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Between THE Lines™

#MuteRKelly
Campaigns Against
Detroit Concert

Report: Not Even Half
of LGBT People Say
Workplace Offers
Family Leave



Dancing *Harder*

Inside: New Perspectives
on Love and Sex *plus,*
Unique Valentine Gifts
& Events

Burlesque Comes to Menjos in Detroit

WWW.PRIDESOURCE.COM

FEBRUARY 8, 2018 | VOL. 2606 | FREE

In adults with HIV on ART who have diarrhea not caused by an infection



Tired of planning your life around diarrhea? Enough is Enough

Get relief. Pure and simple. Ask your doctor about Mytesi.

Mytesi (crofelemer):

- Is the **only** medicine FDA-approved to relieve diarrhea in people with HIV
- **Treats diarrhea differently** by normalizing the flow of water in the GI tract
- Has the same or fewer side effects as placebo in clinical studies
- Comes from a tree sustainably harvested in the Amazon Rainforest

What is Mytesi?

Mytesi is a prescription medicine that helps relieve symptoms of diarrhea not caused by an infection (noninfectious) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on antiretroviral therapy (ART).

Important Safety Information

Mytesi is not approved to treat infectious diarrhea (diarrhea caused by bacteria, a virus, or a parasite). Before starting you on Mytesi, your healthcare provider will first be sure that you do not have infectious diarrhea. Otherwise, there is a risk you would not receive the right medicine and your infection could get worse. In clinical studies, the most common side effects that occurred more often than with placebo were upper respiratory tract (sinus, nose, and throat) infection (5.7%), bronchitis (3.9%), cough (3.5%), flatulence (3.1%), and increased bilirubin (3.1%).

For Copay Savings Card and Patient Assistance, see Mytesi.com

Please see complete Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com.

NP-390-32

Mytesi[®]
(crofelemer) 125 mg
delayed-release tablets

RELIEF, PURE AND SIMPLE

IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION

This is only a summary. See complete Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com or by calling 1-844-722-8256. This does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or treatment.

What Is Mytesi?

Mytesi is a prescription medicine used to improve symptoms of noninfectious diarrhea (diarrhea not caused by a bacterial, viral, or parasitic infection) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on ART.

Do Not Take Mytesi if you have diarrhea caused by an infection. Before you start Mytesi, your doctor and you should make sure your diarrhea is not caused by an infection (such as bacteria, virus, or parasite).

Possible Side Effects of Mytesi Include:

- Upper respiratory tract infection (sinus, nose, and throat infection)
- Bronchitis (swelling in the tubes that carry air to and from your lungs)
- Cough
- Flatulence (gas)
- Increased bilirubin (a waste product when red blood cells break down)

For a full list of side effects, please talk to your doctor. Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or does not go away.

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

Should I Take Mytesi if I Am:

Pregnant or Planning to Become Pregnant?

- Studies in animals show that Mytesi could harm an unborn baby or affect the ability to become pregnant
- There are no studies in pregnant women taking Mytesi
- This drug should only be used during pregnancy if clearly needed

A Nursing Mother?

- It is not known whether Mytesi is passed through human breast milk
- If you are nursing, you should tell your doctor before starting Mytesi
- Your doctor will help you to decide whether to stop nursing or to stop taking Mytesi

Under 18 or Over 65 Years of Age?

- Mytesi has not been studied in children under 18 years of age
- Mytesi studies did not include many people over the age of 65. So it is not clear if this age group will respond differently. Talk to your doctor to find out if Mytesi is right for you

What Should I Know About Taking Mytesi

With Other Medicines?

If you are taking any prescription or over-the-counter medicine, herbal supplements, or vitamins, tell your doctor before starting Mytesi.

What If I Have More Questions About Mytesi?

For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com or speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

To report side effects or make a product complaint or for additional information, call 1-844-722-8256.

Rx Only

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for Napo Pharmaceuticals, Inc. San Francisco, CA 94105

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Mytesi comes from the *Croton lechleri* tree harvested in South America.



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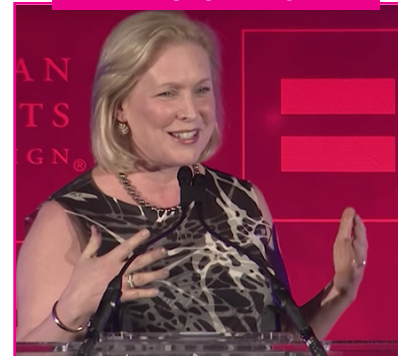
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#MuteRKelly Campaigns Against R. Kelly's Feb. 21 Detroit Concert

PROTEST

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Cult leader, rapist and sexual predator. Whether sensationalized or fully accurate, having accusations like these swirl around one's career seem like they would destroy it. However, in the case of 51-year-old Rhythm and Blues artist R. Kelly, they barely seem to have made a dent. Born Robert Kelly, in his career, the singer has sold over 100 million albums, won multiple Grammy Awards and even created a well-received autobiography. Kelly managed to balance all this success with almost a dozen allegations – and one trial – since the 1990s, for illegal and inappropriate sexual conduct with both women and minors.

According to Liliana Reyes, a program director at the Ferndale-based LGBTQ community center Affirmations, that R. Kelly has experienced nearly uninterrupted success is deeply linked to society's perception of celebrities and women.

"Sometimes, people put public figures on a pedestal," Reyes said.

Reyes is also a supporter of the #MuteRKelly Detroit movement. The movement officially formed in December 2017, when its founders



realized that R. Kelly was scheduled for a sponsored performance by 105.9 Kiss-FM at Little Caesar's Arena, alongside singer Charlie Wilson. The show is on Feb. 21 as part of the "Tale of Two Kings Tour". The movement's aim is to cancel this show, or at least hold a protest event alongside it. This is all in an effort to make a statement supporting sexual

“ You have to say, 'I have to sacrifice that I can't support this person, because I'm putting money into the hands of a pedophile or a rapist.' And, you have to separate that. **”**

– Nicole Denson – who is openly bisexual and a survivor of sexual assault and violence herself – said that she aimed to form an proactive community that not only advocates for victims of sexual assault generally, but that is purposefully inclusive of all sexual orientations, gender identities, races and ethnicities.

assault victims.

Nicole Denson, an activist and director of advocacy services at WC SAFE – a nonprofit dedicated to helping victims of sexual assault – was one of the main drivers in this.

"The #MeToo movement is everywhere, sexual harassment is really, really talked about, and has been in the forefront in the media. So, as a person who is in a marginalized community and serves marginalized communities, it really hit home for me that he is in our city," Denson said. "And so, I started on Facebook, a call to action, and quite a few people responded. This call to action was met by a lot of women of color, and a lot of women of color who also identify within the LGBT community - which I'm a part of."

Denson – who is openly bisexual and a survivor of sexual assault and violence herself – said that she aimed to form an proactive community that not only advocates for victims of sexual assault generally, but that is purposefully inclusive of all sexual orientations, gender identities, races and ethnicities.

"I think a lot of people are afraid to talk about this issue. I believe it's really hard in our communities because of the fact that, because of my intersections, it's hard to understand what community speaks about my issues," Denson said. "When I stand behind Black Lives Matter, I sometimes feel as if they might not talk about that trans women's lives matter, or when I talk about or stand behind the LGBT (community), sometimes I feel like they don't talk about the marginalized."

Shortly after putting out her call to action, she made contact with Kenyette Barnes, the organizer of the national #MuteRKelly movement, which had a hand in cancelling several shows from the singer's most recent tour. This contact helped to structure the Detroit branch's organization. On its Facebook page, it outlines an eight-step process to both draw attention to sexual assault, and remove Kelly's scheduled performance. Denson said a structured, and measured approach is absolutely vital to gain support and be heard.

"We're very intentional about how we're going about this," Denson said. "It's taking time. Right now, we're reaching out by writing letters. This is business to them."

However, as serious as Denson is about this topic, she wants to make clear, she's not trying to judge his existing fans, she is trying to educate them on the seriousness of this topic.

"His sexual assault against a minor was videotaped. You have to understand that some of these allegations were not just allegations. Not only were they videotaped, but they settled out of court. So, you have to wonder, when he's 'stepping in the name of love,' who's love is he talking about? When you see these songs about sexual gratification, who is he talking about?" Denson said. "A lot of people say, 'Well, it's mostly black women who are supporting him,' and I have to say to them, 'That may be true, but this one isn't.'"

Denson said that R. Kelly's accusations have caused a rift with an impact similar to Bill Cosby's.

"It's OK. That's the thing we're trying to get across to people. It's OK to be upset. It's OK to say that R. Kelly made a good song. It's OK to be mad that you sang 'I Believe I Can Fly' in grade school," Denson said with a laugh. "It's OK to be mad about that, or that I watched 'The Cosby Show' and I'm mad because he was Cliff Huxtable."

However, Denson said that once the anger subsides, it becomes time to choose a side.

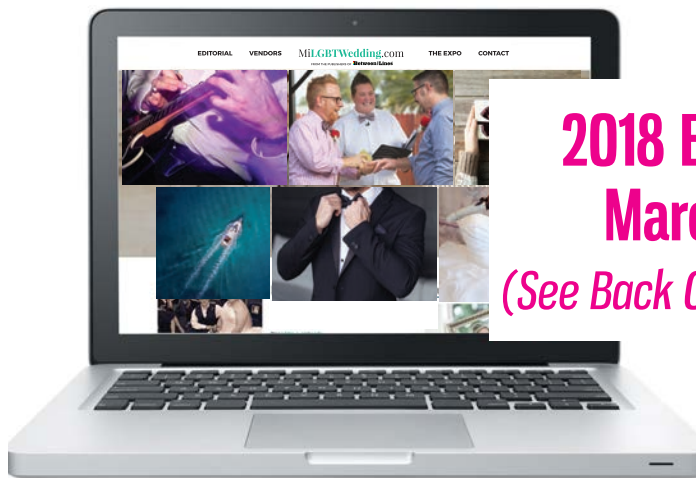
"You have to say, 'I have to sacrifice that I can't support this person, because I'm putting money into the hands of a pedophile or a rapist.' And, you have to separate that," she said.

Representatives for Little Caesar's Arena, 105.9 Kiss-FM and R. Kelly did not respond in time for the publication of this story.

The Mute R Kelly Detroit: Protest LCA Your Rape Culture is Not Welcome Here event will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 21 at 6:30 p.m. in front of Little Caesar's Arena. The Arena is located at 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit. More information about the event can be found online at gaybe.am/6A.

Michigan's Definitive LGBTQ-Friendly Wedding and Anniversary Guide

MiLGBTWedding.com



2018 EXPO
March 11
(See Back Cover)

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Community Members to Protest 'Conversion Therapy' Workshop

BY DREW HOWARD

Members of the community will hold a peaceful protest outside the Metro City Church Riverview Campus during the hours of what many are calling a conversion therapy workshop.

In a Facebook post that's since been taken down, Metro City Church advertised an "Unashamed Identity Workshop" for girls (by birth) ages 12-16 who are struggling with the thoughts that they are "Trans - Bi - Gay or other." The classes are scheduled to take place every Thursday at 6 p.m. from Feb. 8 - April 18.

The post sparked widespread backlash and a flurry of comments denouncing the church as anti-LGBTQ. The Metro-Detroit Political Action Network announced that it will be holding the protest at the church on Feb. 8 at 6 p.m. - the night of the first class.

MDPAN's Facebook page said, "We have had people sending multiple screenshots stating that this pastor did indeed call these sessions conversion therapy."

Conversion therapy is the pseudoscientific practice of trying to change an individual's sexual orientation using psychological or spiritual interventions, and is opposed by several psychological experts.

The post, which has since been taken down,

Affirmations and Samaritas Offer Foster Care Clinic

A 2017 report released by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority estimated that almost 66,500 people were homeless in Michigan from 2014. Although that's an improvement of 9 percent since 2014, there is still much work to be done. Of that number of homeless people, 13,812 were children in families, and 660 were unaccompanied minors under 18.

In order to combat this number and maintain the current positive trend, Affirmations is

Ferndale SheHive Offers Women's Empowerment Circle

After graduating Detroit's Center for Humanistic Studies in 2004, Dr. Corinne Rogers has been working as a psychologist to help individuals combat anxiety, compulsive overeating and a variety of other dilemmas. Although Rogers can usually be found in Pleasant Ridge and Clarkston, she is offering a therapy group at the Ferndale SheHive.

"... as well as provide an opportunity for like-minded women to meet and connect. Women will learn how to claim and own their power and will share successes and support each other," said the event description.

The session shall last 90 minutes, during which the "oppressive standards, spiritual

was flooded with disapproving comments.

MDPAN wrote: "This is a hate group. It's archaic and oppressive so we will show them that love is love. The protest is to be peaceful, inspiring and encouraging to the children forced to have these workshops. Protestors are encouraged to share their stories to the crowd."

