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THE MIDDLE EAST
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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.

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Possible Side Effects of Mytesi Include:

- Upper respiratory tract infection (sinus, nose, and throat infection)
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- Cough
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- Increased bilirubin (a waste product when red blood cells break down)

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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:

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- 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
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Under 18 or Over 65 Years of Age?

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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?

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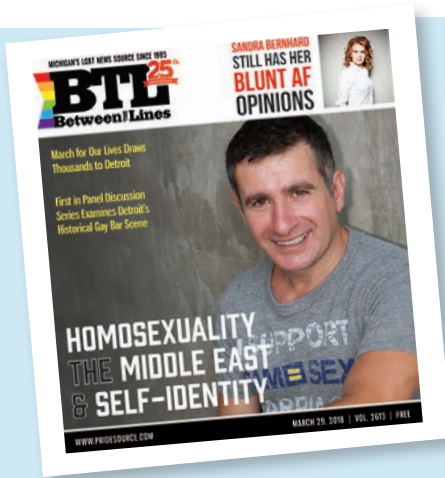
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Homosexuality, the Middle East and Self-Identity

Artist Presents an American Landscape

COVER STORY

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

The American flag is a clear symbol of patriotism and is recognizable the world over. Its distinct red, white and blue color scheme, and its well-defined stars and stripes delineate a simple message: this is America. And, for Americans, the flag can be a comforting reminder of home.

However, muddy the bold colors with orange, smudge the precise lines of the flag's strips with indefinite ones, dashes and background noise and the reaction can easily be translated to one of fear or confusion. "American Landscape: Exploration of Arts & Humanity" demonstrates such themes intentionally in order to examine what it means to be LGBTQ in the U.S., Arab and the tension that can come from those identities. The nationally-lauded exhibit has been on display for nearly five months at Dearborn's Arab American National Museum. Now, as the display's closing date of April 8 gets nearer, its creator, 51-year-old Nabil Mousa, said he is thrilled at the recognition his work has received.

"A lot of wonderful things have actually come out of it. I'm blown away. Who knew an exhibit like this would end up in The New York Times newspaper? My friend reminded me this morning, 'You have no idea how big this is, do you?'" Mousa said. "That's really true."

Since the Jan. 12 article by Michael T. Luongo, the openly gay, Atlanta-based artist said that he's received an outpouring of positive reviews from not only people he knows personally, but strangers.

On Facebook alone, there were more than 25,000 people who viewed the article, with hundreds of overwhelmingly positive comments from Arabic people around the world. The Syrian-born artist said that this has led him to understand that there's a grave need for prominent Middle Eastern figures to be positively outspoken about homosexuality.

"I don't want to call myself a leader because I'm an artist, but somebody (needs) to stand up and show that it can be done. I think that's the important part. I've been told by so many young Arabs that I've met. I said, 'What do I need to do to get you to come out?' They said, 'Please don't give up on us. Keep trying, because we need to come out,'" Mousa said. "To hear that from young gay Arabs in general to say that, it's powerful. It tells me that I need to keep doing what I'm doing no matter what happens."

And the topic is one that is especially near and dear to Mousa's heart, because his highly conservative Christian family was not approving of either his sexuality or his drive



Nabil Mousa's "American Landscape: An Exploration of Art & Humanity" exhibit has been on display at the Arab American National Museum since mid-November. As it draws to a close, Mousa said that the attention his project has received has inspired him to remain vocal about homosexuality and Arab-American identity.

to make art his chosen career.

"I didn't really apply (my artistic ability) when I was younger. Art in the Arab world is not important, it's secondary," Mousa said. "My parents wanted me to get a college degree or open up a business, and that was their priority because they brought us to this country so that we could succeed. That's how they measure success."

Additionally, even when he realized he was gay, Mousa said he couldn't find any LGBTQ role models that resonated with him personally, and especially not ones who were also Middle Eastern.

"... (We're) not all wearing high heels and carrying a purse and carrying makeup and that flamboyant, because that's what the media typically likes to portray us as," he said. "That's how I perceived it growing up and that's why I was terrified, because I couldn't relate to it. Like, 'How can I be gay?' Looking at these images of what gay people were supposed to be, and saying, 'This is not me.' I was closeted because of that."

The long process of understanding his own sexuality, and how it fit into his cultural heritage took Mousa into his 30s. It's then he decided to come out. However, his reception was not a welcome one.

"I have been disowned for about 17, 18 years now. My parents are good people, they're just uneducated and they're ignorant about the gay issues," he said. "I can only hope that their

humanity pushes them in a direction where they'll open up their hearts and embrace it."

That spirit of acceptance is exactly what motivated his creation of "American Landscape," which he began painting in 2010.

"It was a process that kept evolving over about four or five years and as I kept adding paintings to it, and my thought process kept evolving as I kept painting," he said.

Mousa said that now, especially with the positive response to his work, he feels as if this experience has been a call to action. Mousa's plan is to bring his artwork to the countries that he feels need it the most.

"I really want to spearhead this, because I want to take this project to the Middle East. I want to take it to Dubai, I want to take it to Jordan and Lebanon. I want to take it to these countries that are opposed to gay life that actually have laws against the gay community," Mousa said.

And although he hasn't fully developed the strategy for doing yet, Mousa hopes to visit by the end of 2018. Especially to work directly with his native Syrian population, and those in Syrian refugee camps.

"I don't live in the Middle East, but I do not want to forget my culture, and I do not want to forget how difficult it is for others like me to come out in the Arab world," he said. "So if I can make a difference and empower somebody to stand up and be who they are, then I'm going to keep doing it."

When asked if he is afraid of exploring these topics in countries that criminalize LGBTQ behavior, he said that the fear is just another motivator.

"There is always fear or danger in anything that we do that is opposed, but I cannot allow fear to stop me from making this happen," Mousa said. "So yes, I will be cautious I will do everything I can, but nothing is going to stop me from being outspoken."

And to Mousa, his boldness coupled with his artist's platform is the ultimate way of positively changing attitudes and mindsets from within.

"It's a lone track that we get into and we slowly start separating and making that gap bigger, and you get people thinking, 'Why did I block this?'" Mousa said. "Because you're going to have to show them that there are other ways of looking at stuff. A lot of people sometimes are stuck, and unless you open that door a little bit for them they're not going to get there. We can sometimes lead somebody in another direction."

"American Landscape" is on display now through April 8 at the Arab American National Museum located at 13624 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. The exhibit is free with the cost of museum admission. More information can be found online at arabamericanmuseum.org/american-landscape or by calling 313-582-2266.

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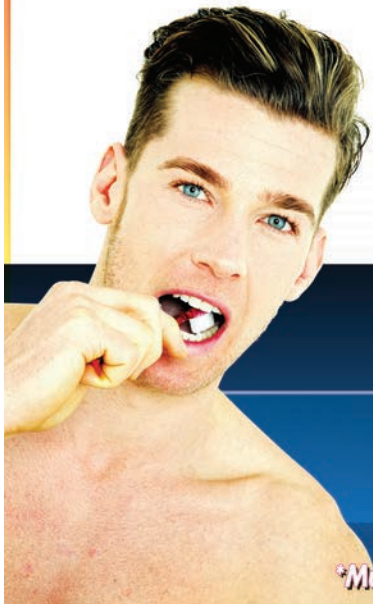
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March for Our Lives Draws Thousands to Detroit

BY DREW HOWARD

Detroit Gears Up Early for Creating Change 2019

BY BTL STAFF

For more than 30 years, the National LGBTQ Task Force has been ensuring that members of the LGBTQ community have a place to familiarize themselves with pertinent issues, politics, organizations and leadership with the Creating Change conference.

According to the conference's website, "The primary goal of the Creating Change Conference is to build our movement's political power from the ground up to secure our overarching goal of full freedom, justice, and equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people in the United States."

Although the 2018 Washington D.C. conference is over, there is still much work to be done in preparation for the 2019 Detroit Creating Change event which will be held in Detroit, Renaissance Center, the location of the two previous Michigan conferences that were held in 1995 and 2008.

The five day long event attracts thousands of attendees, and will provide hundreds of workshops, caucus sessions, keynote speakers, meetings, social events and more about a variety of topics that directly impact the LGBTQ community. However, in order to ensure a turnout close to the 2017 conference's of 3,800, volunteer help is desperately needed.

The 2019 Creating Change conference will be hosted at the Marriott in Detroit's

Those who are interested in volunteering to make 2019's event a reality are welcome to meet on Monday, April 9.

The event will be held at 440 Burroughs St., Detroit and will kick-off with a social period to get to know other volunteers at 6 p.m., and a full rundown of what next year's event will entail.

For more information about the event, to RSVP and for parking information, contact creatingchange@thetaskforce.org to reserve a spot now. The task force staff in attendance will be the Director of Creating Change Conference Sue Hyde, Evangeline Weiss, Daniel Moberg and Mel Braman.

Students, politicians and second-hand victims of gun violence voiced their support for comprehensive gun legislation at the Detroit March For Our Lives on Sunday.

Detroit was one of an estimated 800 cities worldwide to host the March For Our Lives, a student-led protest calling for tighter gun laws following the Parkland, Florida school massacre that left 17 dead. The march along Detroit's riverfront concluded with a speaking engagement emceed by student organizers.

A student from Fraser's Arts Academy in the Woods was one of the first to speak during the 90-minute session. In her speech, she shared the story of an anonymous friend threatened with gun violence after organizing a school educational event on the transgender community.

The anonymous individual sent a prepared speech detailing the aftermath of the threat. It read:

"I was sick to my stomach, I was jumping at every little noise and I wasn't acting like myself. People who were supposed to perform were scared that if they did they were going to get shot. The person who made the threat got a five-day suspension, and that was the bulk of his punishment.

"I never get over that feeling of fear. After every school shooting I revert back to being scared, but this time I'm done being scared. No one should have a weapon of mass murder at their disposal. We have no need for AR-15s, and we shouldn't have to worry about walking in a school that I love."

Gun violence has also taken a toll on Daryl Harris, a member of the community-based group Ceasefire Detroit devoted to fighting norms about violence. At the podium, Harris was quick to note that gun violence can happen to anyone, and not just the so-called "thugs" in the street.

"I'd be remiss to not talk about how it's impacted my own life," Harris said. "Not only my baby brother who was shot in the head and killed, but also my wife who some years ago was held at gunpoint in my own home and brutally raped in my own home as a result of this."

"Every time I look at my daughter I have to be concerned about whether somebody who got a pass, just because they had a legal ID



"I never get over that feeling of fear. After every school shooting I revert back to being scared, but this time I'm done being scared. No one should have a weapon of mass murder at their disposal. We have no need for AR-15s, and we shouldn't have to worry about walking in a school that I love."

A student from Fraser's Arts Academy shared the story of an anonymous friend threatened with gun violence after organizing a school educational event on the transgender community.

"We've had enough, whether it's a school shooting or the killing of people of color by our law enforcement," Chang said. "As state representative, I'm proud to introduce and support gun violence prevention legislation. Whether it's universal background checks or extreme risk protection order bills, we're working hard for you."


U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) echoed similar comments to Chang, promising the crowd that she would support universal background checks and stand against arming teachers with guns.

Student organizer Harry Susalla warned Stabenow on stage that the youth will be watching to see if she acts on her promises.

