able to serve our nation with pride,” American Military Partner Association President Ashley Broadway-Mack and OutServe-SLDN Executive Director Matt Thorn said in a joint statement.

So how did the White House, the Defense Department and the LGBT community come to this point, especially after then-candidate Trump promised to protect the LGBT community?

“Thank you to the LGBT community! I will fight for you while Hillary brings in more people that will threaten your freedoms and beliefs,” he tweeted on June 14, 2016.

Then there was his acceptance speech at the Republican National Convention on July 21, 2016. “Only weeks ago, in Orlando, Florida, 49 wonderful Americans were savagely murdered by an Islamic terrorist. This time the terrorist targeted our LGBT community. As your president, I will do everything in my power to protect our LGBT citizens from the violence and oppression of a hateful foreign ideology,” Trump said.

But that promise clashed with another promise Trump made to his more reliable base, the evangelical community, led by Vice President Mike Pence and Family Research Council President Tony Perkins.

The specific drive to repeal and replace the open transgender service commitment started behind the scenes with a series of anti-LGBT nominations in March and April, with the growing sense that some military officers were pressing the chiefs to roll back the policy through an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act. They found an opening when on May 10, USA Today reported on two transgender cadets at the Air Force Academy and at West Point. That exposed a glaring loophole in the accessions policy, the procedure for accepting new troops into service.

“Currently, there is an Air Force Academy cadet who has identified as a transgender individual,” said Lt. Col. Allen Heritage, an academy spokesman, told USA Today. “The cadet can graduate. But, per the current (Defense Department) transgender policy, this cadet cannot commission into the Air Force. However, we are strongly recommending this individual for Air Force civil service as an option for continued service after the academy.”

On May 21, USA Today reported on a May 8 memo from Deputy Defense Secretary Robert Work instructing the service secretaries and chiefs of the armed services to assess the military’s “readiness to begin accepting transgender applicants on July 1, 2017.” Their assessments are due May 31.

“The personnel policies of this Department are designed to enhance the warfighting readiness and lethality of the force that protects our country,” Work wrote. “We do not intend to reconsider prior decisions unless they cause readiness problems that could lessen our ability to fight, survive and win on the battlefield.”

Brad Carson, a top Carter official for military personnel and an advocate for

lifting the ban, told USA Today he was concerned about how the other ordinary memo, for a new administration, could be interpreted.

“This could be seen as an opportunity to reconsider the policy,” Carson said. “It is certainly possible, and it would invite litigation. I do have full confidence in (Defense Secretary) Jim Mattis to do the right thing here.”

He was right. The articles exposing the loophole in the accessions policy and the May 8 memo, triggered a Religious Right chain reaction, with the Heritage Foundation reaching out to the Military Times to follow up. This was also during the same period that there was much coverage of Chelsea Manning in the media. On May 16, 85 conservative leaders, many like Tony Perkins, head of the Family Research Council, and scores of retired anti-LGBT military officers, issued a statement opposing transgender service.

“Conservative leaders urgently suggest that the Trump Administration review and rescind the Obama-era policies that hinder military readiness and overall effectiveness,” the statement said. “Politically correct policies have been imposed largely through administrative fiat. They can be removed in like manner while further study and congressional guidance is obtained. The most problematic policies in this category are those addressing the presence of transgender individuals in the military.”

That was enough to motivate a number of religious Republican conservatives in the House -- led by Rep. Duncan Hunter of California and Rep. Vicki Hartzler from Missouri -- to launch a series of amendments to the NDAA.

By now, Freedom Caucus chair Mark Meadows of North Carolina, Mo Brooks from Alabama, Steve King from Iowa, and Trent Franks from Arizona were involved.

Meanwhile, Perkins, along with his colleagues Ken Blackwell and Lt. Gen. Jerry Boykin (ret), went to Vice President Mike Pence who agreed to step in and help if he could, according to a source with knowledge of the situation.

The LGBT movement leadership knew what was going on but tried to keep everything quiet. “We were trying desperately to get to May 31 because we knew at that point the accessions policy would be locked into place by the Pentagon,” said a source who asked to remain anonymous. “Then it was just a simple matter of letting it ride until Secretar Mattis signed off on it.”

The LGBT coalition quietly working

on this were confident (if they could get to May 31) because there had already been one year of open service without incident for an estimated 15,000 trans service members in all five branches of service, and because of the assumed power of the RAND Study.

But Hartzler’s focus on the Pentagon not paying for what Hartzler called “transition surgeries,” as well as hormone therapy, became a media talking point. “The job of Congress is to ensure that our military is the most effective, efficient and well-funded fighting force in the world. With the challenges we are facing across the globe, we are asking the American people to invest their hard-earned money in national defense. Each dollar needs to be spent to address threats facing us,” she said in a July statement. She threw out wild estimate that the surgeries would cost “a billion dollars over the next ten years.”

The RAND study flat contradicted that, underscoring that “not all of these transgender service members would be expected to seek medical treatment related to their gender status or become non-deployable.”

“Only a small portion of service members would likely seek gender transition-related medical treatments that would affect their deployability or health care costs,” said Agnes Gereben Schaefer, lead author of the study and a senior political scientist at RAND.

RAND estimated that “between 30 and 140 new hormone treatments could be initiated a year and 25 to 130 gender transition-related surgeries could be utilized a year among active component service members. Additional health care costs could range between \$2.4 million and \$8.4 million, representing an approximate 0.13-percent increase.”

Hunter, Hartzler, Brooks, Franks and Meadows approached White House Deputy Chief of Staff for Legislative Affairs Rick Dearborn to get involved. “Dearborn has the ear of Vice President Pence. So he and the VP talked about it,” the source said.

This same week, there was a meeting of evangelical leaders at the White House and they briefly discussed the transgender issue. “But when Pence got back to his office, he made a call over to Meadows and they had another discussion about it,” the source says.

It was at this point that Rep. Pete Sessions, who is chair of the House Rules Committee, was basically saying we’re not going to let it in on the final rule, it’s basically going to have to go as an amendment to the bill on House floor.

Speaker Ryan agreed.

Hunter and Hartzler, Brooks and Franks lined up as many votes as they could get, as did the pro-LGBT side.

The day before the vote, on Wednesday, July 12, the Pentagon source says Mattis reached out to Hartzler herself. Late that night, the source said Hartzler, “in a very polite way, told him to fuck off.”

The LGBT side needed all the Democrats and at least 25-30 Republican moderates to cross over, which happened after it was confirmed that Mattis had lobbied against the amendment. Though it was a narrow vote--214-209--the amendment was defeated. But the issue didn’t die, even after Mattis spoke directly to Ryan and others.