Metro City Church's head pastor Jeremy Schossau has been contacted by BTL for comment. He did tell Fox 2 Detroit that "There's a lot of brokenness that leads to these major sexual decisions in life and we want to engage those. We do believe God has a direction for man, that he created men and women to love the opposite sex and to marry, and stay in a monogamous, lasting relationship. I understand the world has all kinds of other views, but that's what we believe. We are sexually traditionally-minded Christians."

The organizers ask that protesters park on side streets and be respectful in their actions. Protesters are encouraged to carry posters advertising "state resources, pride, and/or empowerment messages."

The Metro City Church Riverview Campus is located at 17760 Fort Street in Riverview. Visit the group's Facebook event page for more information at gaybe.am/qH.

partnering with Samaritas, Michigan's largest non-profit organization dedicated to serving children and families.

Interested families and people are invited to the free event, which has a suggested \$5 donation. The event will be on Feb. 28, from 6 to 8 p.m. and will be held at Affirmations LGBTQ Community Center at 290 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale.

More information can be found online at gaybe.am/fo.

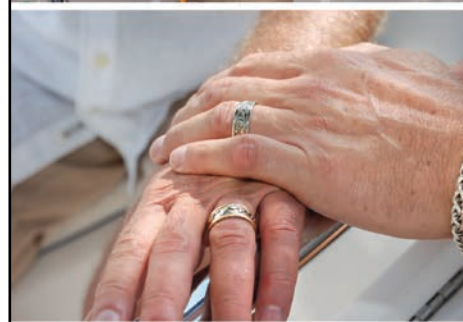
norms and competitive dynamics will be questions and positive, powerful beliefs will be presented." The group's aim is for women to connect with each other and therefore become stronger friends, partners, mothers, daughters, employees and community members.

The group is a multi-month commitment.

The next Women's Empowerment Circle will be held on Monday, Feb. 12 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The SheHive is located at 2505 Hilton Road, Suite #107, Ferndale. More information about the event can be found by going to theshehive.com, or by visiting gaybe.am/fU.

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- ◆ Same Sex Ceremonies
- ◆ Destination Weddings

- ◆ Non-Denominational Wedding Ceremonies
- ◆ Themed Wedding Ceremonies

- ◆ Wedding Ceremonies Tailored to Each Couple
- ◆ Rehearsal Coordination

American Mattirage Ministries

markpephraim@gmail.com

248.880.7308



Pride Night at Little Caesars Arena

Friday March 9, 7 p.m., Bulls v Pistons



The Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce has partnered with the Detroit Pistons to bring you Pistons Pride Night at Little Caesars Arena with support from PNC Bank. Grab your friends and family to see the Pistons take on the Chicago Bulls for an exciting night of Detroit Basketball. Join us in the PRIVATE GONDOLA AREA WHERE ATTENDEES WILL HAVE EXCLUSIVE ACCESS.

Exclusive Ticket Pricing:
West Gondola - \$80 *Includes a \$30 Concession Stand Credit
www.pistons.com/PrideNight

Gondola Seating Exclusive to Pride Night Purchasers. Availability is Limited!
Little Caesars Arena
2645 Woodward Ave Detroit, Michigan 48201
For Questions, please contact Kevin Heard 313-673-3001, info@detroitlgbtchamber.com

What is TRUVADA for PrEP?

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

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA for PrEP?

Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

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

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- ◆ **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- ◆ **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP:**
 - ◆ Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months.
 - ◆ If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- ◆ **To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:**
 - ◆ Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
 - ◆ Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
 - ◆ Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
 - ◆ Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- ◆ **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

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

Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

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

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

Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- ◆ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA.
- ◆ **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- ◆ **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- ◆ **Bone problems,** including bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

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

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

- ◆ **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- ◆ **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA.
- ◆ **If you are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed.** Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- ◆ **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- ◆ **If you take certain other medicines** with TRUVADA, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include certain medicines to treat hepatitis C (HCV) infection.

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

Please see Important Facts about TRUVADA for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.

I'm courageous, not careless.

I know who I am. And I make choices that fit my life.


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

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

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

GILEAD

Learn more at truvada.com

 **Truvada**[®]
emtricitabine 200 mg / tenofovir
disoproxil fumarate 300 mg tablets
for **PrEP** pre-exposure prophylaxis



(tru-VAH-dah)

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP:

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

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.** Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you think you were exposed to HIV-1 or have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- See the "How To Further Reduce Your Risk" section for more information.

TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

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

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

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

- To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.**
- Take certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

- **Take 1 tablet once a day, every day,** not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- Use TRUVADA for PrEP together with condoms and safer sex practices.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months. You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

IMPORTANT FACTS

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

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the "Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP" section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- Bone problems.

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

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

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

BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can pass to the baby in breast milk.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

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

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

GET MORE INFORMATION

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



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Jim Obergefell, center, speaks to members of the media as he joins the Human Rights Campaign to deliver what they say are 207,551 copies of the "People's Brief" that calls for full nationwide marriage equality, to the U.S. Supreme Court on Friday, March 6, 2015 in Washington. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

SAGE Board of Directors Welcomes Jim Obergefell

BY BTL STAFF

NEW YORK – SAGE, the nation's largest and oldest organization dedicated to improving the lives of LGBT elders, announced Jan. 5 that Jim Obergefell is joining its Board of Directors. Obergefell is the named plaintiff in the landmark Supreme Court case *Obergefell v. Hodges* that brought marriage equality to the U.S. in 2015.

"We are deeply honored to add Jim's expertise and energy to our board," said Michael Adams, SAGE's CEO. "Having accompanied Jim and our beloved friend Edie Windsor on a groundbreaking journey toward marriage equality, we continue to be awed by Jim's unwavering commitment and outspoken voice in support of the entire LGBT community."

Elizabeth F. Schwartz, SAGE board co-chair, added to Adams' statement.

"The LGBT movement has achieved great change by telling our stories. Jim Obergefell shared the painful passing of his husband, and his fight to be recognized as a spouse brought us marriage equality. Jim's decision to bring his big heart and sharp mind to SAGE's board speaks volumes about his continuing work toward equality for our most vulnerable community."

Obergefell said that he is thrilled to accept the position.

"I'm excited to serve on the board of an organization that does so much to help those who paved the way for younger LGBTQ generations. Our elders' courage and sacrifices helped create a more supportive and welcoming world for us, and SAGE fights to ensure that they are able to enjoy the same. It's an honor to work with SAGE on their behalf."

Obergefell and husband John Arthur launched their marriage equality legal battle

with the state of Ohio in 2013, demanding recognition of their lawful marriage – they had wed in Maryland – on Arthur's impending death certificate. Arthur died of ALS three months after their first court hearing, and Obergefell continued their fight all the way to the Supreme Court.

After careers in teaching, training, IT consulting and real estate, Obergefell is now a fulltime LGBT activist, speaker and author, as well as an entrepreneur. He is the co-founder of Equality Vines, the first cause-based wine label, which supports organizations devoted to civil rights and equality.

He also co-wrote the book "Love Wins" with Debbie Cenziper, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist with the Washington Post. The book, published by William Morrow/Harper Collins, shares the stories of the lovers and lawyers who participated in the historic Supreme Court case. Temple Hill Productions/Fox 2000 Pictures bought the movie rights for the book and will produce a feature film based on it.

In addition to his SAGE Board of Directors role, Obergefell is a member of the National Advisory Board for the GLBT Historical Society and the Board of Advisors for the Mattachine Society of Washington, D.C.

Since the Supreme Court ruling, Obergefell, who resides in Washington, D.C., has been honored with awards from organizations such as Equality Florida, Equality North Carolina, the ACLU of Southern California and more. Foreign Policy magazine named Obergefell one of its 2015 Global Thinkers, and Out magazine named him to its 2015 Out 100 list.

SAGE was founded in 1978. SAGE Metro is a local division of the organization, and can be found at 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. The can be reached online at sagemetrodetroit.org, or by phone at 734-681-0854.



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| <p>Julien Labro THU., FEB. 15 AT 7 P.M.</p> | <p>Les Nubians + DJ Cambeaux SAT., FEB. 24 AT 9:30 P.M.</p> |
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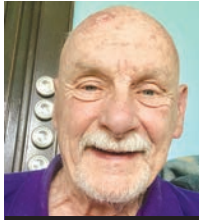
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When Life Went Gay On Us

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

For over 50 years, Life magazine informed Americans about current events both in the U.S. and abroad. Photos and content were dramatic – mostly conservative, occasionally controversial and, sometimes, downright shocking.

Life folded in 1973. Circulation was clocked at 13 million. Readership, 10 times that amount. Its sister publication, Time, marches on to this day.

Five years before the Stonewall Riots of 1969, Life tackled a scary taboo: “Homosexualities in America.” An expose focusing on the gay underworld. New York! Chicago! San Francisco! America’s collective Sodom and Gomorrah.

(Detroit’s gay scene in the ‘60s included – in walking distance of City Hall and the 1st Precinct Police Headquarters – The 1011, La Rosa’s, Silver Dollar, Foster’s and Palais Bar – a lesbian hangout.)

Naive Middle Americans woke up to the realization that homos were growing in number, becoming alarmingly visible and a social threat to be somehow remedied.

Naive Middle Americans woke up to the realization that homos were growing in number, becoming alarmingly visible and a social threat to be somehow remedied.

In 1964, San Francisco was not the dynamic gay center of Castro/Market Street, clone-look militancy. It hadn’t the high-density population complex of the 1970s and pre-AIDS 1980s; but Life’s wide-audience article – unintentionally, to be sure – served as a catalyst for early gay migration there. (And rent was cheaper then.)

Life opened its scare head on: “Homosexuality shears across the spectrum of American life: the professional, the arts, business and labor. It always has. But today, especially in big cities, homosexuals are discarding their furtive ways and openly admitting, even flaunting, their deviation.

“Homosexuals have their own drinking places, their special assignation streets, even their own organizations. And for every obvious homosexual, there are probably nine nearly impossible to detect.

“This social disorder, which society tries to suppress, has forced itself into the public eye because it does present a problem – and parents especially are concerned.

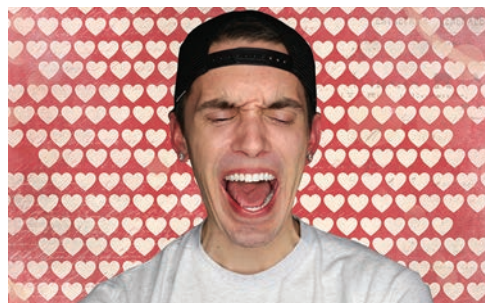
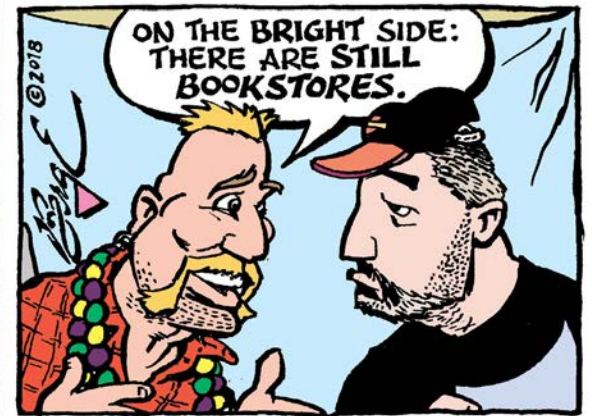
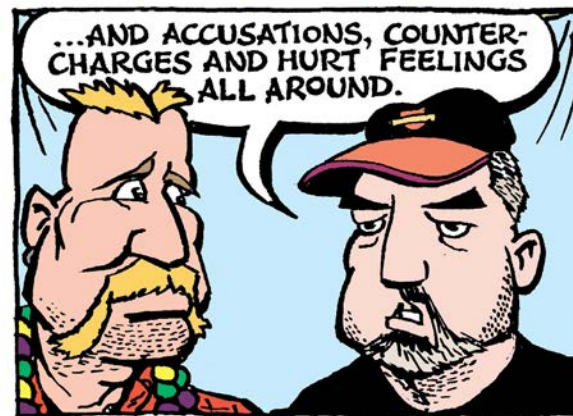
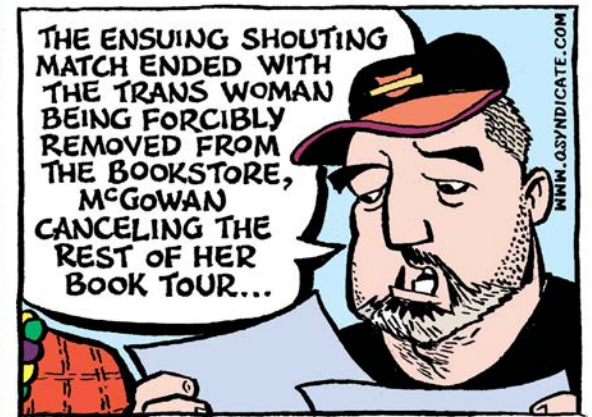
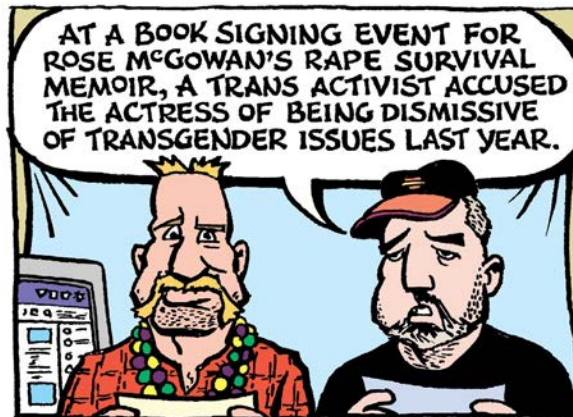
“The myth and misconception with which homosexuality has so long been clothed must be cleared away, not to condone it but to cope with it.”