"Senator Stabenow, if you or any other politician does not fight for common sense gun legislation this November you will be out of a job," Susalla said. "That's because the youth are in charge. To quote my good friend and fellow organizer Amina, 'This is not a threat. This is a promise.'"

Organizers of the Detroit March For Our Lives will continue their fight for reformed gun legislation well past Saturday's protest.

Those interested in being updated on future protests, rallies and events can fill out this form at gaybe.am/Xz or go "like" the official March For Our Lives Facebook page.



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Gun Control Rallies Take Place Across U.S., Around the World

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS

Hundreds of “March for Our Lives” gun control rallies, marches and protests took place across the U.S. and around the world on Saturday.

More than 10,000 people attended a “March for Our Lives” rally in Tampa, Fla. U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor (D-Fla.) and Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn are among those who spoke.

“I’m here today because I’m a mom of a senior in high school,” Cathy James of Riverview, Fla., told the Washington Blade as she stood with other members of the Metropolitan Community Church of Tampa in the city’s Kiley Gardens where the rally took place. “I’m here as a community member to support our students and to support our community and say this has got to stop. Enough is enough.”

Upwards of 800,000 people attended the “March for Our Lives” rally in D.C. on Saturday.

The “March for Our Lives” events took place less than six weeks after a gunman killed 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

Marjory Stoneman Douglas student Susana Valdivieso pointed out at the Tampa rally that 7,000 children have died from gun violence since the massacre at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., in 1999. Valdivieso also recalled the shooting that took place at her school on Feb. 14.

“My classmates were not killed by knives or bombs,” she said. “They were struck down by the bullets of a semi-automatic weapons in the hands of a 19-year-old aided and abetted by the leniency of laws that make it far too easy to acquire a weapon that can massacre dozens in mere seconds.”

“How many more will face down the barrel of a gun before we acknowledge this as a public health crisis,” asked Valdivieso.

Media reports indicate 20,000 people took part in a “March for Our Lives” march in Parkland.

Virginia state Del. Chris Hurst (D-Blacksburg) – a former television reporter whose then-girlfriend, WDBJ reporter Alison Parker, and her cameraman, Adam Ward, were shot to death in 2015 during a live broadcast – spoke at a “March for Our Lives” rally in Blacksburg, Va.

A gunman in 2007 killed 32 people when he opened fire on the campus of Virginia Tech,



A participant in a “March for Our Lives” rally in Tampa, Fla., on March 24, 2018, holds a sign in homage of Emma González, a bisexual student at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., who has emerged as a vocal gun control advocate after a gunman killed 17 people inside her school last month. (Washington Blade photo by Michael K. Lavers)



HRC's Chad Griffin participating in the Washington D.C. rally Saturday.

which is located in the city.

More than 20,000 people attended a “March for Our Lives” rally and march in Orlando, Fla.

A gunman in 2016 killed 49 people when he opened fire inside the Pulse nightclub in the central Florida city.

Christine Leinonen, whose son, Christopher “Drew” Leinonen, died inside the nightclub, and several survivors of the massacre marched in the D.C. “March for Our Lives” rally. Several of those who attended the “March for Our Lives” rally in Tampa wore t-shirts that honored those who died inside the Pulse nightclub.

A number of the victims were from the Tampa Bay area.

Tracy Vanderneck of Bradenton, Fla., wore an Orlando United t-shirt in honor of the victims of the Pulse nightclub massacre at the Tampa rally. She told the Blade the “same problems that cause the shootings like at the school are the same problems that cause them at Pulse nightclub.”

“We can put different faces on it or different names on it, but it’s the same core problem and until all of these people get together and form a united front, it’s going to keep happening,” said Vanderneck.

Prominent activist acknowledges march participants from Cuba

Gun control advocates around the world also held “March for Our Lives” rallies and events on Saturday.

Several dozen gun control advocates gathered outside the U.S. Embassy in Chile. Michael Petrelis, a prominent American LGBT rights activist who is currently visiting Cuba, in a Facebook post from Havana expressed his solidarity with “March for Our Lives” organizers and participants.

“Muchas, muchas gracias (sic) the student and youth leaders of *today* who called for and organized demonstrations,” he wrote in his post.

Democrats Abroad Haiti on Saturday posted pictures of their members in Pétionville, Haiti, holding signs in support of gun control.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Saturday in a tweet that acknowledged those who marched in support of gun control noted his government last week introduced “a plan for common sense gun control that will keep our communities safer.” This proposal includes enhanced background checks for those who want to have a firearm.

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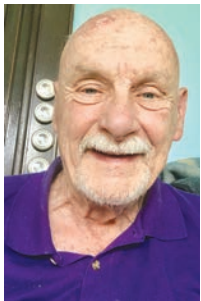
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Memories of a Detroit Gay Past

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

For five dynamic years – 1940 to 1945 – Detroit was America’s Arsenal of Democracy, a vital source of war materials and weapons. First, for England’s defense, later, for our own.

Automotive factories focused on round-the-clock, nonstop production of bombers, tanks, jeeps and planes. Plumb and popular vocalist Kate Smith kept patriotically singing “God Bless America.”

Soldiers, sailors, marines and WACs – Women’s Army Corps – passed through Detroit before shipping out overseas. Many had been inducted and processed in Quonset huts on Wayne University’s campus (I took my first English 101 course in 1960 in one of them).

A result of wartime migration to a big city like Detroit (population 1.3 million) was the unexpected popularity of gay bars. Detroit had four downtown near Old City Hall (and the First Police Precinct Jail.)

Many small town inductees, stopping off briefly in the Arsenal of Democracy, found to their naive surprise – and secretly, happy relief – that they weren’t the only ones who were “hush, hush” gay!

For these many it was a golden opportunity, “Who knows? We might not be alive tomorrow.”

Older gays were quite willing to play host, provide weekend housing, food, drinks, conversation, hugs and – at a time when good gals just didn’t give head – provide friendly lip service to straight servicemen.

As the Allies began to beat the Axis, a mood of cautious celebration took hold in Detroit’s gay bar clubs. Downtown side streets Farmer and Bates, home to Rio Grand, Silver Dollar and LaRosa’s bars, became less secretive. More carefree and obvious (nearby Palais bar was a notorious dyke heaven).

When Halloween 1944 swished around, the Grand Night of Enchantment became an opportunity for celebration. Following the end of Prohibition in 1933, getting in drag was accomplished without too much hoopla – or crossdressing arrest – once a year.

During the war years, Detroit’s non-military gays – those 40 or older, or those classified 4F with “homosexual tendencies” – along with straights who had flat feet (not necessarily because of high heels) kept the home fires burning and factories going 24/7.

These service rejects – no relation to recent biblical “left behinders” – were in a party mood. The war in Europe was winding down. Finally! So, why not celebrate?

What better time than the only day when cross dressing is permitted without penalty, threat of incarceration, or, if your makeup’s thick enough, likelihood of recognition.

The first Halloween display of queens numbered 25 or 30 brave patrons. Those in other costumes, about 50. Some wore rhinestone tiaras and sequin embroidered titles across their ample, canary seed-filled boobies.

Miss Victory Garden, Red Cross Rita’s Revenge, Rosey Rivet Me and Miss Harry James’s Trumpet (pin-up Betty Grable’s band leader husband). It was great fun. War-relieved and weary cops looked the other way.

Each year after World War II’s end, Halloween was planned to outdo the last. Gatherings grew large. More flamboyant. Sometime in the early ‘50s, streets were cordoned off. Hundreds came to see and applaud, and “Ooo!” and “Ahh!” at the queens who arrived in convertibles and on roller skates. Everybody behaved.

See next page



BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

Rollback

The Trump Administration has once again attempted to ban transgender people from serving in the U.S. military. This time out, the ban was secretly drafted by Vice President Mike Pence, with assistance from Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council (FRC) and Ryan T. Anderson of the Heritage Foundation.

Of course, this new policy relies heavily on claims that transgender people will affect “unit cohesion” – a concept that has sprung up any time the military has moved away from being white, male and straight. Issues of “privacy” came up as well, and used in the same way as always.

“Allowing transgender persons who have not undergone a full sex reassignment (sic), and thus retain at least some of the anatomy of their biological sex, to use the facilities of their identified gender would invade the expectations of privacy that the strict male-female demarcation in berthing, bathroom and shower facilities is meant to serve,” read part of the report leading up to the new ban.

The latter was woven into statements made by Ben Carson, the current head of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. When he was not busy ordering

Viewpoint

up a \$31,000 dining set for his office – and blaming its purchase on his wife – he was claiming that transgender people should not be allowed in homeless shelters because, “there are some women who said they were not comfortable with the idea of being in a shelter, being in a shower, and (with) somebody who had a very different anatomy.”

Just a day or two before Carson’s statements, Betsy DeVos, the head of the Department of Education also chimed in on transgender people, noting that the Department of Education will no longer look into complaints from transgender students who end up denied access to sex segregated facilities.

All of these within one week of each other can hardly be accidental, and I suspect each of these can be traced directly back to Pence and people like Anderson and Perkins pushing the usual bathroom claptrap that has failed over and over again at the state level. And that’s what threw North Carolina into chaos over the passage of their own anti-LGBTQ bill, HB2, that barred trans people from state-owned sex segregated facilities.

This is what is happening while Trump spends his time on the golf course, or holed upstairs at the white house

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► Viewpoint

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glued to Fox and “Friends,” tweeting madly. Pence and his far right cronies are pushing a hard-right, anti-LGBTQ agenda that is currently focused squarely on trans rights.

All this while there’s been no evidence that transgender people using facilities appropriate to their gender identity or expression causes any real issues. The whole argument that this will lead to additional sexual assaults simply doesn’t bear out. Never mind that barring transgender people from facilities appropriate to their gender presentation will protect transgender people themselves.

As a transgender activist, it can be so damned tiring to have to continue to deal with these issues. We’ve had to look at these sorts of attacks on transgender people for years, and have to parrot the same facts over and over. The same junk science and falsehoods simply refuse to perish, and we’re left having to start at square one each time.

I simply find myself without any fresh way to say that transgender people are not the villain the right wishes to paint us as. They want people to believe a caricature, rather than any reality.

To those who would seek to hold transgender people down, we’re all crazed, sex-obsessed men in dresses, whose five o’clock shadow peeks through our foundation. Rather than facing years of

Betsy DeVos, the head of the Department of Education also chimed in on transgender people, noting that the Department of Education will no longer look into complaints from transgender students who end up denied access to sex segregated facilities.

gender dysphoria, we simply opted to wear women’s attire on a lark, seeking to gain admittance to restrooms and changing stalls to victimize women and young girls. It’s so frustrating to have to counter these ridiculous notions over and over again.

Meanwhile, a growing number of transgender people are simply opting out of using any facilities at all. Quite simply, none are safe for transgender people of any stripe as bigots and laws prevent us from one or the other. Our privacy and safety is never considered in these arguments over preserving the privacy and safety of users of the very facilities we’re being prevented from using.

What’s more, we stand to see a lot more steps against transgender people, wiping out the gains of the Obama years and long before. It would seem clear to me that the end goal is to drive transgender people out of society overall, completely disenfranchising us and eventually forcing us into hiding and fear. I wish I could claim to be using hyperbole here: it would seem the only possible endgame to all these anti-transgender moves, and the long-stated goal of organizations like the FRC and the Heritage Foundation.