Hunter, Hartzler, and Meadows would not take “no” and eventually went to Pence.

While Trump was on his way to a rally in Ohio, Pence, Dearborn, Steve Bannon, and others held a conference call with the Republican legislators. At some point, the source says, Pence made a call to the plane and discussed the situation with Trump. About five hours later, Pence called the plane again as it was on its way back to Joint Base Andrews.

The issue was brought up again the next morning during the morning briefing and 25 minutes after that came the first tweet. There was a nine-minute gap, then came the second tweet, and then that was quickly followed by the third tweet.

Mattis and the Pentagon were told something was going on the day before, but not what it was. They were told to stand by for a change of direction in policy. They were all reportedly caught off guard by the tweets. And everyone was caught off guard by the swift backlash from such conservatives as Sens. Orin Hatch of Utah and Joanie Ernst of Iowa. The consensus was that this is not how policy is done.

Reversing the policy of inclusion for transgender service members has been a priority of Pence’s base--the religious right--since the ban was lifted on June 30, 2016. Just because of the possibility of war, a lawsuit seeking an injunction against the expected White House guidance, and the fact that Mattis does not want the anti-trans policy should not mean the LGBT community should drop its guard. Trans service may be constitutional but it’s still under attack in a war of the Religious Right’s making.

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

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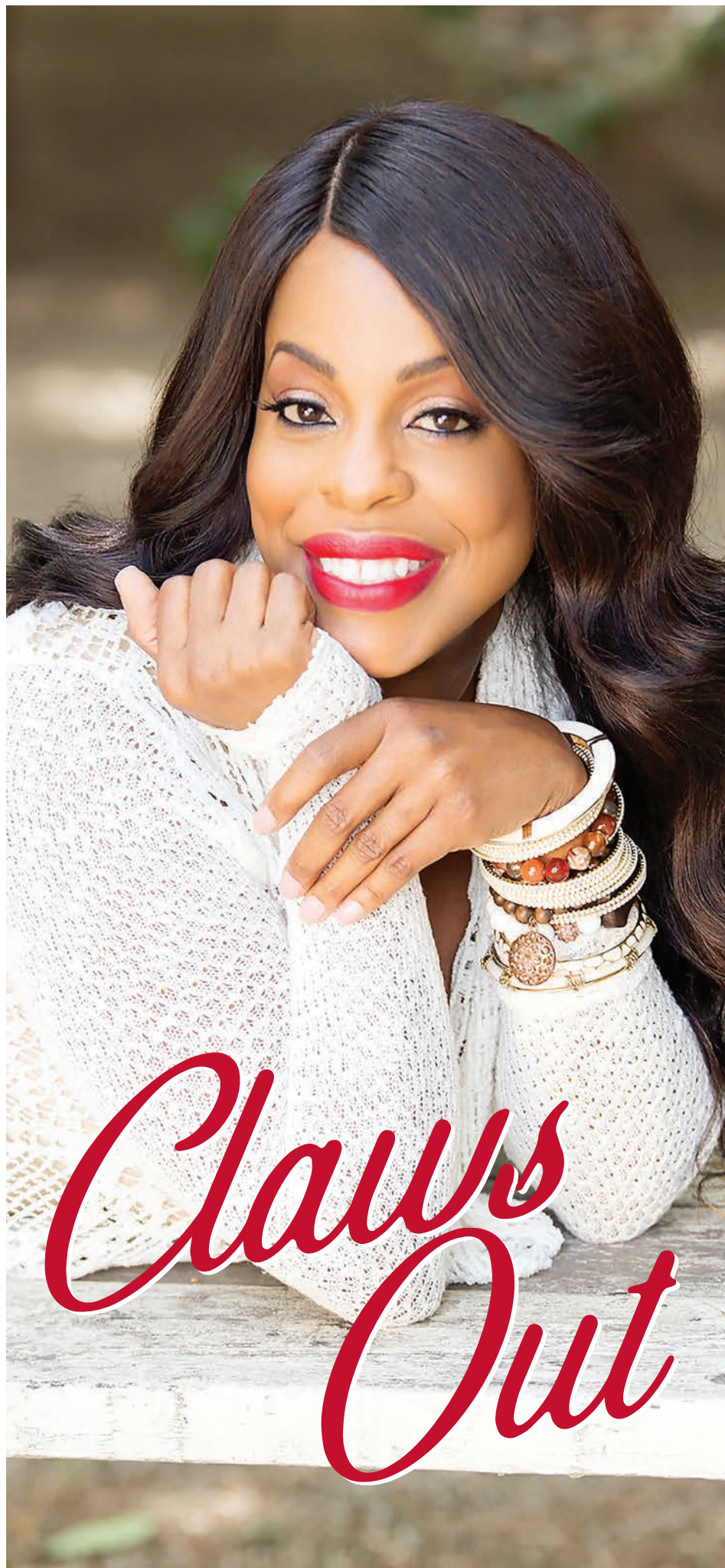


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# Niecy Nash Talks Queer-Loved Roles, Her LGBT-Affirming Christian Credo and Bacardi's Metamorphic Effect on Gay Men

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

**N**iecy Nash doesn't think she knows any gay prostitutes, but they – and every other kind of gay – most certainly know her.

From her rib-tickling portrayal of Deputy Raineesha Williams in “Reno 911!” to “Getting On” and the Ryan Murphy-created “Scream Queens,” the Emmy-nominated actress' career is as fabulously queer as her latest show, “Claws.” In the TNT sisterhood-centric drama, Nash's money-laundering badass of a character, Desna, is the powerful, leopard-print-wearing owner of a Florida nail salon that is a front for organized crime.

And talk about powerful – we have Nash to thank for all the loud-and-proud clothing Desna dons like a boss. From her character's scorchin' drag-esque style to the possibility of her tough-as-nails character going lesbian in the second season – and the transformative power of Bacardi – Nash gave us queens plenty to scream about during our delicious new interview.

**Why do you think gay audiences are loving “Claws”?**

Desna, first of all, dresses like a superhero. She's a modern-day shero, for sure; always with a jumpsuit and some sort of belt. She's fabulous in a lot of ways.

**Some might say she dresses like a drag queen, even.**

You know what, I'll take that too! 'Cause I can absolutely see that.

**Do you know how many drag queens would kill for her wardrobe, though?**

What's funny is that the network wanted me to be in, like, a soccer mom bob with blonde highlights and it just felt wrong, and the wardrobe felt wrong. It was a little too pulled up and I was like, “Mmmm, this is not right.” So, I dressed myself like what I felt she looked like. Just big, natural hair, booty shorts, a body suit. All of it needed to match for no reason. So, I tried to give them what I felt like she was and, luckily, they agreed... because I was fightin' a good fight of faith there for a second!