Accompanying the 14-page belly shock are a dozen photos. Nameless gay men clustered in dark bars or milling about on dimly lighted streets.

“These brawny young men in their leather caps, shirts, jackets and pants are practicing homosexuals, men who turn to other men for affection and sexual satisfaction,” it read. “They are part of what they call the ‘gay world,’ which is actually a sad and often sordid world.”

Gay bars are exposed: “As each new customer walks into the dimly lit room, he will lock eyes with a half dozen young men before reaching his place at the bar. Throughout the evening there is a constant turnover of customers as contacts are made and two

See next page



BY JOSH ROBBINS

Positive Thoughts

The Lovely ‘The #HIVVDayShitList’

LOVE.

It’s a word I’ve been tossing around my entire life. I’ve said it to my parents, mostly to my mom. I’ve used it to describe my feeling towards a music artist. I say it to friends and I use it at times sarcastically to show dissatisfaction with something someone says: I love when you are so passive aggressive.

It’s what I feel I’m trying to find on dating apps, although it never happens. It’s a verb and a noun. It’s an action, a state of being, and a commandment. I listen to sermons about love at church; I see it unfold on reality television; and leading up to Valentine’s Day, I watch a stream of commercials that pitch their product as the perfect mechanism to show a love interest the value and depth of it. This is perfect. I love you.

Well, shit.

I either missed the rally for hearts and red roses, music crescendos and watching Titanic reruns or I am just not feeling the love these days. And no, I do not want your little V-day cards. They are pointless. I mean really.

Here’s a jaded, but incredibly honest fact: Not everybody feels tingly and warm on Valentine’s Day. And I don’t really care about all the successful relationships out there. Sometimes, we all just need to vent a bit about where we are in life, what we are going through, and star

in our own melodrama.

I am living with HIV. It’s not the same tough road that those before me experienced but it’s not stigma free yet either. And I’m jaded at times about being single and living with HIV.

It literally blows, at times.

This year, instead of listing the top articles, news stories, or hearing incredibly powerful and moving love stories, let’s get our jaded, tired and single selves on and share the realities of living with HIV right now as described by a some advocates in HIV awareness.

Here’s what we do not love about living with HIV. This is the #HIVVDayShitList just in time for the big lovely couple’s day.

“The #HIVVDayShitList”

“Shitty ... dealing with pharmacies and mail order services that are inefficient and unequipped to handle multiple meds and auto-renewals. And that’s IF you have good insurance. The bureaucracy involved for those who are non- or under-insured is even worse.”

- Mark S. King

See next page

► Positive Thoughtst:

Continued from p. 8

YES, that's pretty shitty!

"Having to explain to people that it's not the '80s or '90s, it's not a death sentence and that having HIV isn't shameful or dirty."

- Charles Sanchez

I hate the word: dirty! It's just shit!

"Trying to date and always having to make sure I've packed enough pills when I travel in case there's an unexpected extended stay to where ever I'm going."

- Brady Morris

I thought I was the only person who never packed enough pills. Shit! I say!

"Hardest thing to me about the virus: survivor's guilt. Living in a modernized time from the start of the epidemic and people are still dying because of stigma. They could still be here and it's hard to miss them, do the work, and honor them without being angry."

- Kamaria Laffrey

Guilt is completely the worst! Totally agree here.

"The frequency with which I get HPV and how painful it is to get rid of."

- Sean McKenna, long-term survivor

I hear that shit burns. Ouch!

"It used to be not being able to have sex with hot HIV-negative guys but thankfully, undetectable and PrEP has changed that."

- Alex Garner

► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 8

men slip out together, or individuals move on to other bars in search of better luck.

"As closing time – 2 a.m. – approaches, the atmosphere grows perceptibly more tense. It is the 'frantic hour,' the now-or-never time for making a contact." (Sound familiar?)

Here's the early version of the gay agenda: "As part of its anti-homosexual drive the Los Angeles police force has compiled an 'educational' pamphlet for law enforcement officers entitled, 'Some Characteristics of the Homosexual.'"

The strongly opinionated pamphlet includes the warning that what the homosexuals really want is a 'fruit world.'" (Not a cocktail.)

Gays in the military, 1964: "If we didn't throw them out, we'd be condoning

Well, look at Alex sharing this shit! It was supposed to be a list of downers – here he IS bragging!

So what's mine?

It's always been the worst part of living with HIV to me – diarrhea! As a gay man, that shit (no pun intended) used to stop me from having sex. And I'm not alone in this. Others living with HIV share this with me. I know, because I talk a lot about diarrhea.

According to a recent survey of people living with HIV, 27 percent currently have diarrhea, while 56 percent have had diarrhea in the past and 61 percent of those with diarrhea reported having it for more than five years. And, 30 percent of those currently experiencing diarrhea said they never discussed diarrhea with their doctor and/or reported feeling that the doctor dismissed or "blew off" their issue with diarrhea.

But, luckily for me, I decided to talk to my medical team (yes, my team – from the receptionist to the physician and the lab techs ... even the valet at the doctor's office, are all a part of my medical team) about the only FDA approved treatment available for people living with HIV that experience diarrhea – Mytesi.

And I LOVE being able to honestly say: it worked for me, just like the data in the trials proved.

So, what about you? What would make your lovely "Shit List" this Valentine's Day?

Josh Robbins is a GLAAD Award-nominated blogger for imstilljosh.com and an HIV positive patient advocate. He is a paid consultant for Napo Pharmaceuticals, Inc., makers of Mytesi. He lives in Nashville and is single and ready to mingle. Follow him @imstilljosh

homosexuality. The services' position has to be that homosexual practices prejudice morale and discipline."

Life warns, "For the first time the Supreme Court has agreed to hear the homosexual case, but no legal procedures are likely to change society's basic repugnance to homosexuality as an immoral and disruptive force that should somehow be removed."

Somehow removed? (Was AIDS one possibly?) GOP political quarantine? (Another, in process?) LGBTQ afterthoughts, anyone? Please share on Facebook, or Grindr.

Charles Alexander is prolific both as a BTL columnist (700-plus columns) and as a well-known LGBT community artist (1000 Face Book images). He is a Spirit of Detroit Award recipient and an Affirmations LGBT CENTER Jan Stevenson awardee. Connect with him at Charles@pridesource.com.

Creep of the Week

Doug Mainwaring

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

GLAAD's 2018 Accelerating Acceptance report is out and the results are a bit disappointing. For four years, GLAAD has commissioned a survey of American acceptance and attitudes toward LGBTQ Americans, seeing annual gains. For the first time, support is shrinking.



DOUG MAINWARING

It's not all doom and gloom, mind you. The report concludes with assurances that "supporting equal rights for LGBTQ people remains stable and strong with non-LGBTQ adults" putting that support at 79 percent, which is way higher than Trump's approval rating.

With Trump as president anti-LGBTQ sentiment has risen. He's stoked it personally, after all, and Mike Pence is one of the biggest homophobes to ever hold office. The anti-LGBTQ Trump administration officials and judges he's nominated are too numerous to name. Right-wing bigots are fawning over the fact that the president is normalizing their demonization of LGBTQ people. Transgender people have been trashed especially viciously.

So, I'm not shocked that overall support has fallen. We've got the most powerful people in the country supporting anti-LGBTQ policies and people. That's gonna have an impact on acceptance.

But to hear Doug Mainwaring of LifeSiteNews tell it, the GLAAD report proves that people are finally feeling free to say Merry Christmas God hates fags again after eight years of Obama's political correctness goons forcing America to pledge allegiance to the gays.

"The normalization of homosexuality, same-sex marriages and now transgenderism always relied on the power of political correctness to manufacture consent at unreal, unsustainable levels," wrote Mainwaring in a Feb. 5 blog post. "It is a mirage ... created not by the hearty endorsement of this country's majority, but by its silence. In the age of Obama, political correctness beared its sharp teeth, silencing all who held opinions in opposition to any and every part of LGBT ideology."

Ah, yes. The complete and total silence of LGBTQ foes that fell upon the land

"And what will happen when Main Street folks realize that gays, always portrayed as exceedingly fun, funny, and cool on TV and in movies, are really mean bullies out to destroy your life and livelihood if you refuse to bake them a cake?"

when Obama was sworn in. That must be why I, a writer of a weekly column about LGBTQ foes, was only able to publish 417 or so columns between Jan. 20, 2009 and Jan. 20, 2017. Must have been nothing whatsoever to write about.

"Now in the age of Trump, when political correctness is losing its stranglehold on America, people are beginning to again feel free to assert their strongly-held personal beliefs," Mainwaring wrote.

And that's true. Shitty people feel much freer to be openly shitty now that we've elevated a person who represents the worst of America to the highest office in the land.

Mainwaring is especially concerned that the average person tends to over estimate the number of gays and lesbians in the U.S., attributing the misperception to some kind of liberal brainwashing.

"What will Main Street America do when it finally sinks in that it has been propagandized, and that instead of one out of four of their neighbors being gay, less than two out of 100 are?" he asked.

Uh, still treat them like human beings? Because last time I checked, civil rights wasn't a numbers game. It's as if Mainwaring thinks that the 79 percent of Americans who approve of equality only did so because they were afraid some huge gay army was going to come for them otherwise.

"And what will happen when Main Street folks realize that gays, always portrayed as exceedingly fun, funny, and cool on TV and in movies," he continued, "are really mean bullies out to destroy your life and livelihood if you refuse to bake them a cake?"

Well, they'll lash out at Ellen DeGeneres, I guess, and demand she do her funny little dance while the flames of Hell lick her Hush Puppies heels.

And, I'd bet her ratings would still be higher than Trump's.



A Pentecostal minister who is a vocal opponent of marriage rights for same-sex couples has won the first round of Costa Rica's presidential election. (Washington Blade photo by Michael K. Lavers)

Marriage Opponent Wins First Round of Costa Rica Presidential Election

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS

A vocal opponent of marriage rights for same-sex couples has won the first round of Costa Rica's presidential election.

The New York Times reported Fabricio Alvarado of the National Restoration Party received nearly 25 percent of the vote on Sunday. Alvarado, a Pentecostal minister and singer who is a former journalist, will face off against Carlos Alvarado of the leftist Citizen's Action Party in the second round that will take place on April 1.

Fabricio Alvarado and Carlos Alvarado will face off against each other because neither of them received at least 40 percent of the vote on Sunday.

Sunday's election took place less than a month after the Inter-American Court of Human Rights issued a landmark ruling that recognized same-sex marriage and transgender rights.

Costa Rican Vice President Ana Helena Chacón on Jan. 9 announced her country's government will comply with the ruling. The New York Times reported Fabricio Alvarado defeated 12 other candidates in the first round because he made his opposition to the decision a centerpiece of his campaign.

Margarita Salas, a Costa Rican LGBT rights advocate who is a candidate for the country's National Assembly, on Monday described the election results as "a very difficult scenario."

"The country's anti-rights forces came together," she told the Washington Blade. "These results are undoubtedly a blow to the advance of human rights."

Costa Rica is a predominantly Roman Catholic country that borders Nicaragua and Panama, but more of its residents have become evangelical Christians in recent years. Chacón acknowledged to the Washington Blade last November during an interview in the Costa Rican capital of San José that anti-LGBT attitudes remain a "big challenge" in the country, in spite of her government's efforts to combat them.



A report from HRC has found fewer than half of LGBT people say they have access to FMLA benefits. Photo courtesy of Washington Blade by Michael Key.

Report: Not Even Half of LGBT People Say Workplace Offers FMLA

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

Fewer than 50 percent of LGBT people say they have access in their workplace to benefits under the Family & Medical Leave Act, according to a new report by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation.

The findings came about as the result of the organization's 2018 U.S. LGBTQ Paid Leave Survey. The survey, completed by more than 5,400 LGBTQ people from across the nation, found only 45 percent of respondents say their employer extends leave policies – paid or unpaid – that include LGBT people.

Mary Beth Maxwell, the Human Rights Campaign's senior vice president for programs, research and training, said the report should serve as a wakeup call.

"No one should have to choose between who they are, the people they love and the job they need," Maxwell said. "As the only developed nation in the world without some form of guaranteed paid leave policy, American workers, including LGBTQ employees, are too often forced to either forgo their income or leave their job entirely to treat an illness, care for a loved one, or grow their family."