All that said, I expect that this new ban of transgender people in the military will fall as the previous one did, and nothing that Betsy DeVos says will halt the fact that Title IX protections have served transgender students in several cases to date. I also suspect that shelters under Carson will end up open to transgender people no matter what he chooses to mumble.

Yet it will not happen without everyone pitching in.

Those of us who are trans have to keep at the front lines. We have to keep speaking out, keep being visible and keep pushing for change at all levels.

That said, those of us who have been fighting this day after day are weary. We need our allies to speak out. We need everyone to stand with us.

If you say you support transgender people, now is the time to act.

Gwen Smith would much rather write about cutesy fun things. You can find her at gwenasmith.com.

and Bates Streets are now bare-ass naked. Silent, haunted, empty streets. Forgotten. RIP. Rest in pride.

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

Donald Trump

BY D’ANNE WITKOWSKI

Hundreds of thousands of people, young and old, took to the streets on March 24 to protest the despicable fact that the U.S. allows its children to be gunned down at school on the regular.



Emma Gonzales, the Parkland senior dismissed by Republican Leslie Gibson as a “skinhead lesbian,” gave a powerful speech at the

March for Our Lives in Washington D.C. which included a prolonged moment of silence. Paul McCartney marched in New York, telling a CNN reporter, “One of my best friends was killed in gun violence right around here. So it’s important to me.” And countless more people marched all over the country and even the world to protest the prioritization of guns over human lives in America.

And Donald Trump heard them loud and clear. He did what any true leader would do during this time of national crisis. He responded to this clarion call with (drumroll, please) a ban on transgender troops!

What, did you think he was going to ban guns?

Yes, our coward in chief, a man who has never served in the military (though he called himself “a great and very brave soldier” for dodging STDs in the ‘90s. “It is my personal Vietnam,” he really said), has once again told trans troops to GTFO, again.

You might remember that Trump tried doing this already and was sued. So, while that first attempt is still being fought in court, the Trump administration decided that a good ol’ trans troop ban was needed to distract from the nation’s school children refusing to be used for target practice, and Anderson Cooper’s interview with porn actress Stormy Daniels about her sexy time with the so-called president.

It’s disgusting, really. No, not the idea that Daniels might have dick pics. I mean, yes, that’s sick, but not as sick as telling Americans in uniform that they aren’t fit to wear their uniforms.

The new ban is basically a blanket ban on trans troops. If you’ve ever been diagnosed with gender dysphoria, you’re out. If you’ve gone through any kind of gender transition, you’re out. The good news is, if you’re trans

There’s this idea that if America lets transgender people into the military then all transgender people will flock to the military in order to get “free” gender affirmation surgery. Which is the dumbest thing I have ever heard.

but you stay in the closet about it you’re allowed to serve as your biological sex dictates.

According to James Mattis (who is at the time of this writing the Defense Secretary, but by the time this goes to press it could just as likely be Dr. Strangelove), trans troops “undermine readiness, disrupt unit cohesion and impose an unreasonable burden on the military.”

Which is some bullshit.

Trump has whined in the past about the “tremendous medical costs” associated with trans troops. I wonder if he’s considered the tremendous medical costs that will be associated with the troops he and John Bolton wants to send into war with North Korea and Iran. Probably not. Trump, who doesn’t think very deeply about things because – let’s face it – he can’t, doesn’t see transgender people as, well, people. He sees them as an episode of some kind of surgical reality show on TLC where the focus is all on medical care and not so much humanity.

There’s this idea that if America lets transgender people into the military then all transgender people will flock to the military in order to get “free” gender affirmation surgery. Which is the dumbest thing I have ever heard.

First of all, anyone who has ever served in or read a book about the military (Trump has done neither) will tell you that service members don’t get anything for free. Service members offer to give the ultimate sacrifice: their lives. And while we talk the big talk of taking care of our troops, we don’t actually do a great job of it. If you’d like a shining example, do a Google search for “homeless veterans.”

So if someone is willing to serve in the military, especially under this completely unqualified and dangerous commander in chief, the least we can give them is the healthcare they need.

Call your elected representatives and tell them that you stand with trans troops. And then call the White House and ask Trump how is bone spurs are doing.

► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 12

In 1969, the year of the Stonewall Riots, things got out of hand. Rednecks threw rocks. Tossed bottles. Shouted, “FAGS!” And ripped gowns. The party was over. Insulted – and very, very smart – gays moved northward to the seemingly safer Diplomat, Gigi’s and Woodward bars.

Once home to the Motor City’s first Gay Pride Halloween “Parades,” Farmer

Trump Issues (Moot) Memo Affirming Ban on Transgender Military Service

NEWS

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

Consistent with expectations for timing for the new policy, President Trump issued a memo late Friday on transgender military service that – while moot thanks to court orders against banning transgender troops – nonetheless reaffirms policy against their service.

In the memo dated March 23, Trump defers on the transgender military issue to Defense Secretary James Mattis and based on his recommendation asserts transgender people shouldn't be allowed to serve "except under certain limited circumstances."

"Among other things, the policies set forth by the secretary of defense state that transgender persons with a history or diagnosis of gender dysphoria – individuals who the policies state may require substantial medical treatment, including medications and surgery – are disqualified from military service except under certain limited circumstances," Trump writes.

Despite media reports indicating Mattis recommended transgender people stay in the armed forces, the recommendation reveals in fact he advised the president that having gender dysphoria, a defining characteristic for transgender people, should be a disqualified factor for military service.

"The Department of Defense concludes that there are substantial risks associated with allowing the accession and retention of individuals with a history or diagnosis of gender dysphoria and require, or have already undertaken, a course of treatment to change their gender," Mattis writes. "Furthermore, the department also finds that exempting such persons from well-established mental health, physical health, and sex-based standards, which apply to all service members, including transgender service members without gender dysphoria, could undermine readiness, disrupt unit cohesion and impose an unreasonable burden on the military that is not conducive to military effectiveness and lethality."

Although Trump defers to Mattis on implementing the prohibition on transgender military service, the action is moot because four trial courts and two circuit courts have determined barring transgender people from the military because of their gender identity. Hours before the memo was issued, a Pentagon spokesperson told the Blade the military "will still comply with federal court rulings and continue to assess and retain transgender service members."

If the ban were to go into effect, however, it would likely set up a ban leaving few exceptions for transgender individuals to remain in service. The criteria in which transgender people could stay isn't entirely



President Donald Trump announced a new ban on transgender military service. Blade file photo by Michael Key.

clear, but seems to be restricted to service members who came out when open service was allowed during the Obama years and prior to Trump's change. The Mattis memo also says transgender people can stay if they "have been stable for 36 consecutive months in their biological sex prior to accession," don't have a history of gender dysphoria or don't require transition-related care – but the definitions of the terms for the exceptions are unclear.

LGBT groups excoriated Trump for the memo upon its release, saying in a conference call it amounts to doubling-down on his tweets from July in which he said he'd ban transgender people from the military "in any capacity."

Natalie Nardecchia, senior attorney for the Western Regional Office of Lambda Legal, said the new memo amounts "implementation of the same ban" that Trump laid out last year.

"A ban is a ban, no matter how it's dressed up," Nardecchia said. "At its core, the policy still discriminates based on an irrelevant characteristic. It still harms our national security and it still runs counter to the military's own extensive studies."

David Stacy, director of government affairs for the Human Rights Campaign, said Trump administration officials issued the memo late on a Friday night "because they're embarrassed by it, and they should be."

"It's quite clear this is a complete ban, and Secretary Mattis was backed into a corner by the Commander-in-Chief and ordered to come up with a post-hoc justification for this policy that was based on politics, not any sort of assessment of where the country is, where military readiness is and the ability of

transgender individuals openly and honestly in our military," Stacy said.

Praising the ban, however, was Tony Perkins, president of the anti-LGBT Family Research Council, who said in a statement Trump "is moving the military away from the crippling policies of the Obama era that left our nation's defenses at its lowest levels of readiness since before WWII."

"He recognizes that the last thing we should be doing is diverting tax payer dollars from mission-critical training to funding for controversial gender reassignment surgeries and transgender sensitivity training for service members," Perkins said. "The president is keeping his promises and advancing policies essential to keeping our military strong and our country safe."

Mattis purports to have come to this recommendation after convening a months-long study that took input from transgender service members and medical professionals, but the conclusions are contrary to mainstream medical views, which don't consider being transgender a mental illness. In fact, the American Medical Association in 2015 came out against banning transgender people in the armed forces.

Aaron Belkin, director of the San Francisco-based Palm Center, said in a statement the methodology upon which the Pentagon is faulty and seeks to justify discrimination.

"Today's announcement fulfills President Trump's July 2017 tweet calling for the reinstatement of the transgender military ban," Belkin said. "In service to the ideological goals of the Trump-Pence base, the Pentagon has distorted the science on transgender

LGBT groups excoriated Trump for the memo upon its release, saying in a conference call it amounts to doubling-down on his tweets from July in which he said he'd ban transgender people from the military "in any capacity."

health to prop up irrational and legally untenable discrimination that will erode military readiness. There is no evidence to support a policy that bars from military service patriotic Americans who are medically fit and able to deploy. Our troops and our nation deserve better."

While Trump was criticized for the initial ban because he appeared to devise it without consultation from military leaders, the new policy appears to make up for that by deferring to the judgement of Mattis. That could make things more complicated as litigation proceeds because court generally defer to military leaders on military issues.

Nardecchia, however, said the reliance on Mattis in the new policy doesn't alter the strategy for LGBT legal groups, nor does she think it will make courts look upon the ban more sympathetically.

"This is situation were Secretary Mattis was backed into corner to deliver based on the president's tweets, so it was a matter of coming up with a justification after the fact," Nardecchia said. "The government was legally required to have their justification before banning and targeting transgender people. They're not permitted legally to come up with a justification after the fact, so I don't think courts will more sympathetic."

LGBT rights advocates had varying assessments on whether Mattis was culpable for the new policy and said the recommendation seemed like it was developed after the fact to justify Trump's ban.

Matthew Thorn, executive director of the LGBT military group OutServe-SLDN, said the real villain behind the policy is Trump, although Mattis shares some blame.

"I wouldn't characterize it as escaping culpability from this," Thorn said. "He is making a recommendation that is counterpoint to major, long studies and feedback that was provided to the Defense Department in 2016, but at the end of the day, this is the president and the president directing this decision."

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

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First in Panel Discussion Series Examines Detroit's Historical Gay Bar Scene

SAVE THE DATE

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Long before there was an Affirmations, they were the community centers of the LGBTQ world. You didn't just go to the gay bar to dance and drink, you went to socialize and to seek solace and support. The gay community revolved around the bars which, for many, was the only place they could let their hair down and be free; their true authentic selves.

So, it's important to revisit that rich history and remember that less innocent period of time. At least so sayeth Tim McKee, general manager of Menjos Entertainment Complex. McKee and Menjos will host a panel discussion on the history of gay nightlife in Detroit on April 7th.

"Focusing on the history of Detroit bars and nightlife is important because we need to know where we came from," said historian and Adjunct Assistant Professor of History and LGBT Studies at Michigan State University Tim Retzloff.