**She is the Desna the gay community needs. How do you think gay audiences might be empowered by her?**

Desna is 100 percent who she is, and she is a woman who is comfortable in her skin. I think that's the thing that we all strive for.

Be happy with what it is, figure out what's working for you, accentuate that part and push through.

**From Ryan Murphy on “Scream Queens” to Eliot Laurence on “Claws” and Mark Olsen on “Getting On,” you seem to gravitate toward writers, directors and producers who happen to be gay men. What is it about a gay man's perspective on female characters that keeps you coming back for more?**

They give me everything I need on paper and, in turn, I give them everything they need to take it off that piece of paper and bring it to life. It's a beautiful working relationship when somebody can just inspire you with the written word and the reciprocity is just you being inspired by the way something is real. So, it is a back and forth that is absolutely delicious.

Some of these people – let me just deal with the ones you named – there was definitely a very strong connective tissue from the first meeting. It's funny, because you meet some people and instantly you're like, “Yup, that's my tribe, that's my people right there.” Quite a few of my gay friends, especially. Let me just say that there are quite a few of my white gay friends who I feel are one Bacardi away from being a black woman. I don't care what nobody says – you all got black women in yourselves.

**Like many gay men, my intro to you was on “Reno 911!,” which featured one of our favorite gay hot messes, Terry.**

Yes! The rollerskating hooker.

**Are there any Terrys in your life?**

I don't have any friends that I know of who are prostitutes right now (laughs), but I will say that I do have gay friends and they are all kinds of different. I just think when people know that you will allow them to be 100 percent who they are, they see you as a soft place to land.

**As someone who's been involved with many TV shows featuring a diverse cast, how important is it to you to take on projects with fair representation?**

What's important to me is that I find projects that best emulate the real world. It's funny, even with “Claws” we have gay, we have bisexual, we have transgender. We have a little bit of everything going on over there, so it looks more like the world.

The other thing I appreciate about this

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particular show is that we don't shine a light on how somebody is living their life or tell them what they should or should not be doing. The characters are just written and they just live. Can't they just live? Let them live! They're unapologetic. You got a wife and a boyfriend? OK!

I get asked by a lot of people, "Well, don't you think things are moving in the right direction for black women in this industry?" I'm like, "But the world is bigger than just black women." There are a lot of people who are underrepresented on television.

**When you played a lesbian doctor on "The Mindy Project" in 2014, what was it like to be on the other side of the coin, sexually?**

I feel like when you approach a character, you want to make sure you are playing it from a real place and that it doesn't feel like, "Oh, this is gonna be a stereotype." You wanna lean into it in a way that just makes sense. When I had to kiss Mindy (Kaling), I remember the first time we kissed each other she was like, "Oh my god, I need a do-over. I can kiss so much better than that." I'm like, "Girl, it's just a show, you fine." We had to do it again, and she was just like, "This time it's gonna be great."

**Which kiss was better?**

I liked the first one because it was the first time our characters kissed each other and it was also the first time we kissed in real life. The first kiss can sometimes be a little weird and a little awkward, so I liked that it was real life, 'cause I just kiss her out of nowhere. It's not like we're dating. We're just hanging out and suddenly your boss kisses you, so I kind of like that, "Whoa, wait, wait. What's happening?"

**Do you have any other lesbian roles in the pipeline?**

Well, here's the thing: With "Claws" you never know what's gonna happen. I never say never over there because ain't no tellin'. Might just need to fly over to the other side and see what's going on and come on back. (Laughs) I'm not in charge of that part, but I would say that I wouldn't be surprised.

**If you do end up taking a dip in the lady pond on "Claws," who are your preferred romantic interests? Mindy?**

Well, I already had her. (Laughs) So, Katy Perry because Katy Perry is friggin' adorable and fun and funny and pretty and powerful. Then I would probably have to say Queen Latifah and Judy Reyes, who plays Quiet Ann (on "Claws").

**What can you tease your gay fans with regarding the second season of "Claws"?**

The one thing I can tell you is that there's

another mafia coming. You know we've been dealing with the Dixie Mafia and the Russian Mafia and now we will get to see what happens when we do the Haitian Mafia.

**As someone who grew up in a fairly devout Christian home, what was your introduction to the gay community?**

Surprisingly, I knew a lot of people who were gay that went to my church. They felt very repressed.

**Reconciling religion and homosexuality is challenging for many gay people.**

Especially in the black community, and especially when it comes to men in the black community.

**What do you know about that as a black woman?**

I just know that it's one of the things that we're socialized to say, "Don't do that, don't you do that." And we're also socialized to believe that you can't be a black gay man and still be one who loves God.

**As a gay-affirming Christian, what's your philosophy now on the gay community?**

My philosophy now is that you can be whatever you want to be. People feel you have to put blame on everything, but whether you label it or not, your truth is your truth. And I don't wish to live a lie on anybody. I wouldn't wish that on my worst enemy. And yes, it can be challenging, but the people who really love you and who are standing in support of you will be all right with it. This hits home for me and I pause to talk about it because it's not fair for me to tell that part of that story. But the one thing I don't wish on anybody is to live a lie. That's gotta be the hardest thing to imagine.

I remember I was doing "Dancing with the Stars" and Louis Van Amstel was my partner, and I never really considered the plight of the people that I knew who were gay. I stood on my battleground about black people and never really had a real point of reference for what my gay friends were experiencing. So, I do this dance with Louis and we depicted the family known as (Mildred and Richard) Loving. It was the white husband who wanted to marry the black woman and everything they went through. I was just dating my new husband and Louis said to me, "You know how much you love Jay? Now what if, for whatever reason, a law said that you could not be with him? As much as you care about him, it was against the law for you guys to get married and be together?" I started bawling like a baby. So, you gotta be able to stand in somebody else's shoes to be able to understand what they're going through. You gotta find a way to lean in and say, "From my vantage point, how would I feel if that were me?"

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# A2 Art & Brew to Benefit Ann Arbor Art Center

BY BTL STAFF

On Sept. 28, visit some of the best downtown Ann Arbor bars and restaurants and taste well-crafted beer and bite pairings to see how different craft beers and foods work together. While enjoying the beer and bites, see select pieces of the Art Center's exhibition "In Transit" through a virtual reality app. Afterwards, vote on your favorite brew, bite and pairing during the A2 Art & Brew and the winner(s) will be announced following the event.

"In Transit" is a moving exhibition featuring the work of current Washtenaw Community College photographic technology students presented in four unique contexts, curated by WCC faculty. The moving, pop-up nature of this exhibition features artwork displayed inside the entire fleet of AAATA buses as well as in spaces throughout the Ann Arbor area, from Ypsilanti to Scio Twp. The exhibit runs from Sept. 15-30 at the Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St. The opening party is Sept. 15 from



6-9 p.m.