The report comes on the 25th anniversary of the Family & Medical Leave Act, a federal law signed by President Bill Clinton affording employees up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave per year for family and medical reasons.

The Labor Department first established

married same-sex couples have access to benefits under the Family & Medical Leave Act after the U.S. Supreme Court in 2013 struck down the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act, which barred federal recognition of same-sex marriage. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton sought to block those benefits to gay couples in states without marriage equality and succeeded in trial court, but that ruling was overturned by the 2015 Supreme Court decision for marriage equality nationwide.

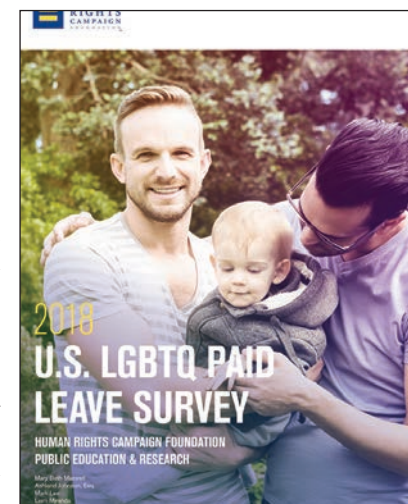
Among the key findings the Human Rights Campaign pulled from its survey:

Fewer than half of respondents report that their employer's policies cover new parents of all genders equally;

Only 49 percent say that employer policies are equally inclusive of the many ways families can welcome a child, including childbirth, adoption, or foster care;

One in five respondents report that they would be afraid to request time off to care for a loved one because it might disclose their LGBTQ identity, illustrating the need for explicit federal LGBTQ-inclusive non-discrimination protections;

And 48 percent of respondents, reflecting the prevalence of family rejection within the LGBTQ community, indicated that they feel an increased responsibility to care for loved ones whose own families have rejected them



because of their LGBTQ identities – a critical caretaking role often excluded from leave policies.

President Trump has proposed instituting paid family leave by

extending unemployment insurance benefits to working parents whose employers do not offer paid maternity leave. But the plan – a pet cause of Ivanka Trump – faces an uphill battle in the Republican Congress, and critics contend unemployment checks under Trump's plan are skimpy and won't provide sufficient compensation.

Another finding in the report: 92 percent of LGBT respondents in the survey say the United States should guarantee paid leave to all Americans, and another 92 percent say access to paid leave would positively affect their lives.

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

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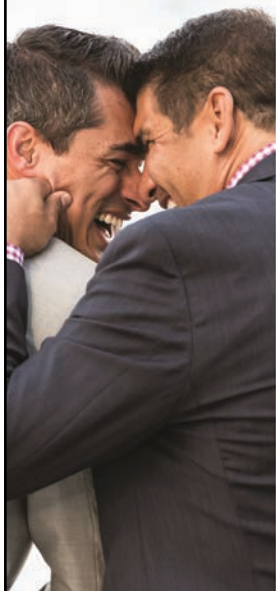
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1. DiMeo PJ. Psychosocial and Relationship Issues in Men with Erectile Dysfunction. Urologic Nursing. 2006 Dec; 26(6): 442-453. 2. Hurskkaar S, Sandvik H. One Hundred and Fifty Men with Urinary Incontinence. III. Psychosocial Consequences. Scand J Prim Health Care. 1995; 11:193-96.

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RNC Approves Resolution Backing Trump's Transgender Military Ban

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

The Republican National Committee has approved a resolution in favor of President Trump's effort to ban transgender people from the U.S. military, according to the Associated Press.

The RNC approved the resolution Friday at its annual winter meeting, which this year is taking place in West Virginia. Trump delivered remarks at the event this week before departing for Mar-a-Lago for the weekend.

According to the Associated Press, the RNC voted to support Trump's directive instructing the military to consider being transgender "a disqualifying psychological and physical" condition.

The resolution reportedly says the RNC supports Trump's "intent and prerogative to strengthen our military with sound personnel policies," but also urges the Justice Department to seek U.S. Supreme Court action.

According to the AP, it's a common practice for the RNC to pass resolutions supporting the president's policy, especially what that policy is challenged in court. There was no public debate on the measure during the RNC's general session Friday, the AP reported.

Lucas Acosta, director of LGBTQ media for the Democratic National Committee, said approval of the resolution was par for the course for Republicans and the Trump White House.

"Over the last month alone, the Trump-Pence administration has rolled back significant protections for the LGBTQ community, ripped apart families and allowed health care workers to discriminate access to medical care," Acosta said. "Today, the RNC decided to go even further and pass a hateful resolution, which only serves to subvert and further demean hardworking men and women who want to serve their country in the most honorable way they can."

After Trump first announced via Twitter in June he would ban transgender people from the military "in any capacity," he followed that up with a directive to the Pentagon barring them from service or enlistment and denying payment for troops who need gender reassignment surgery.

But as a result of multiple court orders following litigation from LGBT

groups, Trump's transgender ban was put on hold.

Nonetheless, the Pentagon is still expected to produce a report for Trump on transgender military service. As outlined in Trump's directive, a panel will present recommendations by the end of February to Defense Secretary James Mattis, who will then advise Trump for new policy on March 23.

LGBT groups harangued the RNC for approving a resolution, calling it an attack on members of the U.S. armed forces.

Mara Keisling, executive director for the National Center for Transgender Equality, said in a statement the only disruption the military endured as a result of transgender people was Trump's attempt to remove them.

"The fact is that we've shown, both through studies and experience, that open service by transgender troops is good for the military," Keisling said. "We look forward to the courts settling this once and for all so that transgender troops can focus on protecting our country without having to worry about their job security every day."

Sarah Kate Ellis, CEO of GLAAD, said in a statement the RNC's approval of the resolution demonstrates the impact of Trump's anti-LGBT policy.

"President Trump's bigoted proposal to purge qualified military personnel is in direct contradiction to the will of the American people and what's best for our nation's security," Ellis said. "The fact that the RNC is siding with blatant discrimination over supporting the rights of brave Americans to serve our nation displays how toxic and deeply rooted the Trump Administration's anti-LGBTQ ideology has become."

Ashley Braodway-Mack, president of the American Military Partner Association, gave no quarter in her assessment of the RNC resolution.

"Shame on the Republican National Committee for slandering the brave transgender men and women who serve our nation," Braodway-Mack said. "Not only did the RNC just degrade active duty service members, but they also maligned countless military families across the country with family members who also happen to be transgender. This is a disgusting, vile attempt to play politics with the lives of our military families."

Sen. Gillibrand: Defeat Trump in 2020 to Pass Equality Act

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) called Saturday night for the defeat of President Trump in Election 2020 and a change of Congress to enact long-sought after federal non-discrimination protections for LGBT people.

Gillibrand, a possible Democratic contender in 2020, made the remarks Saturday at the 2018 HRC Greater New York Gala, encouraging attendees to join efforts to make change in the mid-term election and the presidential election in 2020.

"We know this president will never sign the Equality Act to ensure the civil rights of LGBTQ Americans," Gillibrand said. "He has neither the decency, nor the empathy to do so. But even with him in the Oval Office, we can make progress, because with a Democratic in the House and the Senate, we can the momentum that we need for a new president to sign that bipartisan bill in 2020."

The Equality Act, legislation introduced by Rep. David Cicilline (D-R.I.) and Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.), would amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to prohibit anti-LGBT discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, education, credit, jury service and federal funding.

In a 2000 interview with *The Advocate*, Trump said he supports amending the Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation, but he has never addressed the issue during his 2016 campaign or as president, nor has he ever said whether he backs the addition of transgender protections in federal law. The erosion of LGBT rights during the first year of his administration suggest Trump no longer holds the position he expressed in 2000.

Gillibrand also talked about her efforts in the 2010 repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," calling it "a landmark moment for LGBT rights in this nation" and "one of the proudest moments of my career."

"That experience was a turning point, too, because it taught me a fundamental lesson that I will never forget," Gillibrand told attendees. "Washington only acts when courageous people, people like all of you in this room stand up and demand it."

Gillibrand attributed the success of the LGBT movement not to politicians, but activists on the ground, at one point referencing in particular the president of the Human Rights Campaign.

"Even if I am the one on the stage tonight, I want to remind all of you that the fight we have on our hands is only won because of the Chad Griffins and the Scott Campbells of this world and all of the people who here tonight who are determined to their faces heard," Gillibrand said.

As Trump's policies continue to have impact on minority groups across the board, Gillibrand's



Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) (Image courtesy of YouTube)

speech wasn't just limited to LGBT rights

With pending a March 8 deadline to come to a solution before DREAMers may be deported from the United States, Gillibrand pointed out estimated 75,000 are LGBT and said "they face being sent back to countries with no protections for them, and President Trump and congressional Republicans are not doing nearly enough to stop it."

At one point, Gillibrand became audibly emotional when she recalled the story of a transgender kid who goes to the same school as her son and found the support of his classmates.

"I watched a young men build his courage over many years – first with blue hair, then a short hair cut and, finally, a new name – to stand before his school at graduation and to find his present and his future on his own terms," Gillibrand said. "I couldn't have been prouder even if he was my own son."

But Gillibrand's tone quickly changed when she juxtaposed that story with the Trump's attempt to ban transgender people from the U.S. military.

"When President Trump looks at our transgender troops as valueless and when his party tries to demonize this boy and every other like him, this arrogance and bigotry will provoke a fury in me that will not subside," Gillibrand said.

Referencing legislation she introduced with Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) against Trump's ban, Gillibrand said not until the bill is passed "will we stop fighting to protect these transgender troops."

"So we have come far, but everyone in this room knows we are at the start of a journey towards making America a fair and more equal place for LGBTQ Americans, and it will not be easy, so brace yourselves for the battle ahead," Gillibrand said.

Also speaking at the 2018 HRC Greater New York Gala were New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.).

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

Speaking with Candidate Robert Van Kirk

BY JONATHAN W. THURSTON

“A better Michigan starts with you.” That’s the campaign slogan for Robert Van Kirk, who is running for 77th State House District currently held by Republican Rep. Tommy Brann. A major part of his platform is standing up to oppression in any form and balance the scales. Much of his recent years have even included anti-bullying workshops and talks about what the residents can do to stop bullying in their areas.

However, much of this mentality and drive to protect “the little guy” started when Van Kirk was in high school. “I was very active when I was very young,” Van Kirk said, “both in politics and in helping my community.”

That’s when he focused on LGBT activism, founding a prom in Michigan for high school students regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity. It was held

at the Grand Ledge Opera House, and he managed to raise over \$10,000 dollars for it, joining together several LGBT alliances over the project.

“What was rewarding for me was seeing people who normally couldn’t go to the prom have this experience with their significant other or as their gender identity. People were coming up from Indiana even to attend this prom,” he said. “This was really moving.”

At Michigan State University, Van Kirk participated heavily in student government. One major issue he combatted was when the university tried to distribute funding for events off campus, even at the risk of many diversity organizations. Still, he worked to found an LGBT ministry on campus, now an acumenical Christian ministry.

“In grad school,” Van Kirk said, “I became part of the Council of Grad Students. The university was stressing we’d have to raise the cost of the health care, and we had some issues with that, so we had to fight it. The exec board all wanted jobs in college administration, so they were very compliant with the university’s demands. So in the next election, we voted them all out so we had people representing students. This was the first student government that entirely went against the demands of the college,” Van Kirk said. “The university was taking advantage of grad students continuously. There were points where it was so blatant and flagrant. They eventually sent a representative to explain why they were taking down graduate housing on campus, sharing how wonderful the new places would be, how the grounds will be



Robert Van Kirk

gorgeous, and they said, ‘The cost will be whatever the market will bear.’”

However, Van Kirk also wants to fight that kind of systematic bullying at the state level, working on budget adjustment and fixing college affordability.

“The state has shirked its responsibility to provide affordable education,” Van Kirk said. “The arc of my story is I get really pissed when someone big and powerful picks on and screws with someone less powerful. I’ve seen it in my working career as a manager in retail, and I’ve seen it in my education, my grad work, my undergrad, and my high school.”

Regarding more national affairs, Van Kirk is hopeful for the future of LGBT representation. “We saw the first trans person elected to the state legislature in the history of the U.S. It’s a big policy change. She beat a conservative incumbent. Not only was the first trans person elected, but they beat a Republican incumbent who fought against her right to survive.”

But Van Kirk believes that victory was due to dealing with “bread-and-butter issues,” like traffic concerns and infrastructure.

“By focusing on the issues people need to survive, sometimes you end up winning,” Van Kirk said.

Regarding ways to help, Van Kirk promotes awareness. Being vocal about issues you care about can even shape the actions of larger institutions.

“A big thing is I’m not getting - and candidates like me are not getting - a lot of money from the traditional institutions of the Democratic party. The party is providing their thoughts and prayers. That’s all they’re offering. The state house PACs aren’t going to give any money. They’re going to focus on areas that are more democratic. A big part of our campaign is small-dollar fundraiser,” Van Kirk said. “Give to candidates like that, grassroots people running for office because the wheels of the political system are not turning for us.”