Retzloff, with his extensive background, will also moderate the discussion.

"Places like the Gas Station, the Casbah, the Famous Door and so many others have played a vital role in our community and our individual lives," he said. "For many of us, bars are our entree into a larger LGBT world, especially at a time when there were few organizations to help us understand ourselves and connect with others with shared sexual and gender identities."

And McKee agrees.

"About four years ago I was talking to Dr. Tim and I was telling him that it seemed very odd to me that the history – most of which in my opinion was cultivated and gathered in the gay bar scene – was not being passed on. This is because the teachers, the people who were supposed to pass on that information, died," McKee said. "And a lot of those people were my friends."

AIDS ravaged not just the gay bar scene but the gay community at large in the '80s. Since that time the LGBTQ community has made significant strides toward advancing the goal of equality for all, the culmination of which was the 2015 Supreme Court ruling that granted the LGBTQ community the right to marry. And in the process of all this advancement, the stories of an earlier time when going to a gay bar was more than just a way to pass a slow Saturday night but an actual act of rebellion and resilience, got lost.



The Lady "T" Tempest will be among those taking part in a panel discussion on the history of gay nightlife in Detroit. (Photo courtesy of Menjos).

First-person Accounts

Thankfully, there are still those who remember the pre-AIDS gay social scene in Detroit. Among them, and included as scheduled panelists for the discussion, are Mary Sappington, who began publishing the bar magazine *Metra* in 1979, Stacey "Hottwaxx" Hale, a popular DJ who began spinning in the gay clubs in the late '70s, Mark Weise, who was active in the leather community for many years, Palmer Park historian Doug Haller and legendary drag performers Torchy and Lady T Tempest.

"Our panelists represent a cross-section of local bar life in the 1970s and '80s, female and male, black and white," said Retzloff. "The program gives us a chance to hear directly from these pioneering members of the community."

For her part, Tempest has vivid memories of gay nightlife in Detroit going back more than four decades.

"I think today the young LGBT community

has it so easy," said Tempest. "And I want them to know, as I like to say, it's because of us old timers that they can live their lives free and open and happy," she said. "We took the bumps and bruises for them. I'm happy that I did that. I'm glad they're able to live free and open and safe, but I just want them to know it wasn't always that way."

The bars were more than just a place to mix and mingle, though they were of course a place to do that, too. But they were a place to connect with others on many levels, to build a family that accepted its regulars for who they really were.

"It's where you met people like yourself," Tempest said. "[It's] where you were able to communicate. You could discuss your problems at home, perhaps with your family members. You might be having trouble with your mother and father. It was a place to not only meet people but to discuss your life. It was a wonderful community."

But there were difficult times, too. Tempest recalled working in clubs in the mid-'70s

when performers were required to have an entertainer's license and LGBTQ performers were frequently harassed by the police department when they went to get one. Conditions in the club were often poor for the performers, who were treated as second-class citizens.

"I worked at a straight club that had female impersonation shows and it was owned by a Detroit policeman and his wife," Tempest remembered. "The entertainers weren't allowed to use the bathrooms. We had to urinate in a bucket and then we threw it out into the alley behind the bar. We did what we had to do to survive and, little by little, life got better."

Over the years, Tempest took home multiple titles around town, including, but not limited to, Miss Gold Coast, Miss Ruby's, Miss Flaming Ruby's, Miss Other Side, Miss Cruise Club, Miss Footlights and Miss Gigi's. It's Gigi's that she considers her home bar.

"We were sitting in Gigi's one afternoon and thank God they had cameras that covered the parking lot," Tempest said. "We were sitting there having wonderful conversation and a great cocktail and we look up and there were young people breaking out the car windows in the parking lot. Tony Garneau, the original owner of Gigi's, said 'OK, everyone, grab a pool stick,' and out the door we went. We fought them off. We weren't bothering anybody. Our thing was don't bother us. We protected our territory."

Hale also has her share of memories. Starting out in the late '70s she spun at clubs such as Club Hollywood, Club Exclusive, Circus and Opus in her early days. The greatest difference between then and now, Hale said, was the amount of people on the dance floor.

"People danced," she said. "People came out to dance. We still got our groove on, still flirted and did our thing. But people danced. They don't dance anymore."

Behind the music, though, things weren't always easy for Hale either. Especially as a black woman navigating her way through an often segregated club scene.

"I remember I couldn't get into Menjos," said Hale. "They asked me for three pieces of ID with a picture and I produced it and they still wouldn't let me in."

The Our History in the D panel discussion on the history of the LGBTQ bar scene in Detroit will take place Saturday, April 7 at 7 p.m. The discussion will take place in the Olympus Theater in the Menjos Entertainment Complex. For more information, call 313-863-3934 or visit newmenjoscomplex.com.



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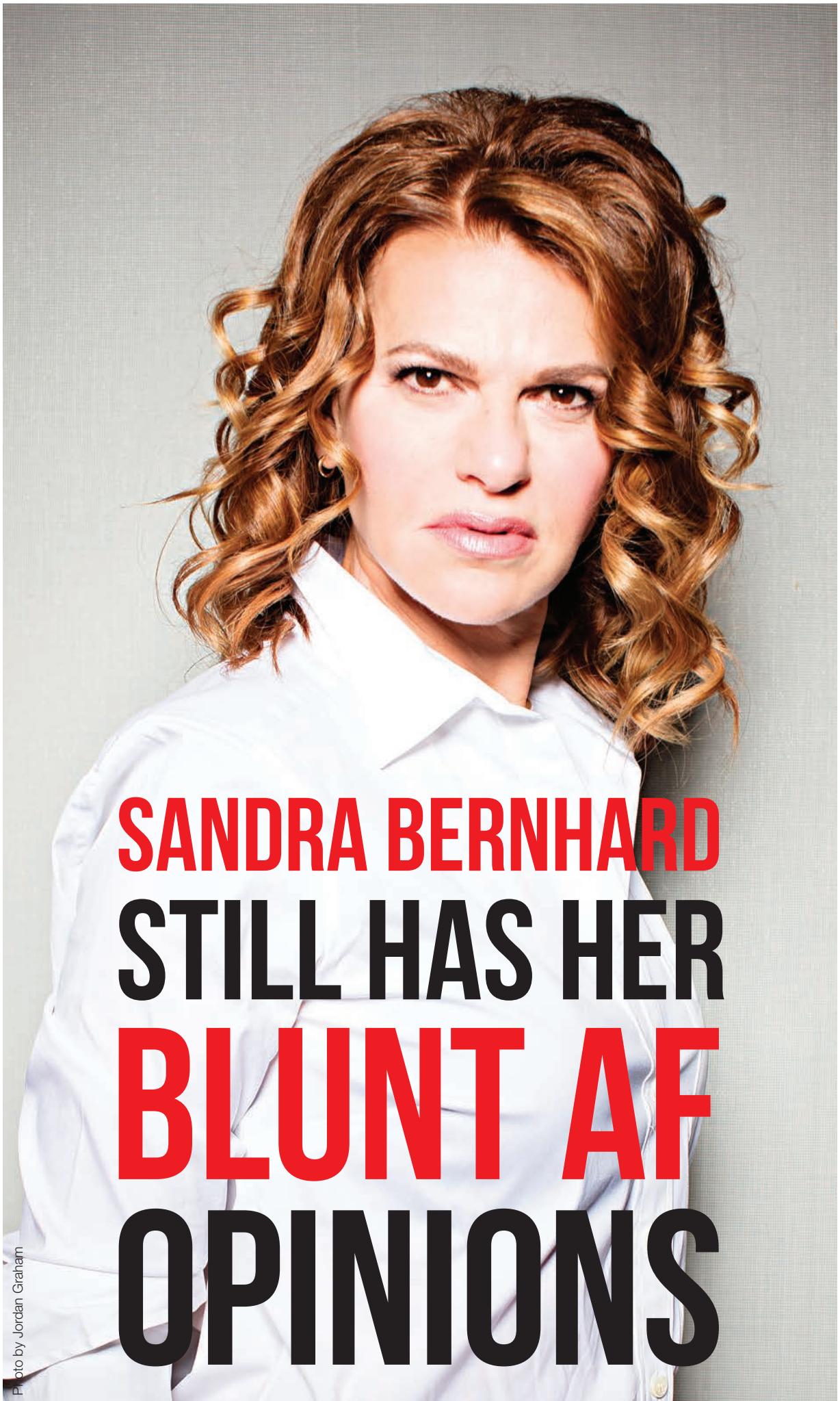
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SANDRA BERNHARD STILL HAS HER BLUNT AF OPINIONS

Photo by Jordan Graham

Comedian Returns to a TV Classic – and Doesn't Mince Words on Roseanne's Politics and Kathy Griffin's Activism

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Before unloading her frank thoughts on TV co-star Roseanne Barr's alt-right politics and fellow comic Kathy Griffin's viral Trump-beheading pic ("It just wasn't funny"), Sandra Bernhard proclaims herself quite aptly as "no-nonsense." That has been, after all, her way since the '70s, when lambasting Hollywood's who's-who first proved lucrative for the fearless comedian, actress and musician.

Then, from 1991-1997, the Flint native famously put a face to bisexuality not just as herself – Bernhard was out from the get-go – but as Nancy Bartlett on ABC's hit sitcom "Roseanne." Introduced in season four as the estranged lesbian wife of Arnie Thomas (Tom Arnold), Nancy, who later came out as bisexual, gets chummy with Roseanne Conner and Jackie Harris, Roseanne's younger sister (Laurie Metcalf).

Bernhard, 62, will revisit her groundbreaking character during the show's revival. As for the controversy regarding Roseanne and her TV alter ego's support for President Trump? "Roseanne" is gonna be another round of really fun and really smart television," she tells me. "Roseanne has never turned on the gay community. Roseanne likes to stir the pot. She always has. So, I guess that's the way she's doing it now, and I don't agree with any of the Trump shit, but I think she'll transcend that and the show will still be

amazing."

What can we expect politically from the "Roseanne" reboot?

I think they're gonna do a deep dive into where the working class is at right now. I mean, maybe not as deep as you would need, considering that half of the working class who don't have their industrial-ass jobs anymore are strung out on opioids. That's not very much fun; I don't think they'll go there (laughs). But I think we're in a real crossroads in this country, and "Roseanne" has always been good at revealing that, and at the same time making it funny and moving and insightful. I'm only in the last episode, so I don't know exactly how they're approaching it. I know there will be very personal stories like there always were, as opposed to globalizing it. I think that's what makes the show special.

I imagine you've been hearing about the backlash Roseanne's politics have ignited since the reboot was announced.

I was hearing about that way before they announced the reboot, and I just dropped out of the conversation because I don't want to get into that on Twitter. You can't do that; it goes nowhere. And everybody who makes political decisions also has to live with the fallout. That goes for famous, successful people and for people on the street. If you voted for Trump and you thought it was gonna be a lark and funny, the results are right there in front of you every day.

My hope is that it might bridge some severe societal gaps, maybe open some minds, maybe even my own. But it's been very difficult for people who didn't vote for Trump to even begin to understand or empathize with someone who supported him.

I don't have any empathy for people who voted for him. Honestly, I really don't. It's obvious that he didn't know anything about the working class population; he exploited it and (his supporters) were naive and unwilling to read or to know what was really going on. He played them, and to a certain extent the few people who are still in his corner, he still plays them. So it's just kind of a bummer.