The Alley Bar will host a special September edition of Straight Up the same evening as A2 Art & Brew, which, in collaboration with Pabst Blue Ribbon's PBRART contest, features local artists inspired by the PBR brand, live music and drink specials all night long.

Participating venues include Aventura, The Beer Grotto, Conor O'Neill's, Isalita Cantina, Mani Osteria, Old German and Pretzel Bell. Tickets are \$45 and non-refundable for the event from 7 p.m.-2 a.m. In order to attend, you must be 21 years old. For more information, visit <http://gaybe.am/K1>.

## Solar Eclipse Viewing Party

BY BTL STAFF

On Aug. 21, all of North America will be treated to an eclipse of the sun. Though Ann Arbor isn't in the path of totality (where the moon will completely cover the sun), we'll still be able to see a partial solar eclipse – where the moon covers part of the sun's disk. The partial eclipse begins in Ann Arbor at 1:02 p.m., with 80 percent maximum coverage at 2:26 p.m. NASA JPL Solar System Ambassador to Ann Arbor, Jennifer German, will be there to answer eclipse (and space) questions.

Join the community outside the Downtown Library, 343 S. 5th Ave. in Ann Arbor to view this spectacular celestial event. Viewing glasses will be provided. Citizens in Michigan must always wear approved eye protection to view the eclipse. View the AADL's event page at <http://www.aadl.org/node/362439>. To see maps, resources, community activities, live coverage and more, go to <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov>.

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## Adult Summer Cooking Classes

Eastern Market will be hosting a series of cooking classes this summer at its Tuesday Markets. Each class is \$15 or \$12 for seniors. Classes will be held in the Eastern Market Community Kitchen in Shed 5 from 1-3 p.m. During the next class on Aug. 29, prepare slow-cooked pork with tomatoes and sweet corn broth. For additional information, reach out to Anika-Kafi Grose at [agrose@easternmarket.com](mailto:agrose@easternmarket.com).

# Happenings

## OUTINGS

### Thursday, Aug. 17

**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)

**Polyamory Network** 7 p.m. Open and inclusive community of people living polyamorously, people interested in polyamory and people of, friendly to and curious about polyamory. Welcomes diversity of sexual orientation and gender identity. Polyamory Network, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. [jimtoycenter.org](http://jimtoycenter.org)

### Friday, Aug. 18

**Woman 2 Woman** 5:30 p.m. For lesbian, transgender and bi-attractional individuals. RSVP to Sharron Fincher via email. Woman 2 Woman, 20025 Greenfield Road, **Detroit**. [sharronfincher@lgbtdetroit.org](mailto:sharronfincher@lgbtdetroit.org) [www.lgbtdetroit.org](http://www.lgbtdetroit.org)

### Saturday, Aug. 19

**New Volunteer Orientation and Training** 12 p.m. Guided tour. Learn more about how to support the LGBTQ community at the community center. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 2483987105. [haymer@goaffirmations.org](mailto:haymer@goaffirmations.org) [www.Goaffirmations.org](http://www.Goaffirmations.org)

**Bisexual Peer Group** 5 p.m. Meetings

are a freeform discussion of current bi/pan/omni news, events, and other LGBT topics. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. [paylor9@mac.com](mailto:paylor9@mac.com) [www.jimtoycenter.org/](http://www.jimtoycenter.org/)

**LGBTQ with HPV** 6 p.m. Support, discussion and activity group for anyone with HSV1/2 and HPV. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [haymer@goaffirmations.org](mailto:haymer@goaffirmations.org) [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**Men's Discussion Group** 6 p.m. Woodward Cruise Meetup at the Golden Bowl in Oak Park Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

### Sunday, Aug. 20

**PFLAG Meeting** 2 p.m. Info and Support Meeting PFLAG Tri-Cities, 2525 Hemmeter Road, **Saginaw Township**. 989-971-7085. [leishashaler@gmail.com](mailto:leishashaler@gmail.com) [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org)

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

### Monday, Aug. 21

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

**Walk to End Alzheimers Kickoff Party & Movie Night** 6:30 p.m. Alzheimers Association - Michigan Great Lakes

Chapter, 799 North Hewitt Road, **Ypsilanti**. 7343692716. [mgibbons@alz.org](mailto:mgibbons@alz.org) [FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/A2YWEA](http://FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/A2YWEA)

**Whole Lives, Healthy Lives Adult Support Group** 7 p.m. This one-of-a-kind program in Berrien County helps attendees support each other in healthy ways through active listening and caring feedback. OutCenter, 132 Water St., **Benton Harbor**. 269-925-8330. [www.Outcenter.org](http://www.Outcenter.org)

### Tuesday, Aug. 22

**Sexual Assault Survivors Groups** 4 p.m. Youth group, ages 13-17, meets at 4 p.m. Adult group, ages 18 and over, meets at 5:15 p.m. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. [www.outfrontkzoo.org](http://www.outfrontkzoo.org)

### Wednesday, Aug. 23

**The Pastor is In** 3:30 p.m. Pastor Dani Veenstra, local United Church of Christ faith leader and ally to the LGBTQ community hosts this free service every Wednesday. OutCenter, 132 Water St., **Benton Harbor**. 269-925-8330. [thepastorisin@outcenter.org](mailto:thepastorisin@outcenter.org) [www.outcenter.org](http://www.outcenter.org)

### Thursday, Aug. 24

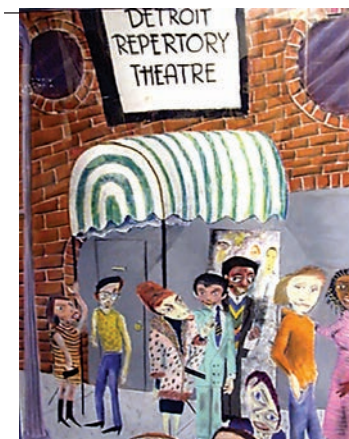
**45+ Club** 12 p.m. Activity and community group for persons age 45 and up. Play games and socialize in the Affirmations' Game Room. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [haymer@goaffirmations.org](mailto:haymer@goaffirmations.org) [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**Connections Youth Group** 6 p.m. For youth ages 13-18 OutFront Kalamazoo,

## Editor's Pick

### First Ever Neighborhood Arts & Culture Street Fair

The Detroit Repertory Theatre has teamed up with Dream of Detroit, Muslim Center, HUDA Clinic and HUG Community Garden for its first ever summer street fair Aug. 19 from 10:30 a.m. - 8 p.m. Enjoy live theatre, create art, celebrate culture, share neighborhood histories, hear music under a festival tent and discover local artists. Guests are encouraged to bring a lawn chair. Ongoing in the street and in the lots will be food and drink vendors, artists and vendors selling a variety of wares. More information and the entertainment lineup may be found at [www.detroitreptheatre.com](http://www.detroitreptheatre.com).