And building off that, Van Kirk encourages people to vote for the everyday citizen if they’re tired of politics.

“Another thing they can do is host house parties. Another thing is helping us to doorknock and actually campaign events,” Van Kirk said. “You can attend phone banking events. It is your government.”

To support Van Kirk’s campaign, visit crowdpac.com/campaigns/297252/robert-van-kirk. Follow him on Facebook at facebook.com/robert.van.kirk.gov/.

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Rachael Feher

Do you have any advice for someone approaching a polyamorous relationship for the first time?

Communication, patience and more communication. I would tell them to make sure that their foundation is secure before venturing out to add more partners. I would tell them to think of their wants and needs and expectations (and have their partner do it too) and then come together to talk about all of that. Something as simple as a difference in definition, can cause a lot of turmoil and misunderstandings. I would tell someone to be honest with themselves. To be selfish and think of themselves. Going along with their partners wants of an open relationship will do no one any favors.

How do you make time for more than one relationship?

An honest evaluation of your time and resources. I am happy and content with where I'm at in terms of relationships, but that doesn't mean that I don't have time I could be giving to someone else. I am very choosy about who I give that time to. Communication does wonders. As does compromising. A person would need to compromise with their current partner(s) along with any new or future ones to make sure that everyone feels like their needs are met and that no one feels that something is missing or lacking.



Phil Chase

What is your motivation for wanting a polyamorous relationship?

I think my motivation is roughly the same as it would be if I were monogamous, but polyamory allows me a special degree in which to exercise that motivation. I have always called myself an "explorer"—there is something about the human condition, the way that

we look to each other and within ourselves to answer questions, that pulls at me. Exploring relationships with others within the context of ethical and consensual non-monogamy provides opportunities to treasure that connection with other people, and therefore build meaning into life.

What is the future of polyamory?

To me, polyamory is already something that is widely practiced; it just may not be in the mainstream of society just yet. I believe it has already been downgraded from "scandalous" to something seen as innocuous. Most reactions I have gotten have not been negative; they have been "hey, great for you if that's what you want to do, but it's not for me." Judging from this, and other stories I see in the media or in my daily life, I would estimate that we are 20-30 years from some kind of governmental or official recognition of polyamory as a legal entity. That might seem like a long time, but I think this reflects a natural pace of society and the natural tension we have from opposing perspectives, out of which true change can take place.

See Be Mine: Interviews, page 18



Nicole MacRae, Doug MacRae, Dana Chase, Phil Chase and Rachael Feher. BTL Photos: Andrew Cohen.

Be Mine ... You, Too

BY DANA CHASE

The other morning I was standing in the checkout lane behind a man who was buying two Valentine's Day cards, each curiously turned faced down. The checkout clerk proclaimed "What a gentleman!" Jokingly, I added "Yeah he's double the gentleman, buying two cards for a couple of very special people." Quickly the man added "Well I have a daughter as well as a wife," not wanting to imply any further romantic connections.

After his strong assertion of monogamy, I felt moved to say "Not that there's anything wrong with having more than one partner. I'm polyamorous and have multiple Valentines." Blank stares from the clerk and the customer. And a re-assertion from the man that he's buying a card for his daughter. I sometimes enjoy flashing my polyamorous identity, even more so during a holiday steeped in monogamy.

First, let me break it down. I have been legally married to Phillip for nearly a quarter century. We live in a big, love-filled house with Phillip's girlfriend, whom I consider a kind of sister-wife. Together we are raising our two teenage sons alongside her teenage boy and 8-year-old girl. I am also partnered with

Doug, who is married to Niki. They do not live with us, but Doug resides here scheduled nights of the week and his twins often join us at family gatherings. We consider ourselves chosen family.

People tend to view that which is foreign to them through an oversexualized lens, thereby turning the exotic into the erotic. It happens to marginalized groups who identify as LGBTQ, and it happens to polyamorists as well. Our polycule (that's how we refer to our family grouping) had intercourse until late last night. Oh you think it was a wild orgy? Think again. We don't all smooch in a love pile over here. We were doing what polys do best: talking. One could argue that polyamorists have honed expert skills in intercourse, both verbal and physical. Keeping desire aflame, celebrating your body and those of your partners in all stages of life, communicating about what really matters — it's intense.

The Polycule

Polyamory is about sex, and it's not. There are times when I hate having to painstakingly explain the sexual dynamic of our polycule, especially to those who have no idea whatsoever how to even begin to process what I take as

a normal part of my sexual expression. Polyamorous people don't have sex with everything that moves. We are, generally speaking, some of the most sexually responsible beings on this planet. I'm not a sex-crazed maniac, nor do my multiple connections mean I'm not "getting enough" from my husband. Being different doesn't make me an oddity.

My polyamorous life frequently blurs lines, just as it does for those in the alphabet soup of LGBTQ. How often have you questioned what to say on medical forms or other documents? Do the boxes that mark you as male or female seem limiting? How about the part that requires you to answer as single, married, divorced or widowed? Most of the time I can't for the life of me understand why my doctor or other professionals need to know my marital status, and I find myself frantically scribbling notes in the margins about my other significant connections.

What kinds of conversational topics seem "safe" when you meet someone for the first time? Polyamorists have many of the same issues with labels as those who wave the rainbow flag. Small talk inevitably turns toward the family dynamic, and who is connected to whom. This is when I start to get a little wiggly

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► Be Mine

Continued from p. 16

in my seat. If I use the word "husband" too many times, the title starts to taste funny in my mouth. It's not that I am not proud of my legally married spouse - I most certainly am. It's that I'm part of a larger system that holds just as much importance for me. When talking to strangers, if I use other words like "partner," "wife," "boyfriend," or "girlfriend," I feel like I suddenly have to explain whole chunks of my world that I don't always feel up to exposing.

Ethical Non-Monogamy

Polyamory has been described as consensual, ethical, responsible non-monogamy. Lying, cheating and hypocrisy most certainly don't fit in to the schema. If polyamory were more accepted in mainstream culture, if it could hold couples together better by allowing each individual freedom to explore, would family structures improve? How many marriages have ended because a spouse cheated? If, instead, open, honest communication lead to deeper bonds, could children see that loving someone else doesn't blow the world apart? That's how things have worked for us.

Tell me something: if a young girl knows the difference between polyamory and cheating, why can't society see it, too? Rachael's daughter tells all her friends about her polyamorous family. When one of them exclaimed "That's cheating!" she replied "No it isn't. My mom and Phil's wife are friends on Facebook." Which, of course, makes it all legit.

Studies are being done to identify a gene that predisposes one to desire more than one sexual partner. Unfortunately, it's been referred to as the cheaters' gene. One needs to only look to the animal kingdom to find that few species are completely monogamous. Hopefully, as more people practice polyamory openly rather than having multiple partners behind their primary's back, more interest in further research will be generated and the gene will be named something that doesn't imply dishonesty.

Is it nature or nurture that shapes us as polyamorous? We may never know for certain. Here's something I believe in



nevertheless: monogamy by choice? Hot. Forced monogamy? Not. The same could be said of polyamory. In no way am I implying everyone do or be what I believe is true for me. It's just that, in a predominately monogamous culture, I find it's a bit more difficult for me to connect to others in a way that feels natural to me. I think the LGBTQ community can identify with the struggle to define oneself inside rigid structures.

After all, who out there can put a box around love? Or wrap it up in just one Valentine card?

Dana Chase grew up in Grand Rapids and holds a Ph.D. in French and Romance Philology from Columbia University. She works part time at a local coffee shop in addition to running a very busy household. Actively putting a face to polyamory for close to a decade, Dana has appeared at conferences, spoken to college classes and church groups, served on professional boards, and even held a feature spot on the evening news. She hopes to one day publish a memoir of her colorful polyamorous journey.

► Be Mine: Interviews

Continued from p. 16

Doug MacRae

Do, or should, children know about their parents' polyamory lovestyle? Discuss why or why not.

All our children do know and in general I feel that children should know for several different reasons. By hiding the fact that you have another person in your life you are creating a sense of shame about having that person in your life. If your kids see you love your nesting partner, why is it wrong for them to see you love another partner. Love isn't wrong and I feel that hiding this says otherwise. It's also important for your partners to feel like they're not secrets or things we need to lie about. And what if the kids begin to suspect or figure out what's really going on? They might lose a lot of trust in you and question the world view you put out ... kids are smart and probably see a great deal more than you think. I know a lot of people in the community don't tell their kids. That's understandable, they worry about what kind of information about them gets out to employers teachers, etc. Also it's a difficult topic to broach with them, but I've always felt it was worth it in the long run. My children now have a new set of "poly" siblings that they can hang out with and learn from and they too know that there are other options for themselves other than what society puts forth.




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Dancing Harder

Burlesque Show Coming to Menjo's in Detroit

BY JONATHAN W. THURSTON

“Get ready to get Harder!” That’s the slogan for Chris Harder’s burlesque show “Porn to Be a Star,” directed by Obie Award-winning performer and playwright David Drake. The show, which incorporates elements of burlesque, video and footage of Harder’s own adult scenes, is coming to Detroit. Harder, a “North Dakota boy turned New Yorker,” is a performer and writer. He moved to NYC about 10 years ago to be an actor and soon after found himself on stages in a different kind of way. BTL spoke with him to see what all the rage was about.

What is your show about and what we can expect from it?

“Porn to be a Star” is loosely based off my own experiences in the adult industry. I play a variety of adult performers – including a version of myself – all competing to win the fictional Dirty Dish Porn Star of the Year Award. Along the way, the audience also meets a gossipy gay blogger, a foot obsessed director and even my own Mom – though I should say she’s much prettier in real person. The play also incorporates burlesque numbers so there’s plenty of skin to accompany the satire.

What got you started in burlesque?

My start in burlesque was pretty accidental. I started working as a go-go dancer – after accidentally losing my job as a waiter – and it was in the gay bars and clubs of New York that I also met all these amazing Burlesque and performance artists.

What’s been some of the best experiences you’ve had working in burlesque?

Some of the best experiences I’ve had as a burlesque performer have happened



Photo courtesy of David Allyon

all over the place. I’ve been able to perform of beautiful stages in Vienna, Stockholm and New Zealand, but I also love doing shows in dive bars too. And I promise I’m not kissing ass, but I love performing at the annual Detroit Dirty Show. It’s actually one of my favorite gigs because it’s such an eclectic mix of performers and audience members – and nudity.

What kinds of sexual and/or gender themes or messages do you hope come across during your shows?

I think one of the larger themes of the show revolves around the idea that everyone wants to be seen, whether it’s on the cover of Vogue or the cover of Inches Magazine. Social media has so dramatically changed not only the way our culture looks at “celebrity” but also how one achieves that celebrity status. The other central theme of “Porn to be a Star” then becomes what does it mean to

achieve that celebrity status – if it means anything at all? That all said, I wrote “Porn to be a Star” because I wanted to talk about the sex industry in a way that didn’t demonize porn and especially victimize its performers. I think there are plenty of narratives already that give audiences the impression that porn will ruin your life (Boogie Nights, etc). Culturally we’re led to believe that sex equals guilt. I wanted to enforce the idea that it’s possible to enjoy one’s sexuality – even monetize it – and still live a full life.

Do you have a kind of ... behind-the-scenes story for us? Anything that most of your fans would be surprised to hear or would laugh at hearing?

One of the funniest memories I have from doing porn was a scene I shot with Kink.com a few years ago. I played an FBI agent in pursuit of an escaped convict (Wolf Hudson) who then manages to turn the tables and capture me with my own handcuffs. You can imagine how the rest played, or, you know, Google it. The crazy part is that we filmed the entire thing on top of an old monastery that was reconverted into a hippie artist commune – did I mention this was San Francisco? Then while we were filming the scene I happened to look to my left and see a bunch of construction workers just chilling out on the roof across from us eating their lunch and watching the scene play out. It was very Village People meets porn meets religious awakening.

Find out more and #getHarder at HarderBurlesque.com and @HarderBurlesque on Instagram and Twitter. To purchase tickets for \$18, visit Menjo's on facebook.com/olympustheater.

10 Valentine's Day Events for Anyone's Schedule

COMPILED BY EVE KUCHARSKI

1 CHIPPENDALES – Interested in spicing up your evening? Join the audience for the Chippendales' 2018: About Last Night Tour. Seen by more than 2 million people annually, the exotic dance show is the perfect day to end your Valentine's Day Celebrations. The show will be at the Fillmore on Feb. 15 at 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$40. The Fillmore is located at 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. More information can be found online at chippendales.com/touring-show.

2 V-DAY EVE BASH!

– Before you indulge in a traditional Valentine's Day celebration on Feb. 14, make some new friends the night before! Held at Detroit's Baltimore Gallery at 314 E. Baltimore St., the first annual V-Day Eve Bash is all about celebrating the diversity and love that friendships can bring. The event's Facebook page urges attendees to come ready to meet new people and to "bring your boo, bring your pals, BYOB." The free event starts at 8 p.m. and lasts until midnight. More information can be found online at gaybe.am/bt.