A lot of people have strong opinions about the liberal-minded cast returning to a show led by a Trump supporter.

I'm glad they do. She should hear it. And it's better for her to hear it from the people that have supported her and watched her show than it is from me. I mean, we're friends, we're friendly, and I'll continue to do the show. But it gets underneath your skin when 20 million people who used to watch your show are like, "What the fuck?"

She seems to know how people feel about her politics based on her appearance at the Golden Globes, when she said, "I'm kind of known for creating some great drama" while presenting with co-star John Goodman.

Of course she knows.

Well, I'm excited to have Nancy Bartlett back. You told me in 2013 that you didn't think Nancy would have a place on the show if it ever returned.

It's not that she didn't have a place. But I didn't think they'd be able to fit her story back in because of all the new characters and the family and reestablishing what's been going on politically, so when they added the extra episode and wrote me in I was thrilled.

Nancy was one of the earliest portrayals of bisexuality on TV. What surprised you most about how her sexuality was treated on the show in the '90s?

I mean, she was fun and it was a fun concept that she ran from being married to Tom Arnold into the relationship with Morgan Fairchild. It was sort of a lark at first, and of course it evolved. They wouldn't let me kiss Morgan Fairchild under the mistletoe – we had to cut the kiss – so that's how far we've come in terms of what you see sexually on TV.

But yeah, she was a funny, kooky, free-spirited character who got to do things and say things that was part of the evolution of sexuality on TV. It wasn't intentional – it

wasn't like we were trying to do something groundbreaking. But that is how Roseanne is and was. She just did things that felt organic and authentic. She ended up having the actual kiss with Merle Hemingway (at a gay bar that Nancy took her to), but nonetheless, Nancy's fun, and if they picked up the show again they'll expand her story.

We'll get more Nancy if there's another season?

Oh yeah, absolutely. For sure, yeah.

Roseanne will have a genderfluid grandson, Mark (played by newcomer Ames McNamara), on the show as well.

Yes.

What are your thoughts on the show continuing to be inclusive?

I just think there has to be a little bit of everything in all the shows now, and I don't know. I've gotta see the show before I can comment. He's in my episode, but to the extent of what they're trying to do with that character, we'll have to see.

Speaking more generally, how do you feel about representation as far as LGBTQ people go on TV?

It's certainly gotten a helluva lot better than when Nancy first came on the scene. And I think with each year that goes by, especially with the advent of Hulu and Netflix and Amazon, there's been major breakthroughs.

Are you currently enjoying any shows with LGBTQ characters?

I watch "9-1-1" just because I think it's a ridiculous show. Everywhere you turn there's new, interesting gay characters. But I don't go to a show for that. For me, my life has never been informed by that. I've always been comfortable with who I am sexually. I've been sexually fluid, I've broken all the ground rules since I was 17 years old. So, I've never had any need for somebody to be my role model. I've been my own role model. So, it's a non-issue. But I think for the public at large it's been a great time and a revolutionary time for people to see all kinds of characters – racially, sexually, women, men – come to life in a new way.

Have you heard of the very gay-centric "Schitt's Creek"?

Honey, I was one of the first people to be hip to it!

Oh, snap.

(Laughs) I know, yes. But yeah, of course. Love it. Dan Levy is terrific – super funny and smart.

What can we expect from you in the future?

See Sandra Bernhard, page 19



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6 Things I'd Like to See on the 'Roseanne' Revival



The Frivolist

BY MIKEY ROX

Roseanne Barr knows how to keep tongues wagging. From her infamous bungling of “The Star-Spangled Banner” and my-way-or-the-highway tyranny on the set of her groundbreaking sitcom to her failed presidential bid and accusation that Ireland (yes, the whole darn country) is anti-Semitic, the self-proclaimed domestic goddess has been a controversial pop-culture mainstay for more than 30 years.

This month, the legendary comedienne will return with her original TV family and friends to ABC’s primetime lineup. How will she make us laugh, side-eye, and ask WTF next? Who knows, but here are six things I’d like to see the series tackle in season 10.

1. Gay Darlene

In the series finale of “Roseanne”’s original run, it was revealed by newly widowed matriarch Roseanne that her daughter Darlene (Sara Gilbert) was married to her sister Becky’s (Lecy Goranson) husband Mark (the late Glenn Quinn), not his brother David (Johnny Galecki), whom she had been with since season four. The latter storyline was explained as a

fictional plot in a story that Roseanne had written about her life, which, as it turned out, encompassed the entire series. Nothing that we had watched over the past nine years was as it seemed. That fan-disappointing decision will be retconned in the reboot, leaving everything leading up to season nine of the original series as canon. Praise Jesus. In the reboot, however, Darlene and David will be separated, opening up the potential opportunity for her to date women, which seems appropriate since Sara Gilbert is a lesbian in a real life. Just don’t expect it to happen immediately since Darlene’s 9-year-old gender-nonconforming son Mark (Ames McNamara) will be the basis for any initial LGBT diversity storylines. Not complaining, though; representation is representation.

2. George Clooney cameo

Jackie (Laurie Metcalf) was known for her revolving door of one-night stands and sometimes boyfriends – and a very tumultuous but short-lived marriage to her baby daddy Fred (Michael O’Keefe) – but none shared the kind of chemistry with her as first-season love interest, Booker, played by George Clooney. Of course, GC’s a big-shot Hollywood movie star now

– and has been for the past 20 years – so it’s probably a long shot that he’ll make a guest appearance. On the other hand, the Oscar-nominated Laurie Metcalf is a star in her own right, and “Friends” landed Brad Pitt and Julie Roberts in its heyday, so I’m keeping my fingers crossed.

3. The return of Kathy Bowman

Roseanne and Dan Conner (John Goodman) dealt with their fair share of neighbors over the years – who could forget the elderly nudists? – but the most formidable was “needle-butt” Kathy Bowman (Meagen Fay), Roseanne’s arch-nemesis from the minute she and her husband Jerry moved next door to 714 Delaware Street. It was a rivalry for the ages until Roseanne inadvertently helped burglars dressed as good Samaritans (one of whom looked like Bob Hope) rob Kathy’s house, which ultimately drove the snippy housewife back to her hometown of Chicago. Fay is still a fixture on television – she most recently appeared on ABC’s “Dr. Ken” in a guest role – and if the network knows what’s good for its loyal “Roseanne” lovers, she’ll at least make a pit stop in Lanford one more time.

4. All the grown-up babies

When we last left the Conners in 1997, Roseanne had baby Jerry Garcia, Jackie had baby Andy, and Darlene had just popped out baby Harris before the series finale. Baby Harris will be featured in the revival (now a teenager of 14 years old instead of the actual age of 21 she would be in real time) – as will her brother Mark and cousin Mary (Jayden Rey), daughter of D.J. Conner (Michael Fishman). As for Jerry Garcia and Andy, they’re still part of the continuity, according to Roseanne, but the characters will not appear in season 10.

5. Dan’s boat

Whatever happened to Dan’s boat? Some “Roseanne”-aphiles consider it a casualty of the writers’ room, just another abandoned plot point, while others seem to remember Dan’s mentally ill mother setting it on fire. Whatever the truth is – which is hard to discern from a show like “Roseanne” – I hope it makes a comeback. If they can resurrect Dan from the dead (it was revealed he died of a heart attack in the series finale), surely they can put a half-completed boat back up on cinderblocks.

6. Topical subject matter

One of the greatest legacies of “Roseanne,” and why it was a top-20 show for eight of its nine seasons (No. 1 overall in 1989), is that it never shied away from controversial subject matter. From first periods and teenage masturbation to gay marriage and race relations, “Roseanne” blazed a trail across the television landscape, the effects of which can still be seen in sitcoms today. You can expect more of the same from the reboot – Roseanne the comedienne is still as feisty as ever – as they tackle the Trump administration (Roseanne the character admits she voted for the kook in an early episode), gender-identity issues, for-hire surrogacy, and mixed-race families. Throw an episode about gun control in there and we’re halfway to an Emmy nom.

“Roseanne” premieres at 8/7c on March 27 on ABC.

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.



Roseanne Barr and John Goodman on an episode from the “Roseanne” revival. Photo: ABC

“ I think we’re in a real crossroads in this country, and ‘Roseanne’ has always been good at revealing that, and at the same time making it funny and moving and insightful. I’m only in the last episode, so I don’t know exactly how they’re approaching it. I know there will be very personal stories like there always were, as opposed to globalizing it. I think that’s what makes the show special. ”

► **Sandra Bernhard**

Continued from p. 17

I’ve got three scripted projects I’m trying to get off the ground right now, so that’s a lot of my focus, and it’s a lot of hard work. So, I’m chipping away at that and, of course, continuing to go up for other roles as an actress and do my live performing.

What kind of scripts are you working on?

They’re all comedic. One is based on my early years in LA when I started off as a manicurist. One is a project with (performance artist) Justin Vivian Bond. We wrote a musical about six years ago called “Arts & Crafts” and we’re trying to get it into a TV series.

I remember you telling me you’d never stoop so low to do a reality show. Still out of the question?

Yeah, listen, if I haven’t done it by now, I’m certainly not gonna do it at this late date.

How do you feel about the way comedy has addressed the Trump era?

Everybody’s speaking about it and being funny and creative about it, and obviously people like Bill Maher and those types do it in a more political way. I think it’s been really interesting.

Has your recent comedy reflected current politics?

Sort of, kind of through the back door. I don’t hit people over the head talking about that stuff because so many people are good at doing it verbatim, so I try to keep it more global than just obvious.

Did you think Kathy Griffin went too far with the picture of her holding Trump’s decapitated head?

It’s not about going too far – it just wasn’t funny, and she’s not political. Why is she suddenly jumping on the bandwagon? That’s not what she does. And it wasn’t smart enough or interesting enough. That was its biggest crime.

But Kathy Griffin has been politically engaged and an activist for the gay community.

She’s an activist? I don’t know. I don’t think she’s an activist, frankly. I mean, that’s – she certainly takes advantage of the gay population in her way, but I don’t think she’s done anything earth-shattering for ... I mean, I don’t agree.

Who would you consider an entertainer and an activist?

I mean, I’m an activist for being a human being. There’s bigger fish to fry, and my work is inherently political, and it’s been inherently LGBTQ-informed because it’s who I am; it’s what I’ve done from the beginning. I don’t call my audience “my gays.” My audience is my audience and everybody in it forms an alliance every night. You perform for the entire crowd – it’s not about singling anyone out. And if your work is very, very daring and interesting, then smart people come to it, whether they’re gay, straight, black, white, men, women. I mean, you gotta be able to get underneath what’s really going on culturally, and then you’re always gonna have a smart audience sitting in front of you.

Who else in the comedy world can really dig into the cultural zeitgeist?

I don’t have a litany of people I’m sitting here thinking about. I’m sorry. It’s, like, too hard to do that. Right now the people who are impressing me the most are all these kids from the school in Florida. They’re activists. Went through a terrible trauma and they’ve been able to transform it into total activation, and that to me is really impressive and exciting. To talk about entertainers and people – it’s easy for all of us to do all that stuff because we’re not under duress, but when you’ve been practically possibly severely injured or murdered, yeah, that’s something to really applaud and stand by.