340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 2693494234. [www.outfrontkzoo.org](http://www.outfrontkzoo.org)

**LGBTQ Youth Meeting** 6 p.m. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. [michael@kgirc.org](mailto:michael@kgirc.org) [www.outfrontkzoo.org](http://www.outfrontkzoo.org)

**LGBTQ Book and Film Club** 7 p.m. August book: Mysterious Skin by Scott Helm and August movie: Mysterious Skin Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**Men's Social Group** 7 p.m. Grand Rapids Pride Center, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. [www.grpride.org](http://www.grpride.org)

**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)

**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+ Lippgloss Productions, 1247 Center St., **Lansing**. [www.spiraldancebar.com](http://www.spiraldancebar.com)

### Friday, Aug. 25

**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. 26

**Health Care Town Hall** 10 a.m. Michigan citizens will have the opportunity to have their questions answered and learn how to protect their health care. Indivisible Michigan and Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence (D-Southfield), 24350 Southfield Rd., **Southfield**. [www.michigandems.com](http://www.michigandems.com)

**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-](http://www.goaffirmations.org/programs-)

# Editor's Pick

## The Music of Prince

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra will pay tribute to an iconic music legend as they perform The Music of Prince at 8 p.m. on Aug. 25 at the Meadow Brook Music Festival, 3554 Walton Blvd. in Rochester Hills. Led by Windborne Music's guest conductor Brent Havens, who arranged Prince's top hits for orchestra, the DSO together with vocalist Marshall Charloff and a full band will perform adaptations of the artist's top hits including "Little Red Corvette," "Purple Rain," "Raspberry Beret," "When Doves Cry" and more. Tickets are \$20-75. For more information, call 313-576-5111 or visit <http://gaybe.am/LL>.



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)

**Open LGBT AA Meeting** 11 a.m. Grace Episcopal Church, 341 Washington St., **Traverse City**. [www.tcpolestar.org/](http://www.tcpolestar.org/)

**Friends and Families** 12:30 p.m. Support group for friends and families of LGBTQ identifying persons. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [haymer@goaffirmations.org](mailto:haymer@goaffirmations.org) [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**Alcoholics Anonymous Brownbaggers** 1:30 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups](http://www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups)

**Group Facilitator Training** 1:30 p.m. Any individual wishing to facilitate a support or discussion group must begin with volunteer orientation and training prior to attending facilitator training. Email Heather Aymer for more information. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [haymer@goaffirmations.org](mailto:haymer@goaffirmations.org) [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**Smeared Lipstick** 3 p.m. A discussion group for self identified feminine lesbian women to identify issues specific to them. The group also does a monthly community service project to increase their visibility in every community. 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)

**Lez Read Ann Arbor** 4 p.m. Book group for lesbians. Email Kerene Moore for more information. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. [kerenem@jimtoycenter.org](http://www.kerenem@jimtoycenter.org) [www.jimtoycenter.org](http://www.jimtoycenter.org)

**Men's Discussion Group** 6 p.m. Topic: Pet peeves Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**Own Your Gender** 7 p.m. For transgender, non-binary and gender and gender questioning people Grand Rapids Pride Center, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. [www.grpride.org](http://www.grpride.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. 27

**Hug Detroit Day Block Party** 12 p.m. Theme: "We Love Detroit." A day of peace, fun and hugs all day long.

Iron Street Neighborhood Association, 227 Iron St., **Detroit**. 2484451277. [nicolefreemanmanagement@gmail.com](mailto:nicolefreemanmanagement@gmail.com) [www.hugdetroit.net](http://www.hugdetroit.net)

**Gay Subtext Book Club** 2 p.m. Email for more information. Gay Subtext Book Club, 610 Woodmere Ave., **Traverse City**. [gaysubtext@gmail.com](mailto:gaysubtext@gmail.com) [www.tcpolestar.org/](http://www.tcpolestar.org/)

**Transcend** 4 p.m. For transgender and gender non-conforming individuals OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 2693494234. [www.outfrontkzoo.org](http://www.outfrontkzoo.org)

**LGBTQ Support Group** 5 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6726 Center Road, **Traverse City**. [www.tcpolestar.org/](http://www.tcpolestar.org/)

**Pride AA Weekly Meeting** 6 p.m. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 2693494234. [www.outfrontkzoo.org](http://www.outfrontkzoo.org)

**Pride NA Weekly Meeting** 7 p.m. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 2693494234. [www.outfrontkzoo.org](http://www.outfrontkzoo.org)

## MUSIC & MORE

### Benefits/Social Events

**Community Health Awareness Group** "Moonlight Masquerade: Unmask the Shame" 30th Annual Charity Cruise. Tickets: \$100. Proceeds benefit CHAG and its services for HIV prevention, HIV care, mental health and substance abuse. Infinity and Ovation Yacht Charters, 24400 Jefferson Ave., Saint Clair Shores. 7 p.m. Aug. 19. <http://gaybe.am/uk>

**SAGE Metro Detroit** "Walk to End Alzheimer's" Registration at 7:30 a.m. Detroit Zoo, 8450 W. 10 Mile Road, Royal Oak. 8:30 a.m. Aug. 26. 248-996-1044. [www.sagemetrodetroit.org](http://www.sagemetrodetroit.org)

### Concerts

**Detroit Symphony Orchestra** "The Kris Johnson Group With Lulu Fall". Max M. Fisher Music Center, Music Box, 3711 Woodward Ave, Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 21. 3135765111. [www.cubedetroit.org](http://www.cubedetroit.org)

**Detroit Symphony Orchestra** "The Music of Prince" Tickets: \$20-75. Meadow Brook Music Festival, 3554 Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills. 8 p.m. Aug. 25. 248-377-0100. <http://gaybe.am/LL>

**Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Cube** "Big Sam's Funky Nation" Tickets: \$15. Max M. Fisher Music Center, Music Box, 3711 Woodward Ave, Detroit. 6 p.m. Aug. 27. 3135765111. [www.cubedetroit.org](http://www.cubedetroit.org)

### Dance

**DDCF "Detroit Dance City Festival"**. Detroit Institute of Arts - Summer Stage, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Aug. 18 - Aug. 20. [www.detroitdancecityfestival.com/](http://www.detroitdancecityfestival.com/)