3 PORN TO BE A STAR – A New Play by Chris Harder

– It's not often that you can get this close and personal to the adult entertainment industry, but this Valentine's Day, you have the chance! Gay porn and burlesque performer Chris Harder takes you behind the scenes with a one-man show that's loosely based on his own career in the industry. Head over to the Menjos Complex - Olympus Theater at 940 McNichols Road W. in Detroit for a play that's unafraid to bare it all. Porn to be a Star will be held on Feb. 14 and 15. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., and tickets start at \$18. Couples attending on Feb. 14 can get in for \$30 at the door.

4 VALENTINE'S LOVE JAM –

Ladies, get in the Valentine's Day mood early with the Masonic Temple's Valentine's Love Jam Ladies Night Edition on Friday, Feb. 9. The event is packed to the brim with local artists, featuring Tyrese, Joe, Ginuwine, Dave Hollister and NEXT, with tickets ranging from \$65 to \$125. Doors open at 7 p.m.,

and the show begins at 8. For more information, visit themasonic.com.

5 VALENTINE'S DAY SOUL JAM –

If music is the way that you'd prefer to spend Valentine's Day, then the Fox Theatre's Valentine's Day Soul Jam is the perfect match for you. On Feb. 14, at 8 p.m., the venue will feature Russell Thompkins Jr. & The New Stylistics, Gerald Alston, The Manhattans, The Dramatics and



Deniece Williams. The Fox Theatre Detroit is located at 2211 Woodward Ave. More information can be found online at livenation.com.

6 HEARTS FOR ART AT CRANBROOK –

Valentine's Day doesn't only have to be about romantic love, at the Cranbrook Art Museum, it's about art. Stop by between Saturday, Feb. 10 and Friday, Feb. 16 and you can pick up hearts at the front desk to make your favorite artwork your valentine. If you post a photo of your chosen art piece on Instagram with the hashtag #HeartsForArt, you'll be entered for a chance to win an exhibition catalogue. More information can be found online at cranbrookartmuseum.org.

7 VALENTINE'S BEER AND CHEESE PAIRING –

Beer and cheese are certainly a match made in heaven, and on Feb. 12 the Farmington Brewing Company, The Cheese Lady and Sunflour Bakehaus are combining their love of food for a love-filled tasting event. Treat yourself or someone

special to an evening of speciality cheeses and craft brews, and save room for a special dessert course. Mug Club members can use their email promo code for \$25 tickets, otherwise they are \$30. Events can be purchased online via Eventbrite.com. Farmington Brewing Company is located at 33336 Grand River Ave., Farmington.

8 VISIONS 'N VINO VALENTINE

- Couples Vision Board Event –

If you're ready to take the next step with your significant other, bring them to Visions 'N Vino Valentine. The Lover's Lane sponsored event is BYOB and BYO date. At the Feb. 24 event, dream coach and Training specialist Dianna Moses will guide you through the process of creating a dream vision board. There will also be a chance to win Lover's Lane door prizes. The first 20 registrants also get 20 percent off in-store. More information can be

found online at eventbrite.com, tickets start at \$25.

9 RUN 4 LOVE 5K & 10K –

Sometimes charity can be the greatest form of love. If you want to donate to a cause and stay active this February and March, complete a 5 or a 10k race that you time yourself and send in your time to moonjoggers.com. Pair that with a \$20 donation, and you'll not only be helping women in Haiti with Heart to Heart International, but you'll receive a medal set that spells out "love" when combined.

10 VALENTINE'S TEA WITH MARY TODD LINCOLN –

On Feb. 10, Mary Todd Lincoln can join you as a guest for tea at the Westland Historic Village Park. Food and tea will be provided for the event, while Mary discusses her relationship with President Abraham Lincoln. Tickets are available online at eventbrite.com and start at \$40. The event includes four different kinds of sandwiches, scones and three desserts.

 CHIPPENDALES®



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FEBRUARY 15

THE FILLMORE DETROIT

Buy tickets at Livenation.com
or the venue box office.

Sugar & Spice

A Sassy V-Day Gift Guide for LGBTQ Friends and Lovers

BY MIKEY ROX

From \$10 trinkets with zip to big-ticket items that inspire LGBTQ togetherness (and nakedness), these are the gifts to give for Love's big hurrah.

Beyoncé Pencil Set

Tell him "Boy, Hi!" with this Beyoncé-inspired five-pack pencil set (made exclusively by women – because who runs the world? Girls!), each embossed in gold with a famous Bey-ism, like "I Ain't Sorry," "What Would Beyoncé Do?" and "I Twirl On Them Haters" – because fucking right she does. \$10, shop.whohaha.com

Cafflano Klasic Coffee Maker

This all-in-one portable coffee maker – it grinds, filters, and drips into a travel mug for a hot-and-ready pick-me-up – will save enough time in the morning that you two can sneak in a rise-and-shine lay-me-down. \$95, primarygroup.net

Cluventure Surprise Vacay

Take your better half on a getaway to remember – complete with "treasure" hunt! – that begins when you receive clues in the mail that lead you to a surprise destination. Cluventure develops vacation programs based on your travel and activity preferences, but where you'll end up is a secret until departure day. LGBTQ-friendliness considered when booking. Price based on itinerary, cluventuretravel.com

Tom of Finland Wine + Cork Shadow Box

Juices will flow when you open Tom of Finland's Outstanding Red wine – a blend of Zinfandel, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Petite Syrah – featuring labels of the brand's iconic artwork. Afterward, start a collection of keepsake corks with a custom-made shadow box that promises everlasting companionship for couples that like to get hammered together. \$24, tomoffindlandwines.com; \$60, homewetbar.com

TRNTBL + Vinylgram

Dust off your sex-spiked vinyls (or spring for a new one, like Justin Timberlake's just-released *Man of the Woods* LP) for a spin on the Bluetooth-enabled, social-connected TRNTBL for a filthy date night in, or, if you prefer a

chromoly steel frame, hand-built Velocity wheels, and Schwalbe Marathon tires – will help keep those calves of steel in shape even when you two skip leg day. \$2,398, terratrike.com

Skyspace L.A., the tallest open-air observation deck west of the Mississippi. The Terrace for Two package – which takes place 1,000 feet above the City of Angels – includes a private chef-prepared dinner, three-string quartet playing "your" song, lighting display on the

relaxing music delivered right to your door. \$119-\$225, soothe.com

California Dates + Champagne-Infused Ice Pops

Ditch the heart-shaped boxes of Russell Stover and budget-busting perennials in favor of an offbeat approach to sweets and treats: Rancho Meladuco's plump, juicy California dates paired with a bouquet of FrutaPOP's boozy passion fruit champagne ice pops. A new nontraditional tradition is born (for less than the cost of those dead-in-a-day roses). \$16-\$18, ranchomeladuco.com; \$60, frutapop.com

Hair-On Cowhide Shoes

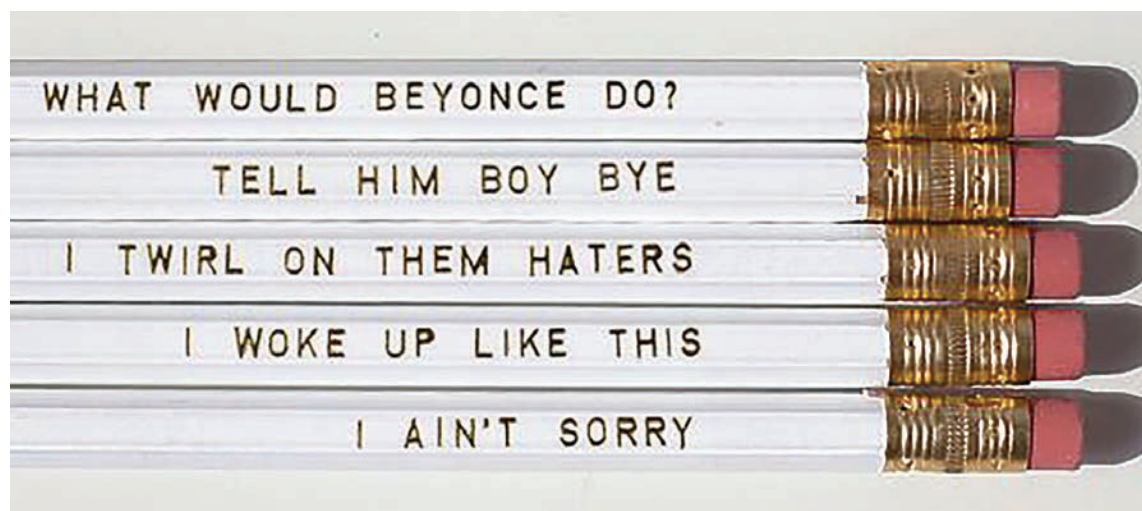
Natural hair-on cowhide with unique mottled patterns will make a statement when y'all step out for dinner and a movie, but it's also something you can feel good about: Each pair of Uwezos purchased provides a percentage of profits to Empower African Children to help students across the continent achieve higher education. \$125-\$165, uwezobrands.com

crown of the U.S. Bank tower to announce your engagement, a slide down Skyspace's famous 45-foot Skyslide, and a private helicopter tour for your flyaway finale. Who could say no to that? Email for pricing details, oue-skyspace.com

Soothe Massage Service

Strip down and let somebody else take you to heaven with their hands with an on-demand massage via Soothe, offering spa-quality massages wherever you are. Make it an in-home couple's retreat with deep tissue, Swedish, or sports massages. Plus all the accoutrements, including massage tables, fresh linens, lotions, oils, and

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



little more romance, play your personally recorded Vinylgram message to make him melt like hot chocolate in your pocket. \$499, trntbl.co; \$20, vinylgram.co

Kodak Printomatic

Yesteryear's point-and-shoot camera meets today's in-an-instant technology in Kodak's Printomatic, which produces 2-inch by 3-inch full color and black-and-white photos with adhesive backing directly from the camera's body. Start a scrapbook of your adventures with bae using the line's decorating tools, like vibrant gel pen sets, mini photo punchers, border stickers, and more. \$70, kodak.com

TerraTrike Tandem Bike

Quality time spent on the Rover Tandem trike – outfitted with a

Dick Bouquet Prints

New Jersey-based artist Dylan Wise takes still life to a bold new level with his daring graphite and colored pencil series *Blooming Hard*, featuring hand-drawn, attention-penises (of real subjects) surrounded by a bouquet of delicate, never-wilting flower blossoms. Commissions of your own (or S.O.'s) member available; message the artist on Etsy. \$80-\$400, etsy.com/shop/bloomingbydylan

Sky-High Proposal in Los Angeles

If you're planning to pop the question this Valentine's Day (or anytime thereafter), consider the newly launched "sky-high proposal" experience at OUE



Queer Non-Binary Artist Graces Cover of WUSSY's 'The Sex Issue'

BY BTL STAFF

WUSSY Magazine has recently published "The Sex Issue" featuring queer, non-binary artist Shamir. The 120-page issue includes a spread and interview with the singer as well as work from more than 400 queer photographers, illustrators, and writers.

"The Sex Issue" is available in select bookstores globally including London, Berlin, Barcelona, Vancouver, NYC, Atlanta, Asheville, and Milwaukee. Copies of "The Sex Issue" as well as WUSSY's first two issues, "The Fight Issue" and "The Body Issue," are available on their website.

WUSSY is an Atlanta-based publication that produces original content which encourages the discussion of life, politics, art, and expression from the perspective of the LGBTQIA+ community. In the works since 2012, WUSSY has garnered a dedicated following of readers who look to the publication for a curated, singular, queer-centric point-of-view. Part of their mission is to create spaces for queer



artists and in keeping with that mission, they accept submissions from artists and writers throughout the southeast and beyond.

For more information, visit wussymag.com.

Raise your glass and celebrate the 19th Annual

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with the Junior League of Flint & the Flint Institute of Arts

Enjoy a selection of wines from around the world, as well as gourmet fare and delectable desserts, surrounded by the world class collection of the FIA.

March 24, 2018
VIP Event 6:30p-7:30p
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Tickets for the VIP event, featuring exclusive wines not available during the Main Event, are limited. Purchase yours now so you can experience one of Flint's most highly anticipated wine events this year.

Tickets available at flintarts.org

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Finding Neverland at Fisher Theatre

Directed by Tony Award-winner Diane Paulus, "Finding Neverland" is based on the Academy Award-winning film of the same name. The story follows playwright J.M. Barrie as he struggles to find the inspiration to create Peter Pan. It has been hailed by NPR as "far and away the best musical of the year!" "Finding Neverland" will run from Feb. 6 to 18, every Tuesday to Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m., Saturday matinees are at 2 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 1 p.m. Tickets start at \$39. More information can be found online at broadwayindetroit.com. The Fisher Theatre is located at the Fisher Building at 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit.