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

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Aepex Contemporary Performance and Kerrytown Concert House Push Boundaries with Transgender Opera 'As One'

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Thinking of opera, one might imagine a knight in shining armor, a damsel in distress or Brunnhilde – a woman with a viking helmet and blonde braids belting out some massive vocal power. And, in many ways, opera is still representative of those traditional characters, but it's also an ever-changing medium that is growing with the times. "As One," an opera that talks about one transgender woman's path to her own acceptance is the perfect example of that. Set to premiere in Michigan on April 6 and 7, it's being put on locally by Ann Arbor's Aepex Contemporary Performance and Kerrytown Concert House.

"The project began with a conversation between Kathy Kelly (the show's director) and a very accomplished opera director and vocal coach at the University of Michigan. And then she had coffee with Kevin Fitzgerald who is Aepex's music director almost a year ago," said Garrett Schumann, Aepex's executive director. "She was aware of 'As One' and brought it up talking to Kevin and he was really excited about it."

"As One" turned out to be the perfect fit for Aepex's programming said Schumann, specifically because Fitzgerald had had experience putting on LGBTQ-friendly programming, and because it fit perfectly with Aepex's overall mission.

"Kevin Fitzgerald has been involved in a number of concerts surrounding specific issues, and one of them was a community-based performance of the Mozart 'Requiem' that he organized right after the Pulse Nightclub shooting in the summer of 2016. So when he was talking about 'As One' the connections he had made with the LGBTQ community in Ann Arbor gave him a lot of confidence about our ability to build an audience for it," Schumann said. "This is the first opera production we've been involved with, and we're also very excited



Jennifer Cresswell



Jonathan Lasch

The opera stars soprano Jennifer Cresswell and baritone Jonathan Lasch who will be portraying the same person at different stages in their journey of transition and acceptance. The performers will also be performing alongside a video created by transgender filmmaker and the opera's co-librettist Kimberly Reed.

about not just the story that it tells ... but that it's something we care about as an organization: sharing artistic perspectives and stories that are not normally programmed in this music space."

The opera stars soprano Jennifer Cresswell and baritone Jonathan Lasch who will be portraying the same person at different stages in their journey of transition and acceptance. The performers will also be performing alongside a video created by transgender filmmaker and the opera's co-librettist Kimberly Reed. Schumann said that this addition will also add another modern twist in the presentation of this story.

Fitzgerald said that although opera might be an art form that intimidates some who have never attended, that this performance is a direct answer to that: not only does it cover progressive material, but it provides an intimate concert setting in a much smaller concert

hall than normal.

"I think that classical music in general has been associated with a class system that's been around for hundreds of years, because, frankly, classical music was used for the most part in two contexts: one in church and two as entertainment for rich people," Fitzgerald said. "We are, as a global classical community, trying to figure out how to break that down."

The show's director Kathleen Kelly agreed. She said that the show's intimacy will resonate deeply with its audience because of the language the show is in, too.

"The piece is in English, so you don't have to be reading a translation, you don't have to be informed in advance of the story so you can come like you come to theater and be surprised. Also, because the space is small the singers don't have

See 'As One,' page 23

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Ypsilanti to Host Queernival Prom 2018

BY BTL STAFF

For many, prom is considered to be a rite of passage from childhood to adulthood, and although greater amounts of LGBTQ people are able to experience it many students still attend schools that don't accommodate same-sex couples at their events. That's why both Ann Arbor's Ozone House and Ypsilanti's Corner Health Center have teamed up to provide a safe, affirming event for youth aged 14 to 21.

Ozone House is an organization that has been in Ann Arbor since 1969. In its nearly 50-year history, it has, "Actively developed unique, high-quality housing and support programs and services that provide support, intervention, training and assistance to runaway, homeless and high-risk youth and their families," according to its website.

The Corner Health Center provides "a full range of health care, mental health and supportive services for young people as they transition into adulthood" and a "judgment-free, high-quality, affordable health service" for people aged 12 to 25, its website said.

This year, the event theme is a Queernival, or queer carnival. In addition to the dance, prom-goers can expect a variety of games, prizes and a tarot card reader. The event is free and open to youth within the age limits to attend.

To RSVP visit gaybe.am/ry. The event will be held at the Riverside Arts Center in Ypsilanti at 76 N. Huron St. The alcohol/drug-free event also needs volunteers to help with both supervision, setup and teardown. Those interested in helping can contact Andi at asalinas@cornerhealth.org.

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Ypsilanti Drag Queen Bingo Supports Ann Arbor Pride

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Bingo by itself can be fun, but add drag queens into the mix and it can turn into a party. That's why Boylesque Bitchy Bingo is hosting a fundraiser for this year's Ann Arbor Pride.

Hosted by drag queens Jadein Black and Maxi Chanel, attendees can brace themselves for a wry mix of observational humor and, should they come late, assume they'll be made fun of – all for a good cause of course.

Tickets cost \$30 for six games, and the event will include a full dinner and drink menu with table service.

The event will be held at the Tap Room located at 201 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, Michigan.

► 'As One'

Continued from p. 21

to sing up at the edge of their resources in order to fill up a big hall and that also means that they can be very understandable with their words," Kelly said. "But, they're still athletically trained opera singers so you get all of the emotional impact of a voice produced like that."

Kelly also said that if attendees are worried that they might not be able to relate to the protagonist in this piece because they themselves are not part of the LGBTQ community, she recommends seeing the opera anyway. Kelly said that she has related more deeply to "As One's" main character than almost any other piece she has directed.

"Because it's about this really human search for identity. Like, if I don't fit into the categories that are prescribed for me, what does that mean for my life? I don't mean I can understand the journey of this person or that my journey is the same, but it can touch me and it's universal," Kelly said.

And, according to Kelly, the fact that the opera has been heavily lauded and performed nationwide speaks for itself.

"This piece was the 14th most produced opera in America last year and you can say part of it is because it's so economical, it doesn't involve very many people and some of it is because the issues at hand are issues that are at hand in society, but it goes beyond that," she said. "It's been produced that many times because it's a great piece and has a lot to say to us."

"As One" will be performed at the Kerrytown Concert House on April 6 and 7 at 8 p.m. Tickets and more information about the performance are available at kerrytownconcerthouse.com. The venue is located at 415 N. 4th Ave., Ann Arbor.

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Kygo to Headline at Masonic Temple

Norwegian-born DJ Kyrre Gørvell-Dahl better known as Kygo is slated to perform at Detroit's Masonic Temple on Thursday, May 3. The 26-year-old first became internationally known when he remixed the track "I See Fire" by Ed Sheeran. That track has since gained 55 million plays on SoundCloud and been viewed 65 million times on YouTube and SoundCloud. Today, Kygo has been nominated for over 30 industry award with almost 10 to his name. The show starts at 6:30 p.m. and tickets start at \$45. More information can be found online at templedetroit.com.

Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, March 29

Talk With The Girls: Security, Safety, Prevention and Response 6 p.m.

Understand the misconceptions that impact the prevention of and response to hate crimes targeting transgender women-federal allies. Ask questions about strategies and resources for community safety & security. This event is brought to you with Ruth Ellis Center, 77 Victor St., Highland Park. 313-252-1950 <http://www.ruthelliscenter.org/>

Pop-Up Event: Dance! Introduction to Partner Movement 7 p.m. An event every week on Thursday. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105 <https://www.facebook.com/events/390728118060084/>

Friday, March 30

2018 Grand Rapids Pride Festival Kick Off 5 p.m. The 2018 Grand Rapids Pride Festival will be taking place Sat., June 16 at Calder Plaza. We're celebrating 30 years and are feeling 30 and Fabulous! Come down to the Apartment Lounge for drinks, 50/50 Apartment Lounge, 33 Sheldon Ave., NE, Grand Rapids. [apartmentloungegr.com](https://www.apartmentloungegr.com) <https://www.olympiaentertainment.com>

facebook.com/events/157057741749598/

"The Sound of Music" Comes to the Fox Theatre 7:30 p.m. Lauded as the 'most successful movie in musical history', "The Sound of Music" has been viewed by more than 44 million people worldwide! Now it's time to see it at the Fox Theatre! One event on March 31 at 3:00pm One event on March 31 at 8:00pm Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 3134716611 <http://www.olympiaentertainment.com>

Air Supply LIVE at the MGM Grand Detroit! 8 p.m. For over 40 Years, Air Supply have been captivating audiences with hits like "All Out of Love" and "The One That You Love". Now, you can hear

them live! MGM Grand Detroit, 1777 3rd Avenue, Detroit. (877) 888-2121 <https://www.mgmresorts.com/en/hotels/united-states/mgm-grand-detroit.html> <http://www.mgmgranddetroit.com>

Saturday, March 31

TDOV: Trans Art Showcase and Stories of Truth, Power & Positivity 2 p.m. a.m. idst the fear and hatred in the world, the transgender community is thriving and that is something worth celebrating. Join us for a night of art for and by members of the trans community, celebration, University Club of Grand Rapids, 111 Lyon St. NW, Ste 1025, Grand Rapids. 616-456-8623

OU Pride Prom 7 p.m. Join the Gay-Straight Alliance for Pride Prom in the Gold Rooms at the Oakland Center. This event is positioned to be a fun and meaningful event for all, whether one wants to relive the prom Oakland Center, 312 Meadow Brook Road, Room 118, Rochester. 248-370-3230 gsc@oakland.edu <https://oakland.edu/oc/> <https://oakland.edu/gsc/events/2018/033118-pride-prom>

Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo at MGM Grand Detroit 8 p.m. Pat Benatar has always been a rule-breaker. She remains a bold and distinctive artist both on stage and on record, and now, after more than three decades in rock 'n' roll, she's a bonafide living MGM Grand Detroit, 1777 3rd Avenue, Detroit. (877) 888-2121 <https://www.mgmresorts.com/en/hotels/united-states/mgm-grand-detroit.html> <http://www.mgmgranddetroit.com>

Mississippi Mud Erotic Art Show 9 p.m. Mississippi Mud Erotic Art Show (Detroit), is a black erotic art show dedicated to promoting a conscious and positive way of thinking toward black sexuality and love. Featuring live band, DJ, food, sex toy vendors, The Artist Village Detroit,

17340 Lahser Road, Detroit. <https://www.facebook.com/theartistvillagedetroit/> <https://detroit.gaycities.com/events/1014511-mississippi-mud-erotic-art-show-detroit>

Sunday, April 1

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups 6:30 p.m. Hilltop Counseling, 115 W. Maumee Street, Adrian. 313-909-5408 www.standwithtrans.org <http://www.hilltopcounseling.org>

Tuesday, April 3

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups 7 p.m. St. Mary's in-the-Hills Episcopal Church, An event every month that begins at 7:00pm on day First of the month, repeating indefinitely St. Mary's In The Hills Episcopal Church, 2512 Joslyn Court, Lake Orion. 248-391-0663 <http://www.stmarysinthehills.org> <http://www.standwithtrans.org>

Wednesday, April 4

Ferndale Pride Fundraiser at Rosie O'Grady's 7 p.m. Come one, come all to Rosie O'Grady's First Wednesday Share the Wealth Raffle for Ferndale Pride! Rosie O'Grady's, 279 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-591-9163 julia@ferndalepride.com <http://rosieogrady'sirishpub.com/ferndale/?rosies/ferndale> <http://www.ferndalepride.com>