### 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)

### 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)

**Detroit Symphony Orchestra** "Om @ The Max" Practice yoga to live music. Max M. Fisher Music Box, The Cube, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 10:30 a.m. Aug. 19. 313-576-5111. [cubedetroit.org](http://www.cubedetroit.org)

### Theater

**The Revolutionists** Michigan premiere by Lauren Gunderson. Four beautiful, bad-ass women lose their heads in this irreverent, girl-powered comedy set during the French Revolution. Theatre Nova, 410 W. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 25 - Sep. 17. 734-635-8450. [www.theatrenova.org](http://www.theatrenova.org)

## 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)

**Detroit Repertory Theatre** "Neighborhood Arts & Culture Street Fair" In partnership with Dream of Detroit, the Muslim Center, the HUDA Clinic and HUG Community Garden. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. 10:30 a.m. Aug. 19. 3138681347. <http://gaybe.am/41>

**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)

**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 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)

**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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315 Braun Court Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
(734) 994-3677 [www.autbar.com](http://www.autbar.com)

**Common Language Bookstore**  
317 Braun Court Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
(734) 663-0036 [www.glbttbooks.com](http://www.glbttbooks.com)

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**Sunday**  
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with Marsha Gayle and Debbie Vogel  
6:30 - 9:00

**The Jesse Kramer Trio**  
Live on the Patio  
Every Tuesday  
7:30pm - 10:30pm

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## Woman 2 Woman Seeks Community Support

BTL STAFF

Woman 2 Woman, facilitated by Sharron Fincher of LGBT Detroit, provides women who self identify as lesbian or bi-attractual a safe space to discuss issues specific to women. Additionally, Woman 2 Woman provides the lesbian and bi-attractual communities a safe space to discuss, divulge and learn. Also, to engage in self healing and sisterhood through open, honest dialogue and guided activities.

In addition to safe, monthly meetings, Fincher also co-facilitates a weekly discussion group with Wayne County Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (WC SAFE) at Naomi's Nest in Highland Park. This group offers comfort and resources to the clients there who identify as bi-attractual or lesbian and are survivors of sexual violence and drug addiction.

Woman 2 Woman is asking for support from the community to continue programming that supports African American women, bi-attractual women and lesbians. Fincher said \$2,500 helps provide for one-year of important programming.

Donations can be made online at [lgbtdetroit.org/donate](http://lgbtdetroit.org/donate). Checks, made payable to LGBT Detroit, can be mailed to LGBT Detroit c/o Woman 2 Woman, 20025 Greenfield Rd., Detroit, MI 48235.

Donors will receive recognition as a program supporter, a letter supporting the tax-deductible gift and the honor of knowing they are participants in making sure that women of this community can continue to have a safe, brave space to meet and discuss the challenges and achievements within this community.

"It has been a pleasure facilitating this group and I am excited about the growth we have made in this short period of time as well as the growth that we will experience in the future," said Fincher.

For more information, call 313-397-2127 or email [sharronfincher@lgbtdetroit.org](mailto:sharronfincher@lgbtdetroit.org). Connect with Woman 2 Woman online [www.facebook.com/lgbtdetroitwoman2woman/](http://www.facebook.com/lgbtdetroitwoman2woman/).

### Students Welcome to Join Peer Mentorship Program

BY BTL STAFF

Returning Eastern Michigan University students who are LGBTQ-identified and want to help a new LGBTQ-identified student through their first year at EMU are invited to join the Peer Mentor Program. If and when accepted, returning students will be matched with new students and trained to be a good mentor. Both students will have the opportunity to meet regularly and hopefully create a strong friendship. Interested students can contact Student Advocacy Coordinator Cleo Ku at [cku@emich.edu](mailto:cku@emich.edu) or the EMU LGBT Resource Center at [lgbtrc@emich.edu](mailto:lgbtrc@emich.edu). The deadline is Aug. 30. For more information, visit <http://gaybe.am/yU>.

## Transastic Night to Remember Raises Funds for Ruth Ellis Center, Motor City Sisters

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

The Motor City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence held a fundraiser for the Ruth Ellis Center on Aug 13. Billed as Transastic Night to Remember, the evening took place at Olympus Theater in the Menjo's Complex and included the screening of the film "Tangerine" as well as a catered dinner, a prize raffle and presentations by speakers from the Ruth Ellis Center in Highland Park, Transcend the Binary in Ferndale and Equality Michigan in Detroit. Nearly 50 people attended the event, which raised about \$300 to be split between REC and the Motor City Sisters.

"I think the evening went fantastic," said Guard Dog Derpy Moto, one of the primary organizers. "People were raving about how much fun they were having and the food was incredible. I'm really proud of us."



For more information about the Ruth Ellis Center, visit [www.ruthelliscenter.org](http://www.ruthelliscenter.org). Connect with the Motor City Sisters at [www.motorcitysisters.org](http://www.motorcitysisters.org).

I'sha Schultz, development associate for the Ruth Ellis Center, Sr. Gin-ja Lox of the Motor City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and community activist Char Davenport. BTL photo: Jason A. Michael

## UM Dearborn Offers New LGBTQ Studies Certificate

BY BTL STAFF

The LGBTQ Studies certificate, a 12-credit interdisciplinary program in the University of Michigan-Dearborn College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, prepares students professionally and personally by concentrating on diverse forms of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

The certificate is an important addition to campus for many reasons, said Amy Brainer, Women's and Gender Studies and Sociology assistant professor and LGBTQ Studies certificate program coordinator.

"This program is meaningful for LGBTQ students whose histories and cultures are often invisible or marginal in other programs of study," she said. "Additionally, more and more employers and students are interested in LGBTQ studies as they wish to help build a more equitable and just society."

Nearly every industry – from education to healthcare to social work – serves or employs LGBTQ individuals. And research confirms positive business-related outcomes when workplaces are supportive of LGBTQ issues. A 2013 report from the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law highlights increased productivity and greater job commitment when LGBTQ-supportive workplace policies are in place.

The certificate also shows the university's commitment to the LGBTQ community.

"This certificate falls in line with our Metropolitan Vision. The goal of this certificate is engaged and integrated learning that will create positive change for our students and for the communities in which they live and work," said Brainer, who plans to partner with LGBTQ organizations throughout southeast Michigan as a part of the program.

Brainer said the certificate, which is available to degree-seeking students or those who wish to take it as a post-baccalaureate standalone, will have a positive affect on campus as well.

As PRIDE adviser, she hears from students who identify as LGBTQ on the need for inclusion, resources and the ability to have their stories told. Courses offered within the certificate program include Queer Theory in Literature; LGBTQ Religious Experience; Sexuality, Gender and Bodies; Family, Sexuality and Human Rights and more.