Happenings



Photo by Jeremy Danis

OUTINGS

Friday, Feb. 9

Swing Dance Party 9:00 pm Dust off those dancing shoes and come decked out in your best vintage attire for the ultimate swing dance party at The Cube in Midtown Detroit. Arrive early for a dance lesson and your favorite Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 3135765162 <https://www.dso.org/ShowEventsView.aspx?id=4971&prod=4970>

Tuesday, Feb. 20

Does Addiction Treatment Work? 7:30 pm By Carl Christensen, MD, Ph.D., D-FASAM. Learn about the relative efficacy of various treatments for addiction. Free. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium, 5305 Elliott

Drive, Ypsilanti. 734-485-8725 <http://www.dawnfarm.org/programs/education-series>

Saturday, Feb. 24

The Erotic Poetry & Music Festival 8:00 pm "An eclectic celebration of the erotic arts!" The infamous "Erotic Poetry & Music Festival" is Detroit's oldest community arts festival. "An eclectic celebration of the erotic arts!" it features provocative poetry, dirty spoken word, erotic Tangent Gallery, 715 East Milwaukee Avenue, Detroit. 2484451277 <http://www.facebook.com/EroticPoetryandMusicFestival>

Tuesday, Feb. 27

Relapse Prevention 7:30 pm By Erik Anderson LMSW, CAADC will describe creative, effective strategies to handle both every-day and high-risk situations

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Lucy Kaplansky

"Her songs are about living, breathing people."
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Tuesday, 2/27, 8 pm

Ladysmith Black Mambazo



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316 S. Main, Ann Arbor, MI

www.theark.org



in recovery from addiction. Free. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. 734-485-8725 <http://www.dawnfarm.org/programs/education-series>

MUSIC & MORE

Valentine's Day With Cyrille Aimée Feb. 14 7:00 pm "A massively talented international chanteuse," exclaims the New York Observer. Spend this Valentine's Day with your special someone and French cabaret vocalist Cyrille Aimée. TICKETS: \$49 - VIP Experience - Includes reserved section premium seating and Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 3135765162 <https://www.dso.org/ShowEventsView.aspx?id=4760&prod=4759>

Le Ciné Cube Feb. 16 10:30 pm Film Shorts + Live Music by the Andrew Alden Ensemble Silent French films come to life with live music performed by the Andrew Alden Ensemble. From 1920's Avant-Garde horror to famous shorts by French Filmmaker Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 3135765162 <https://www.dso.org/ShowEventsView.aspx?id=4765&prod=4764>

Le Ciné Cube Feb. 17 5:30 pm Screening of Round Midnight + Q&A Bertrand Tavernier's 1986 American-French musical drama film Round Midnight stars legendary jazz saxophonist Dexter Gordon, François Cluzet, and Herbie Hancock and captures the Paris jazz scene of the 1950s. Martin Scorsese, Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 3135765162 <https://www.dso.org/ShowEventsView.aspx?id=4762&prod=4761>

Ravel's "The Child and the Spells" and Poulenc's "The Breasts of Tiresias" Feb 22-23, 7:30 pm Tickets: \$25 adults, \$15 students Jam Handy, 2900 E. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-451-0806 <http://www.operamodo.com>

Afternoon of Spirituals Feb. 24, 2:30 pm Join me for An Afternoon of Spirituals! In honor of Black History Month, I am continuing my "Favorite Things" concert series with a compilation of all of my favorite spirituals. Experience heartfelt melodies to touch Walled Lake United Methodist Church, 313 E. Northport St., Walled Lake. <https://www.facebook.com/events/274419413088758/>

Ravel's "The Child and the Spells" and Poulenc's "The Breasts of Tiresias" Feb. 24 7:30 pm Tickets: \$25 adults, \$15 students Jam Handy, 2900 E. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-451-0806 <http://www.operamodo.com>

Les Nubians + DJ Cambeaux Feb. 24, 9:30 pm Vocal Duo Les Nubians, comprised of sisters Hélène and Céline Faussart from Paris France, brings their distinctive Afropean, Urban, R&B sound to The Cube for an evening not to be missed. Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 3135765162 <https://www.dso.org/ShowEventsView.aspx?id=4749&prod=4748>

A2CT's 9th Annual Chili Cook - Off Feb. 25 2:00 pm Ann Arbor Civic Theatre announces its ninth Annual Chili Cook-Off on Sunday, Feb. 25 from 2-5 pm at The Wolverine State Brewing Company at 2019 West Stadium Blvd, A2, MI, 48103. Tickets for the event Wolverine State Brewing Company, 2019 W. Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor. 734-369-2990 www.wolverinebeer.com <http://www.a2ct.org>

Ravel's "The Child and

the Spells" and Poulenc's "The Breasts of Tiresias" Feb. 25 7:30 pm Tickets: \$25 adults, \$15 students Jam Handy, 2900 E. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-451-0806 <http://www.operamodo.com>

BTL's LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo! March 11, 12:00 pm It's back! Don't miss the fun! Watch for details! 2 Free tickets with code: BTL2018. Register @ MilLGBTWedding.com Motor City Casino, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 866-782-9622 donelle@pridesource.com donelle@pridesource.com

THEATER

A2CT Junior Theatre Audition Workshop 10:00 am A2CT will hold a workshop on auditioning for Junior Theatre productions on Saturday, Feb. 3, from 10:00am to noon at the A2CT Studio, 322 West Ann Street, Ann Arbor, MI,

Editor's Pick

The Fags at the Magic Bag

Detroit-based power pop band The Fags are making their way to Ferndale on Feb. 23. Famous for their imposing riffs and ragged-sounding vocals, the group has been performing since 2000.

This show is 18 and up. Doors open at 8 p.m. and tickets start at \$12. The Magic Bag is located at 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. More information can be found online at themagicbag.com.



Editor's Pick

CCS Features LGBTQ Perspectives on Film, Video

From Feb. 10 through March 10, visitors to the Valade Family Gallery at the College for Creative Studies can hear and see eight different LGBTQ artists reflect on contemporary film and video. "Exhibit: Desire as Politics" spans from 1985 to 2017, while artists reflect on everything from the unique LGBTQ perspective, to representation and love.

More information about the exhibit can be found online at gaybe.am/px



48104. As a part of A2CT Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. 734-971-2228 <http://www.a2ct.org>

Our Lady of Poison Giulia Tofana and her daughter Girolama are beloved apothecaries, and skilled poisoners. This mother-daughter team run an infamous underground operation to provide unfortunate wives with an escape from untenable marriages. Based on historical events. Check Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. 517-655-SHOW <http://www.williamstontheatre.org>

Into The Woods 8:00 pm Tickets \$23-\$26.50 Baldwin Theatre, 415 South Lafayette, Royal Oak. 2485418027 <http://www.stagecrafters.org>

They, Themselves, and Scherm 8:00 pm Part classic standup comedy special, part confessional memoir, and part performance art. They, Themselves and Scherm is Becca Blackwell's disturbingly hilarious personal tale detailing the tragicomic transitions in life, family, sex, and gender while asking One event on Feb. 1 at 8:00pm One event on Feb. 2 at 8:00pm One event on Feb. 3 at 8:00pm Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. 734-764-2538 http://smt.d.umich.edu/about/facilities/north_campus/walgreen/arthurmiller/ <https://ums.org/performance/they-themselves-and-scherm/>

DMTC Library Series: Community Show and Tell 7:00 pm Join Detroit Mercy Theatre Company at Ferndale Area District Library for "Community Show and Tell: Music that Inspires." Join us and share a song or piece of music that inspires you or your life. This ferndale public library, 222 E 9 Mile Rd, Ferndale. 2485462504 <https://www.facebook.com/events/108153576658387/>

A2CT Auditions for Arcadia 7:00 pm Ann Arbor Civic Theatre announces auditions for its main stage production of Arcadia by Tom Stoppard, directed by Melissa Freilich. Auditions will take place Thursday and Friday, Feb. 8 and 9, beginning at 7 A2CT Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. 734-971-2228 <http://http://www.a2ct.org/audition>

Satori Circus: These Are My Friends 7:00 pm Performance Artist SATORI CIRCUS, performs with The Theatre

Bizarre Orchestra under the leadership of Joshua James. Featured acts opening the show include: Michigan artists Josie Pace, Lushes LaMoan, Scott Dambacher (Scotty D.), The F.A.H. Corps The Crofoot, 1 s. Sagina, Pontiac. 248-850-9333 www.thecrofoot.com <https://www.facebook.com/events/149039172418719/>

Porn to be a Star 7:30 pm Burlesque performer and adult film actor Chris Harder takes you by the hand on an up close and in your face search for gay porn stardom like you've never seen! Directed by Obie Award-winning performer/playwright One event on Feb. 15 at 7:30pm Merjos Complex - Olympus Theater, 940 W. McNichols, Detroit. 3132659061 www.newmenjoscomplex.com <http://www.newmenjoscomplex.com/olympus-theater>

The Accidental Magician: Music, Magic & Film 7:00 pm Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 3135765162 <https://www.dso.org/ShowEventsView.aspx?id=4771&prod=4769>

ART 'N' AROUND

The Art of Containment 50 plus Vessels from Bloomfield Hills resident Sidney Swidler's Collection, curated & amassed over 30 years! Tickets: Adults \$7, Kids \$5, Senior Citizens \$5, Free under 12, FREE SATURDAYS! Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 810-234-1695 <https://flintarts.org>

Monet - Framing Life 9:00 am One ticket sends you on two artistic adventures — Monet: Framing Life and Church: A Painter's Pilgrimage. Travel to distinct places and time in history to experience the world as these two artists did. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-833-7900 <http://www.dia.org>

Joseph Keckler: Dragon at the Edge of a Flat World, Penny Stamps Speaker Series Special Event Feb. 7, 5:30 pm Special Event: Wednesday, Feb. 7 at 5:30 pm / Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington St, Ann Arbor 48109 Straddling the worlds of music, art, and performance, Joseph Keckler has garnered acclaim for his rich, versatile Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington St, Ann Arbor. (734)

764-8572 <http://www.rackham.umich.edu/rackham-building/amphitheatre> https://stamps.umich.edu/stamps/detail/joseph_keckler2

Penny Stamps Speaker Series presents Stephen Burks: Towards a New Perception of Design Feb. 8, 5:10 pm Stephen Burks believes in a pluralistic vision of design that is inclusive of all cultural perspectives. His ongoing Man Made project bridges the gap separating authentic developing-world production, industrial manufacturing, and contemporary design. Independently and Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397 https://stamps.umich.edu/stamps/detail/stephen_burks

Satori Circus: These Are My Friends Feb. 10, 7:00 pm Performance Artist SATORI CIRCUS, performs with The Theatre Bizarre Orchestra under the leadership of Joshua James. Featured acts opening the show include: Michigan artists Josie Pace, Lushes LaMoan, Scott Dambacher (Scotty D.), The F.A.H. Corps The Crofoot, 1 s. Sagina, Pontiac. 248-850-9333 www.thecrofoot.com <https://www.facebook.com/events/149039172418719/>

Penny Stamps Series presents Jaime Hayon: Design Follows Function, and then What? Feb. 15, 5:10 pm Spanish artist-designer Jaime Hayon was born in Madrid in 1974. From his very first collections, Hayon has been at the forefront of a new wave that blurs the lines between art, decoration, and design, leading Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397 https://stamps.umich.edu/stamps/detail/jaime_hayon

Penny Stamps Series presents Chico MacMurtrie: Border Crossers - Part 2 Feb. 16, 5:30 pm Special Event: Friday, Feb. 16 at 5:30 pm / Helmut Stern Auditorium, UMMA, 525 S State St, Ann Arbor 48109 Chico MacMurtrie is an award-winning artist, renowned internationally for his large-scale sculptures, whose work combines Helmut Stern Auditorium, UMMA, 525 S State St, Ann Arbor. 734.764.0395 <https://umma.umich.edu/plan-your-visit#hours> https://stamps.umich.edu/stamps/detail/chico_macmurtrie1

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box office 313-872-1000. Groups (12+): Groups@BroadwayInDetroit.com
or 313-871-1132. **OC** 7:30PM March 16.

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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Home Sweet Home

A Benefit for the Ozone House

BY BTL STAFF

The Ozone House invites members of the community to enjoy wine, chocolate, and cheese at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 13 at Zingerman's Greyline, 100 N. Ashley in Ann Arbor. To help celebrate the young people that seek support from the Ozone House, Patrick Gaulier will be a guest speaker. He has been with Ozone House for over six years. Starting as a crisis line volunteer, he became a PrideZone facilitator in July of 2012 then a case manager in September of 2012. Currently, he is the lead PrideZone facilitator and a clinical case manager focusing on our clients in need of permanent supportive housing through our SOLO program. In addition, Patrick earned his MSW from Eastern Michigan University in 2017 with a focus on mental illness and chemical dependency. Gaulier is originally from Royal Oak



Patrick Gaulier

and, prior to coming to Ozone House, worked in the Detroit metro area. He used his undergraduate degrees in English and teaching from MSU to teach English at Waterford Kettering High School before entering Americorps and completing his service at the Boys Hope Girls Hope

program in Detroit. He also worked as the Education Coordinator with an after school pregnancy prevention program in Detroit and his passion for supporting LGBTQ youth led him to complete an internship with Ruth Ellis Center. At Ozone House, Gaulier has found a home with a “delightful atmosphere.” He believes Ozone House is a place that values its mission and the work each employee does is informed by that mission. In his work as SOLO case manager, he embraces challenges and truly sees the impact of his work through a young person’s ability to take care of themselves.