Thursday, April 5

OU 15th Annual Drag Show 7 p.m. The 15th Annual Drag Show is a major aspect of Pride Month. The drag show is the Gay-Straight Alliance's largest event, with hundreds of spectators each year. Consisting of both professional and student-auditioned performers, this Oakland Center, 312 Meadow Brook Road, Room 118, Rochester. 248-370-3230

gsc@oakland.edu <https://oakland.edu/oc/> <https://oakland.edu/gsc/events/2018/040518-15th-annual-drag-show>

Friday, April 6

Foolmoon 2018 10 a.m. FoolMoon is the nighttime kick-off event to our foolish weekend! In the heart of downtown Ann Arbor, everyone and anyone is invited to gather in the streets to shake off those cold gray winters. The Ann Arbor, Ashley St. and Washington St., <https://wonderfoolproductions.org/foolmoon/>

As One: An Opera About The Transgender Experience 8 p.m. APEX Contemporary Performance and Kerrytown Concert House present Kathleen Kelly's new staging of the renowned chamber opera "As One" - music and concept by Laura Kaminsky and libretto by Mark Campbell and Kimberly Reed. An event every day that begins at 8 pm, repeating until April 7. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. 4th Ave., Ann Arbor. kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Saturday, April 7

Queer Prom 2018 7 p.m. Second Annual Queer Prom Ages 14-18 Early Bird Registration opens March 7th at 8 a.m. Early Bird tickets are \$15 Ticket prices increase to \$20 on April 1st Tickets will be available at the door Streeters Ground Zero, 1669 S. Garfield Ave., Traverse City. 231-932-1300

Spring TG Prom 9 p.m. Join us for our annual TG Prom. DJ Doug, 9 p.m. Who will be our next Prom Queen and King? The Dunes Resort, 333 Blue Star Hwy, Douglas. 269-857-1401 dunesresort.com

Sunday, April 8

Festifoools 2018 4 p.m. FestiFools is one

Editor's Pick

Joyce Brienza Exhibit Floating Points at University of Michigan Campus

Detroit artist Joyce Brienza has had a decades long interest in what she describes as the "places between." Her new exhibit Floating Points explores abstractions and themes like male and female, high art and low and fragmented parts. The internationally-displayed artist's work will be exhibited at the University of Michigan's North Campus Research Complex now through April 16. The exhibit is free and available for viewing at 2800 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor. Reach out to serrag@med.umich.edu or call 734-647-2788 for more information.com.



Editor's Pick

The 'Ripcord' Battle of Wits at Tipping Point Theatre

The nationally-lauded play "Ripcord" is coming to Northville's Tipping Point Theatre. The story follows Abby, a cantankerous resident at the Bristol Place Senior Living Facility, who is forced to accommodate an overly cheery new roommate Marilyn. When their personalities start to clash, the two engage in a prank war filled with tricks. Going on now through April 23, shows are selling out already. Tickets start at \$30. More information can be found online at tippingpointtheatre.com.



of Ann Arbor's cultural treasures. It is a HUGE-mongous public art spectacular, created by members of the community and U of M students. Magnificent, colorful, bizarre, human-powered papier-mâché puppets join thousands of Yearly Ann Arbor, Main Street, <https://wonderfoolproductions.org/festivals/>

MUSIC & MORE

Pop-Up Event: Dance! Introduction to Partner Movement March 29, 7 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105

The Devils Music: The Life and Blues of Bessie Smith March 30, 8 p.m. Theatre NOVA, 410 W. Huron, Ann Arbor. 7346358450 <http://www.theatrenova.org>

Air Supply LIVE at the MGM Grand Detroit! March 30, 8 p.m. For over 40 Years, Air Supply have been captivating audiences with hits like "All Out of Love" and "The One That You Love". Now, you can hear them live! MGM Grand Detroit, 1777 3rd Avenue, Detroit. (877) 888-2121 www.mgmgranddetroit.com

Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Chick Corea March 31, 8 p.m. Surprise! This perennial favorite is back, but this time with jazz pianist Chick Corea at the helm. Corea's staggering career, spanning more than Ann Arbor Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. <https://ums.org/performance/jazz-at-lincoln-center-orchestra-with-chick-corea>

Pat Benetar and Neil Giraldo at MGM Grand Detroit March 31, 8 p.m. Pat Benetar has always been a rule-breaker. MGM Grand Detroit, 1777 3rd Avenue, Detroit. (877) 888-2121

Foolmoon 2018 April 6, The nighttime kick-off event to our foolish weekend! In the heart of downtown Ann Arbor, everyone and anyone is invited to gather in the streets to shake off those cold gray winters. The Ann Arbor, Ashley St. and Washington St. <https://wonderfoolproductions.org/foolmoon>

Strauss & Wagner at Orchestra Hall April 6, 10:30 a.m. Originally composed as a gift to his wife after the birth of their son Siegfried, Wagner's Siegfried Idyll would eventually serve as musical inspiration to parts of his Ring cycle. ConcertTalk 4/6 at 7 p.m. One event on April 6 at 8:00pm One event on April 7 at 8:00pm Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 313-576-5111 www.dso.org

Storm Large & Le Bonheur April 6, 8:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$20. Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 313-576-5162 <http://www.dso.org>. yMusic April 7, 8:30 p.m. Hailed by Performance Today's Fred

Child as "one of the groups that has really helped to shape the future of classical music," yMusic is a group of six New York City instrumentalists flourishing in the Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 313-576-5162 www.dso.org

Artemis Quartet April 8, 4 p.m. Named after the Greek goddess of hunt and wilderness, the Artemis Quartet was founded in 1989 but took a full 10 years before it performed its first concerts for a live audience. This dedication to Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor. (734) 764-8572 <http://www.rackham.umich.edu>.

Festifools 2018 April 8, 4 p.m. One of Ann Arbor's cultural treasures. It is a HUGE-mongous public art spectacular, created by members of the community and U of M students. Magnificent, colorful, bizarre, human-powered papier-mâché puppets join thousands of Yearly Ann Arbor, Main Street. <https://wonderfoolproductions.org/festifools>

Foster Care and Adoption Orientation April 10, 6 p.m. Orchards Children's Services is seeking adults to create smiles in a child's life. Orchards is looking for adults from all counties to provide temporary care in their home for children ages 0 to 17 for Orchards Children's Services, 24901 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 601, Southfield. 248-258-0440 www.orchards.org

Friday the 13th @ Zeke's Rock & Roll Ferndale Pride Fundraiser April 13, 11 a.m. Come join us on Friday, April 13th at Zeke's Rock & Roll BBQ featuring a.m. elia Airharts. 20 of sales all day and \$10 cover starting at 9PM. Proceeds both benefit Ferndale Pride.

A Tribute to The Jazz Legend Abdullah Ibrahim April 13, 8 p.m. Iconic South African jazz legend Abdullah Ibrahim and his band Ekaya – with Freddie Hendrix in the trumpet chair – present a concert program in tribute to The Jazz Epistles, South Africa's first black jazz Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397 <https://ums.org>

Average White Band Comes to the MGM Grand April 13, 8 p.m. Average White Band are a Scottish funk and R&B band that had a series of soul and disco hits between 1974 and 1980. They are best known for their million-selling instrumental track "Pick Up the MGM Grand Detroit, 1777 3rd Avenue, Detroit. (877) 888-2121 <https://www.mgmresorts.com>

The 29th Annual Bow Wow Brunch April 15, 10:30 a.m. Detroit's animal lovers will don their cocktail chic for homeless pets when the Michigan Humane Society

will host its Purrfect Bow Wow Brunch, presented by Strategic Staffing Solutions, at the MGM Grand MGM Grand Detroit, 1777 3rd Avenue, Detroit. (877) 888-2121 events@michiganhumane.org michiganhumane.org

Apollo's Fire: Monteverdi's L'Orfeo April 15, 4 p.m. As one of the earliest examples of the form, and certainly the earliest that still has a place in the present repertoire 400 years later, L'Orfeo sets to music the famous myth of Orpheus and Ann Arbor Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave. <https://ums.org>

ART 'N' AROUND

Collected with Pride: A Glimpse of Detroiters' Art March 23, 9 a.m. 315 E. Warren Ave., Detroit. 313-494-5800 <https://thewright.org> <https://thewright.org>

Cat Mania! A celebration of cats variety show! April 27, 8 p.m. Static presents Cat Mania! An art and variety show featuring a night of music, art, burlesque and vendors capturing the feline frenzy for a local cat rescue called the Hater Kitty Rescue Army! 18 and Tangent Gallery, 715 East Milwaukee Ave., Detroit. 248-445-1277 <http://www.haterkitty.com>

THEATER

"The Sound of Music" Comes to The Fox Theatre March 30-31, 7:30 p.m. Lauded as the "most successful movie in musical history, it has been viewed by more than 44 million people worldwide! See it at the Fox Theatre! 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-471-6611

Metamorphoses April 13-15, 19-22, 8 p.m. Based on the classic myths of Ovid, Metamorphoses is a rarely seen theatrical marvel that unfolds in and around a giant pool of water. Contact for ticket pricing Baldwin Theatre, 415 South Lafayette, Royal Oak. 2485418027 <http://www.stagecrafters.org>

Cold Blood April 19, 7:30 p.m. After the resounding success of Kiss & Cry (2014-15 season), the magnificent creative team of Charleroi Danses in Belgium brings Cold Blood, a poetic journey that is filmed before your very eyes. The performance explores One event on April 20 at 8:00pm One event on April 21 at 8:00pm Power Center, 121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor. (734) 647-3327

A2CT Presents Arcadia April 19, 7:30 p.m. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre presents Arcadia by Tom Stoppard. In an English country house in 1809, Thomasina asks her tutor Septimus some uncomfortably difficult questions. Director Melissa Freilich calls the play "funny, smart, and heartfelt. Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. 734-764-2538 www.a2ct.org/shows/arcadia

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Stand With Trans Offers Understanding Gender Expansive Children Event

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

When a child is born and assigned a gender at birth, the status quo is that they'll stick to the well-defined lines of gender: girls will play with dolls, boys will play with trucks. However, there are many children who won't adhere to these rules, because they don't feel comfortable with the gender they were assigned at birth. These children are called gender expansive. Stand with Trans, an organization dedicated to aid transgender youth, will host an event on April 10 to help parents understand if and why their young child is exhibiting signs of gender expansion.

According to Stand with Trans Founder and Board President Roz Keith, children know early on what gender they identify as.

"The statistic that I've heard is as young as two children know who they are," Keith said. "They'll also address the fact that just because a child desires to play in the princess dress-up dress doesn't mean that they're a trans girl, or because they like trucks or rough and tumble play doesn't mean that they're going to be going to identify as a boy. Time will tell, so they will address that factor and how do you know and what do you do about it."

The event will consist of a panel of three medical experts: pediatric endocrinologist Dr. Dan Shumer, licensed social worker Sara Wiener and clinical psychologist Dr. Antonia Caretto. Additionally, the panel will be joined by Sara Kaplan, a mother of two transgender children from Berkeley, California. According to Keith, the event's main goal is to dispel doubts and misunderstandings about young transgender children.