"There is a lot of excitement about this new program from the students and faculty. Although there is still work to be done to strengthen this effort, the LGBTQ Studies certificate shows LGBTQ students and allies that they are a priority on our campus," she said. "It shows that we have a real commitment. It's not just lip service."

Contact Dr. Amy Brainer at 313-593-1976 or at [brainer@umich.edu](mailto:brainer@umich.edu). For more information, visit the LGBTQ Studies certificate website. <http://gaybe.am/tz>

# Transgender Pride in the Park Sets New Record for Attendance

BY DAVID RYALS

Transgender Pride in the Park on Aug. 12 was a “huge success” according to Rachel Crandall Crocker, executive director and co-founder of Transgender Michigan, who said over 500 people attended to embrace the transgender community and each other.

A mixture of high white clouds and sizzling sunshine greeted the crowds and around 20 vendors in Ferndale’s Geary Park.

TGMI is celebrating 20 years as an organization and this year’s event was “bittersweet” for Ferndale Mayor Dave Coulter who kicked off the festivities in the park, reminding attendees that the city is committed to a welcoming, inclusive and diverse community.

“A year ago when we gathered here, Barack Obama was our president. We weren’t seeing the kind of actions from our federal government that we’re seeing now. Make no mistake that the LGBT community, the trans community in particular, is under attack by this administration in Washington,” said Coulter.

“It’s a different day than it was a year ago, so I’m here to deliver a very simple message to you and that is this - I realize the times that we’re living in, the danger we’re facing... Even though those attacks feel hateful and personal - across this city, across this state and across this country, millions of people are in resistance mode to the attacks on the LGBT community and we have your backs.”

Throughout the day, some visitors packed the open field



Zac, Kieran, TJ and Vanessa stand together and embrace who they are at Transgender Pride in the Park.

and picnicked while others enjoyed lounging around the playgrounds. A designated cook was in charge of the grill cooking hot dogs and hamburgers for everyone. Many brought food and drink to share. Everyone conversed against the background music of the Trans Connection. The trio performed acoustic guitar melodies for listening enjoyment.

“My experience was nothing but positive,” said Tj Dobbie. “I loved being around people who understood and supported

myself and the community. Being somewhere I could discuss my transition and struggles and also have fun, free of being worried about hate, was liberating and helped me. It gave me inspiration and joy like nothing ever has before.”

Liam Vella was in the park to promote his new transgender clothing brand, Support the T, which he created with the intention of helping other trans people. Vella said, “I saw too many trans people struggling to afford their transitions. GoFundMe links were popping up on Facebook every other day of another person needing help funding their surgery, and those were only the ones willing to ask for help. I know many people feel bad asking for donations when they have nothing to give back, but I also knew that many of them didn’t have the resources or ability to create anything to give back, and I did.”

Support the T has gained attention on social media with more than 3,000 followers. Vella and his design crew have helped 12 people fundraise for various surgeries so far.

“I wanted to be there to inspire others as well as be inspired. In today’s climate, it’s more important than ever to be visible and proud,” said Marisa Massaria. “I believe being visible is key in helping educate and disprove the horrible stereotypes. No matter where we identify under the LGBTQ flag, it’s important to always be the best version of ourselves no matter what adversity we face in our journey.”

Connect with Transgender Michigan online at [www.transgendermichigan.org](http://www.transgendermichigan.org).

For a complete photo album, go to...

<http://www.pridesource.com>

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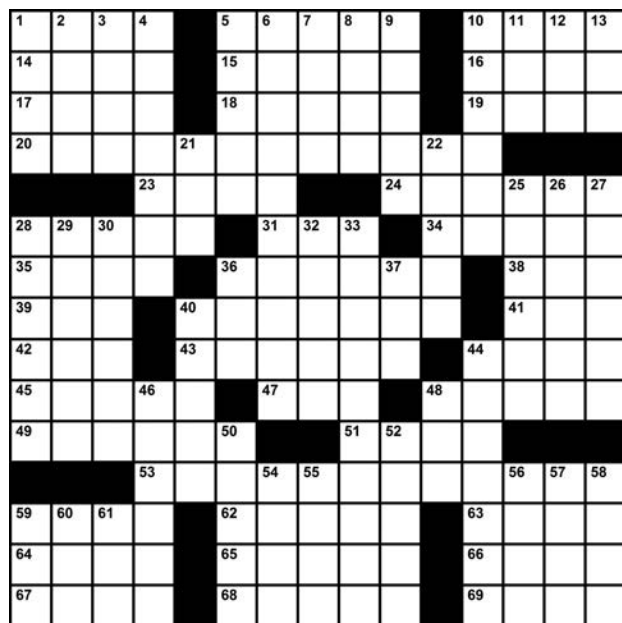
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# Q Puzzle



- 36 "My Fair Lady" song  
 38 Butt  
 39 X-ray unit  
 40 Oldest player in the WNBA  
 41 Stonewall Jackson's country (abbr.)  
 42 Shoshonean tongue  
 43 Geneticist's study  
 44 Bearing  
 45 Deal with  
 47 Dick, for short  
 48 See 28-Across  
 49 Lively wit  
 51 Commuter plane trips  
 53 College team of 40-Across, briefly  
 59 Dorothy Gale's home  
 62 Not spelled out  
 63 "Nurse Jackie" portrayer Falco  
 64 Straddling  
 65 Place for a G-string  
 66 Actor Rip  
 67 Four-posters for foreplay, for some  
 68 Will and Grace shared one  
 69 Aspen vehicle
- 9 Billy Bean boo-boo  
 10 Bear, e.g.  
 11 "The Name of the Rose" author  
 12 Astronomical altar  
 13 Pride's place  
 21 Stuff for a blow job?  
 22 Dressed like a judge  
 25 "Desperate Housewives" star Cross  
 26 Rubber  
 27 Supply partner  
 28 Go over  
 29 Mounts the soapbox  
 30 Committed to penetration?  
 32 Sheila Kuehl's "The Many Loves of \_\_\_ Gillis"  
 33 Goes either way, at home  
 36 California has a big one  
 37 Woolf's "\_\_\_ Dalloway"  
 40 Stiff-upper-lip type  
 44 Minuteman shot them off  
 46 Ranking suit, or criminals in suits?  
 48 Fam. docs  
 50 The bottom line  
 52 Navel unlikely to collect lint  
 54 "Zami: A New Spelling of My \_\_\_"  
 55 Trojans' org.  
 56 Clay Aiken, almost  
 57 Land of Emma Donoghue  
 58 Tickle pink  
 59 British sitcom "Ab \_\_\_"  
 60 Did an encore of "Food, Glorious Food"?  
 61 Member, in slang