When Gaulier has down time he likes to go for runs, cook vegetarian delights, post Lisa Frank memes, and play with his dog Evie. Connect with Gaulier during the event, send him an email at pgaulier@ozonehouse.org or call the main office at 734-662-2265. To purchase tickets, visit gaybe.am/gf.



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Rev. David A. Bullock to Give Black History Month Lecture at LGBT Detroit

LGBT Detroit welcomes Rev. David Alexander Bullock to the weekly community conversation “Talk Tuesday,” on Feb. 13, at 5:30 p.m. Rev. Bullock will address homophobia within the African-American community and how it hinders upcoming leaders.

“We are thrilled to have such an influential ally as Rev. Bullock speak to an issue important to believers,” said LGBT Detroit Executive Director Curtis Lipscomb. “As a faith leader in Metro Detroit, his unique position allows attention to this ongoing topic.”

Bullock, a graduate of Morehouse College, received a masters of arts in philosophy from Wayne State University in 2003. He has served as an adjunct college professor in both Michigan and Illinois, and as the past president of the Highland Park NAACP.

Bullock is also a former president of the Detroit chapter of Operation Rainbow Push and the State of Michigan Coordinator. He is nationally recognized as a key organizer of the successful campaign to repeal the controversial



Rev. David Alexander Bullock

Emergency manager law PA4.

Currently, he is the pastor of the Greater St. Matthew Baptist Church in Highland Park, and a talk show host for “The David Bullock Show” on 910 AM Superstation.

Special consideration has been given to volunteer Melani I. Baker-Mood, who dedicated her personal, academic and professional life advocating for all minorities, including LGBT populations.

“I was honored to have assisted in this project, overjoyed in aligning with LGBT Detroit’s vision, and tremendously gifted with the passion shared by Rev. Bullock,” said Baker-Mood.

Black History Month began as “Negro History Week,” which was created in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, a noted African-American historian, scholar, educator and publisher. It became a month-long celebration in 1976. The month of February was chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

The lecture will be held at 20025 Greenfield Road in Detroit. LGBT Detroit can be reached online at lgbtdetroit.org, or by phone at 313-397-2127.





Tea and Coffee Week Combats ‘Corporate Coffee Culture’

BY BTL STAFF

It kicked off in 2015 as just Tea Week, rebranded itself to Tea and Kombucha week and now, in its third iteration, its founder Eli Majid thinks it’s finally where it should be as Michigan Tea and Coffee Week, from Feb. 11 to 18.

“But it has Kombucha as well,” Said Majid. “I think the main focus was really to combat corporate coffee culture, that’s what I’m calling it. We’re an independent tea shop and supply coffee shops, we work with kombucha brewers and we’re all pretty much on the same wavelength. So, this was kind of our pushback to show Michigan what else there is besides Starbucks and Tim Horton’s and Biggby.”

Majid is the owner of Eli Tea Bar, located in Birmingham. The shop will host many of the events that the week will bring, and he said he hopes to flip the perception of what most Michigander’s view as “normal” on its head.

“We have a Kombucha 101, and we have a Thirs-Tea Wednesday that we’re launching. It’s kind of a 12-tea tasting of all the weird and funky stuff. We’re half sold out for that right now, but we still have a few days until the coffee week,” Majid said. “Drifter Coffee will be doing a takeover here. She has a coffee caboose that she normally travels around Michigan with, but she’s taking over our shop for four hours and bringing coffee, pour-overs, different flights and all that.”

The week will also allow Eli Tea Bar to

debut some of its newest creations.

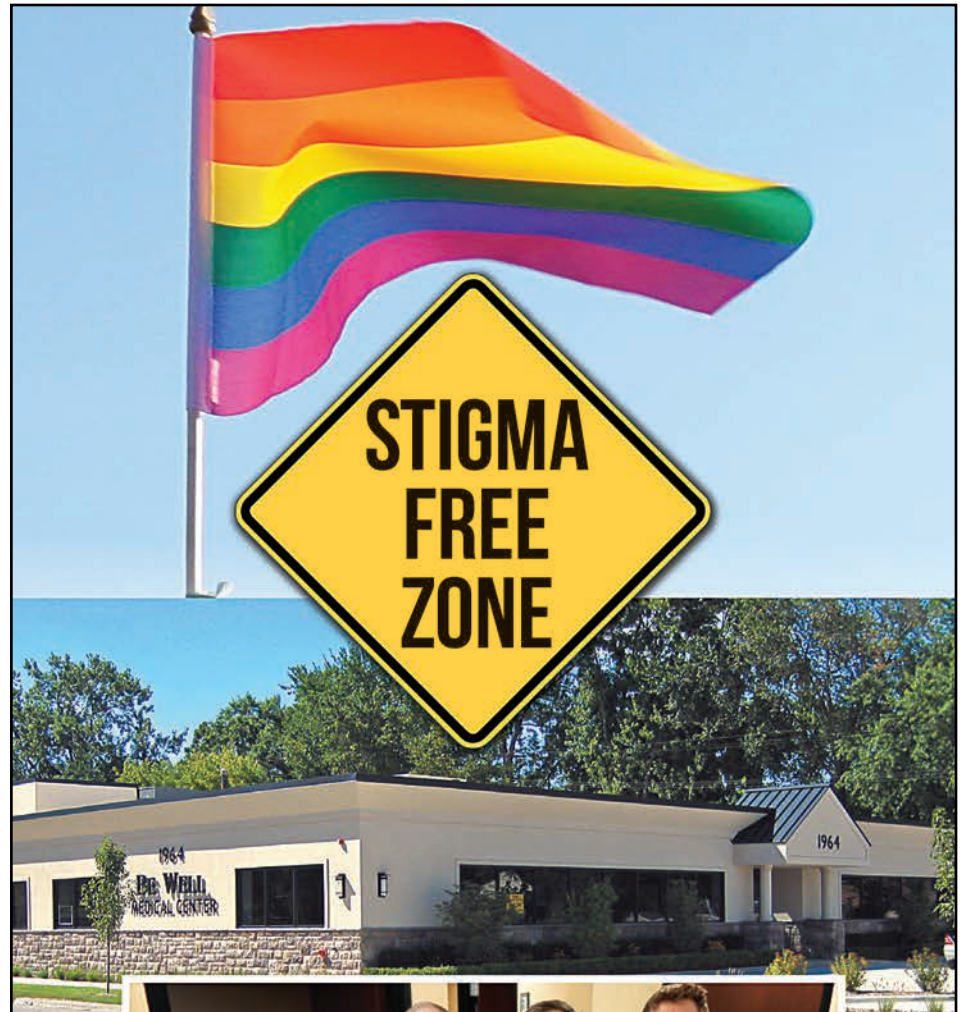
“We’re also launching a bunch of stuff, some of our new spring teas, plus we’re launching cheese tea, which I think is going to be a very big deal,” Majid said. “It’s essentially an iced tea, like iced black tea with whipped up, liquid cheesecake floating on top. It’s very big in Singapore, Hong Kong, etc. and we’ll probably be the first ones here. The only other places that offer it — there’s one shop in New York and one in LA — so we’re keeping that under tight wraps until we throw it out there. I think it’ll have a big following.”

But Eli Tea Bar will only be hosting a fraction of the week’s events. All over Metro Detroit, Tea and Coffee Week attendees can register for a variety of tea, coffee or kombucha-related events — and interest is high.

“The events are modeled after a restaurant week, which means all the independent shops are hosting their own events. The Aphro-Tea-Siac, that’s an interesting one,” Majid said. “It’s hosted by intu tea, she has been selling at Eastern Market and Saturday markets for over 20 years, and now every single Valentine’s Day event which is completely sold out. They even had a second seating and the second seating sold out as well.”

Still, even though some events are sold out, the week has over 20 to choose from.

To find more information about different Tea and Coffee Week events, go online to miteacoffee.com/events.



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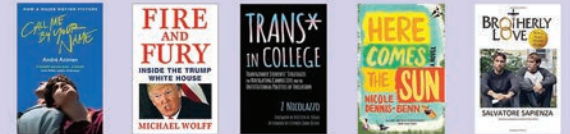
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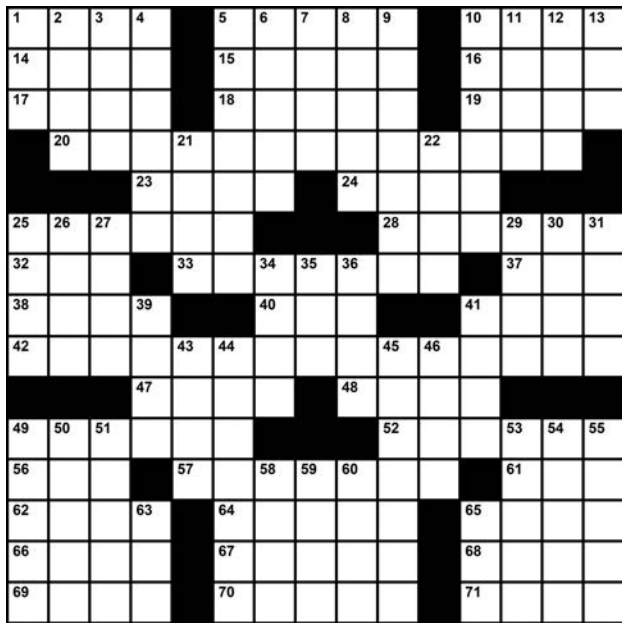


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Q Puzzle



- 42 End of the quote
 47 GayBFF and others
 48 Carrie's "Star Wars" role
 49 Convertible for a bottom?
 52 Harvey, in "Torch Song Trilogy"
 56 "Guys and Dolls" co-creator Burrows
 57 Like clothing that's hung
 61 Nectar inspector
 62 Movie about a pregnant teenager
 64 With 65-Across, actress who played the pregnant teenager
 65 See 64-Across
 66 Dating from
 67 Terse summons
 68 Barbra's _Funny Girl_ guy
 69 AIDS flick "Under ____"
 70 Strait-laced
 71 42-Across is a play on an expression using this word
- 11 "No way!"
 12 "Aida" lyricist Tim
 13 Type of drama in the land of Samurai
 21 Cristina of "Grey's Anatomy"
 22 Some vowels of Sappho
 25 Ray who gets the meat to you fast
 26 Nickelodeon explorer
 27 In ____ of
 29 Sally portrayer of "Cabaret"
 30 Type of stimulation
 31 Pink on the inside
 34 Cubby holes?
 35 Some forensic evidence
 36 Suffolk, to Shakespeare
 39 9 inches, e.g.
 41 Conceptual artist Gaye
 43 Apple that isn't a fruit
 44 Rule despotically
 45 Long in the past
 46 Lean and sinewy
 49 Indian head
 50 Manhandle
 51 Type of salami hung in a deli
 53 Gay-friendlier prez than what we got
 54 No longer jail bait
 55 Handle on a tractor?
 58 Line from "Rent"?
 59 Guilty, to Perry Mason
 60 GI Jane portrayer
 63 Frequently, to Shakespeare
 65 Honey holder

A Swell Movie Character

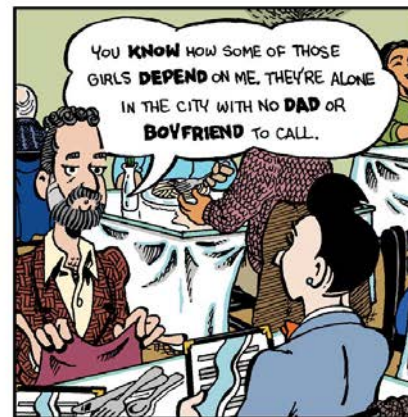
Across

- 1 GLAAD fundraiser, e.g.
 5 Market bear's fear
 10 Alternative to "Go straight"
 14 A shade of the color purple
 15 Skater Sonja
 16 Langston Hughes was born here
 17 Like vanilla sex
 18 Including everything
 19 S&M response
 20 Start of a quote from
- 62-Across by a swell movie character
 23 Un-American idol
 24 Mauresmo may win in straight ones
 25 Duet partner for Tony Bennett
 28 AIDS activist Elizabeth
 32 Lyon king
 33 Diana, to the Greeks
 37 Gershwin of "Of Thee I Sing"
 38 Shaft output
 40 Aunt in a Disney film
 41 Peter the Great, for example

Down

- 1 Fam. docs
 2 What little things mean, in a Cher song
 3 Rife with vegetation
 4 One that reproduces without sex or adoption
 5 Zadan/Meron musical
 6 Kidney-related
 7 About Uranus?
 8 Places to set geraniums
 9 Protection for the heads for tight ends
 10 Object of a foot fetish

Find solution to this puzzle at www.pridesource.com



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