# Old and Dribbling

## Across

- 1 Simians on Roddy McDowall's planet  
 5 Like a woman without a woman  
 10 Anthropologist Margaret  
 14 "Pandora's Box" heroine  
 15 "Dallas Voice," for example  
 16 A lot, maybe  
 17 "Dancing With the Stars" cohost Andrews  
 18 Playful swimmer
- 19 Express the success of a lover's caress  
 20 Pro team of 40-Across  
 23 At once, to the Bard  
 24 Emulated Kerouac's "On the Road"  
 28 With 48-Across, position of 40-Across  
 31 It takes balls to make them in NFL games  
 34 Trumpet blast  
 35 Sea eagles

## Down

- 1 They have foamy heads  
 2 Like a virgin  
 3 Director Kazan  
 4 Catches some rays at South Beach  
 5 Ohno of Geert Blanchart's sport  
 6 Pressure to come out of the closet?  
 7 Makes a pick  
 8 Drag queen's application

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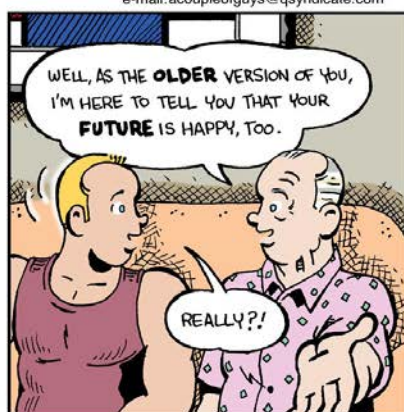
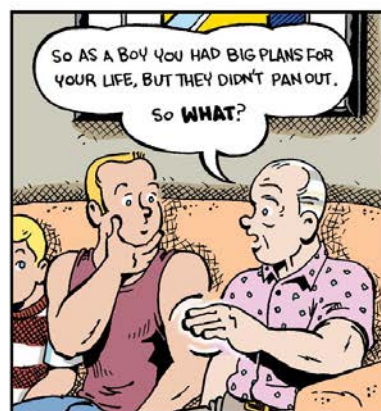
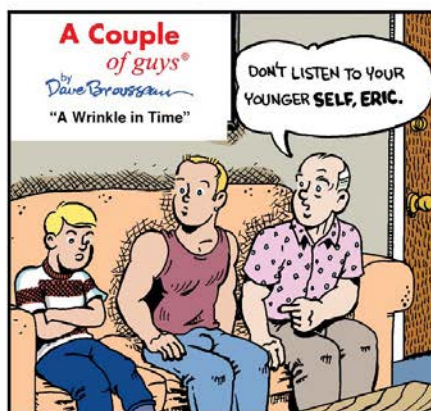
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# Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

## Indie drama 'Easy Living' features trans actress

As far as Hollywood is concerned, summer is pretty much over. August is a notoriously slow box office month, so if you're not going to the movies right now, you're not alone. All the more reason to save your popcorn money for September's films, and the release of the indie drama "Easy Living." The debut feature from writer-director Adam Keleman, which had its world premiere at this year's SXSW Festival, stars Caroline Dhavernas ("Hannibal," "Wonderfalls") as a door-to-door make-up salesperson whose personal life is a lot messier than she would like. And if the presence of Dhavernas weren't enough to make us buy a ticket

to this one, it also stars one of our favorite queer up-and-comers, trans actress Jen Richards, in a supporting role. You may have heard of her when the web series she created, "Her Story," about the lives of queer and trans women in Los Angeles, became the first indie web series to be nominated for an Emmy. "Easy Living" opens in theaters and via streaming services on Sept. 15, so your town not having an arthouse is literally no excuse not to support projects that include trans artists. Mark your calendar.

## Constance Wu is going to bring you all 'The Feels'

You already love Constance Wu on "Fresh Off The Boat" (and if you don't then seriously what is your problem, we mean it), and now she's playing a lesbian in the indie comedy "The Feels." Wu and Angela Trimbur ("The Final Girls") star as a couple throwing a bachelorette party for themselves, at which it is revealed that one of them has never had an orgasm. Awkward comedy ensues as the women dig deeper into their relationship -- and try to make that elusive "feel" happen. This one is from director Jenée LaMarque (who co-wrote the screenplay with Lauren Parks, and both women play supporting roles), co-stars Josh Fadem ("Twin Peaks"), and earned an enthusiastic reception at this summer's Outfest in Los Angeles. It also has no distributor yet, so keep your comedy eyes peeled for it to keep popping up on the film festival circuit. You'll be glad you did.

## Sean Hayes back in for '3 Stooges 2'

Something weird happened in 2012. The Farrelly Brothers co-wrote and directed a big screen update of "The Three Stooges," the

1930s big screen comedy icons who were the original dumb and dumber. Nobody asked for this reboot. It's actually safe to say nobody even really wanted it. And then it turned out to be hilarious, even doing well enough at the box office to warrant, yes, another. So "Untitled Three Stooges Sequel" is currently on, with all three original stars back for more: Sean Hayes as Larry, Will Sasso as Curly, and Diamantopoulos as Moe. There's also talk of an as-yet-unnamed A-list action star joining the nyuk-nyuk-nyuks, but what there isn't talk of, just yet anyway, is involvement from the Farrellys, which causes us more than a little concern.

Young screenwriter Cameron Fay ("Brother Nature") is attached, and it's all just now been announced, so there's still time to reunite the original team. In any case, we'll be waiting in good faith for comedy lightning to strike twice sometime in 2018.

## Guillermo Diaz is 'The Dating Game Killer'

Back in 1978, a young photographer named Rodney Alcala appeared as a contestant on "The Dating Game," and he answered the bachelorette's questions so well that he became Bachelor No. 1. His appearance still lives on the internet in a choppy video, but it won't bring you any joy to watch it. That's because Alcala was a serial killer and, at the time of his visit to the game show, already in the middle of a Los Angeles murder rampage that took what authorities consider to be dozens of lives, resulting in one 1980 conviction for the death of a 12-year-old girl (he remains in prison to this day). Because the public has a seemingly endless fascination with serial killers, his story will now be the subject of a TV movie, "The Dating Game Killer." From veteran television director Peter Medak ("Hannibal," "Breaking Bad") the log line for the film suggests that it will center on a victim's family members seeking justice. And starring as the notorious Alcala? "Scandal" star Guillermo Diaz, taking a very daring risk playing a real life character as loathsome and terrifying as this. There's no word yet what network will host the finished movie, and it sure is a long way from "Party Girl!" for Diaz, but we'll be glued to the set when it finally airs all the same.



Jen Richards. Photo: Joe Seer.



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