"We wanted to make sure that we address this topic in a meaningful and sensitive way so their parents could understand why a child starts exhibiting certain behavior or declaring, 'I'm a boy,' or 'I'm a girl.' There is a biological origin to gender and what do you do as a parent when the child is so young," She said. "And how do you manage that? How do you manage that socially?"

And although the event is aimed at parents, Keith urges anyone who works with children to attend as well.

"I am really pushing hard that anyone who does anything with children on a regular basis, whether it's someone in a school — a teacher, an office admin person — to mental health professionals, any kind of medical personnel whether it's a medical assistant, nurse or med student, or anyone who has contact with children needs to hear this information because it's relevant," she said. "It will help educate so you know what to do when this happens in your medical practice, your therapy practice, in your classroom, in your family."

The Understanding the Gender Expansive Young Child Event will happen on April 10 at 6:30 p.m. The first 90 minutes will be panel discussion with the last 30 minutes open to meet the panelists and talk with them further. The event will be held at Orchard United Methodist Church at 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington. Interested parties should RSVP with roz@standwithtrans.org.



CMU's queer fashion course explores fashion history from a unique perspective.

Queer Fashion Course Offered at CMU

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Central Michigan University is offering a new course for the current term. Its name is Queer Fashion and it was conceptualized by fashion designer and CMU Associate Professor Michael Mamp.

"I'm a fashion historian," said Mamp. "In the past several years it has become evident to me that most of fashion history is told from a white, heterosexual, cisgender perspective. This is not a new idea. Most of history, even that not related to fashion, has largely ignored the stories of women, persons of color and members of the LGBT community. My own research has examined the history of women and their contributions to the fashion industry of the 20th century including people such as Mildred Custin, Hortense Odlum and Fira Benenson. I have also been working on a long-term research project related to Andy Warhol, Robert Rauschenberg and Jasper Johns."

As Mamp was researching, something became evident to him.

"As I dug deeper into these and other topics it became clear to me that although the LGBT community has had a significant impact upon and relationship to fashion and the presentation of identity

through dress for centuries, very little research or scholarship was executed in the area. Then in 2013 the Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology under the direction of Dr. Valerie Steele mounted the groundbreaking exhibit entitled: A Queer History of Fashion; From the Closet to the Catwalk."

Suddenly a lightbulb went off in Mamp's head.

"This exhibition was the turning point for me when I realized that I could take the information from the exhibit's catalog, other pieces of scholarship completed by my peers across the country and my own work and use it as a framework to develop a class that I immediately knew would be titled Queer Fashion," Mamp said.

But there's a whole road of challenges between conceptualizing a class and being ready to offer one.

"It is not easy," said Mamp of the road it took to bring his course to life. "I started in 2013 and here we are in the middle of the 2018 spring semester at CMU and I am teaching the course for the first time."

Thankfully, Mamp had the support of his colleagues in the Fashion Merchandising & Design program and his affiliate program Women & Gender

Studies as well. They encouraged him to bring his vision to life.

"They were willing to allow it to become a permanent part of the curriculum," Mamp said. "However from there it took me almost two years to work on the course content and then a third year for the course to go through all the necessary stages of approval at the university. The course is offered as part of the curriculum in both fashion and women and gender studies as I mentioned. But is also part of the general education program at CMU entitled the University Program."

Response to the class, Mamp said, has been highly favorable.

"I assumed that the students would be interested in the course," said Mamp. "However, by far this has been the most engaged group of students I have had the privilege to teach in quite some time. My classroom of 43 people is also incredibly diverse. About 34 percent of the students in the class are persons of color. This tells me that minorities such as African Americans, even if they don't identify as LGBT, they are interested in topics that are diverse in nature. I am so encouraged by the focus on diversity and inclusion from today's students."

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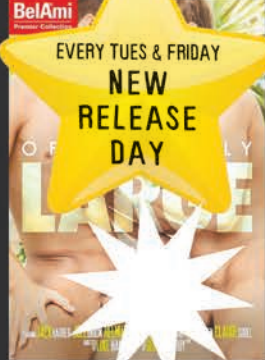
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BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

'Love, Simon,' meet 'Love, Cecil'

Zeitgeist Films and Kino Lorber have acquired the latest documentary from Lisa Immordino Vreeland ("Diana Vreeland: The Eye Has To Travel"). The film, "Love, Cecil," is based on Vreeland's book, "Love, Cecil: A Journey With Cecil Beaton," and dives into the fascinating life of production designer, photographer and legendary 20th-century queer figure Cecil Beaton. Incorporating new footage and other unseen material, with excerpts from his diaries narrated by Rupert Everett, the film follows his work with "Vogue," his time spent with the British Royal Family, and a perhaps shockingly bisexual liaison with Greta Garbo. It's all going to be very chic in that vintage aristocratic sense, and should prove to be the perfect moviegoing antidote to all the crashingly loud superhero films (it opens at the end of June, high season for capes and tights) that will try to drown it out. Old-school queens, you have your summer cinema agenda.

Kristen Stewart takes on Jean Seberg

The late Jean Seberg, the American actress whose face helped usher in the French New Wave in Jean-Luc Godard's "Breathless," lived what can only be called a difficult, and in the end, tragic life. Her personal relationships with directors were fraught with trouble and her '60s activism landed her on FBI watch lists. In other words, perfect material for a thoughtful and pointed biopic about what happens when women actors don't always behave themselves the way powerful men want. Well, "Against All Enemies," from director Benedict Andrews ("Una") and screenwriters Anna Waterhouse and Joe Shrapnel (both "Frankie & Alice"), will explore Seberg's rocky path and Kristen Stewart will be stepping into her shoes. Stewart is on an artistic roll lately, with acclaim coming her way with each new small, personal, non-blockbuster project, and that, in turn, gives this feature a sense of importance simply because she's chosen to engage with difficult subject matter. In the meantime, the great documentary, "From The Journals of



Kristen Stewart

Jean Seberg," is a good place to get yourself up to speed on the fascinating actor's troubled story.

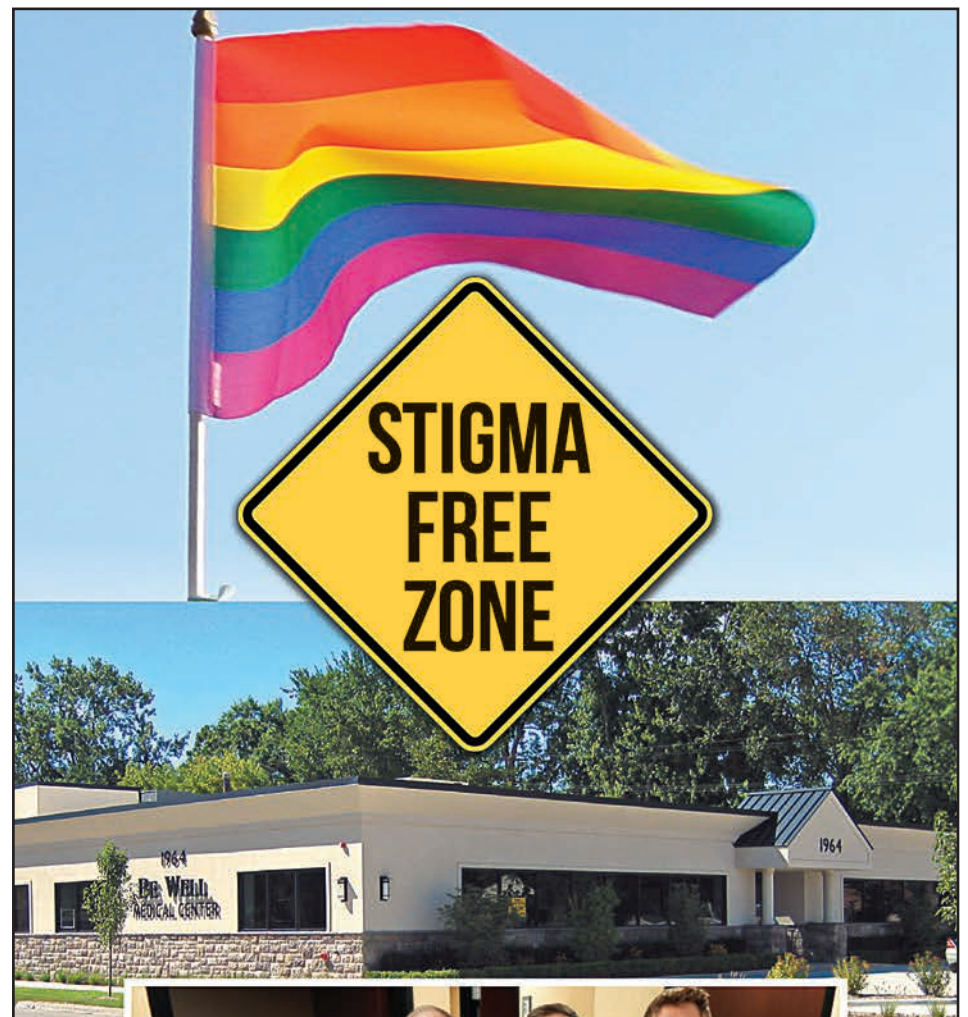
'Gotham's Cory Michael Smith comes out, joins 'First Man'

You need a scorecard to keep up with the next generation of actors who are pre-empting speculation and just coming out before they get famous and saddled with skittish publicists. This week it's a fellow named Joey Pollari (who perhaps not coincidentally had a small but relevant role in "Love, Simon") and also "Gotham" star Cory Michael Smith. On that show Smith plays Young Riddler, but he's also the lead in the gay period drama "1985" that just bowed at SXSW and will be rolling into arthouses soon. Bigger still, he's got a part in the latest from "La La Land" director Damien Chazelle. It's called "First Man," it's the story of Neil Armstrong (Ryan Gosling) and that legendary moon landing, and it co-stars a list of ensemble players as long as your arm: "The Crown"'s Claire Foy, Jon Bernthal ("The Punisher"), Kyle Chandler, Corey Stoll, Jason Clarke and Lukas Haas, to name a few. Smith will play naval Roger Chaffee, a naval aviator who died in an early pre-landing test. So congratulations to this young man. From here it all looks like the beginning of a winning career, one that will have one less stressful element to navigate when household name status finally arrives.

Gina Rodriguez will probably slay in 'Miss Bala'

The new Catherine Hardwicke film, "Miss Bala," is a remake of a 2011 film from Mexico, about a beauty contest contestant forced to work for a crime boss after she witnesses a murder. There's a cast booked for the project, including "Kingdom" star Matt Lauria. But there's one star who's still got the word "rumored" next to her name in any online discussion of the film, and that's Gina Rodriguez, the force of nature behind "Jane the Virgin." As certified GR obsessives, we check on this status on a pretty regular basis, hoping that the ink is dry on the contract and we can openly cheer on our favorite sexually fluid Latinx woman. And if you have a problem with calling her that, then just check her social media where she refuses to obscure or label her sexuality, and openly swoons over her "Annihilation" co-star Tessa Thompson (who herself recently made a very bisexual-leaning music video with Janelle Monae). Sure, no definitive statements have happened yet, but we're still very into it and are definitely here for the loose, undefined approach of this new generation of relaxed Hollywood queerness. Now, please, Ms. R, get that job.

Romeo San Vicente is working through his own private March Madness chart.



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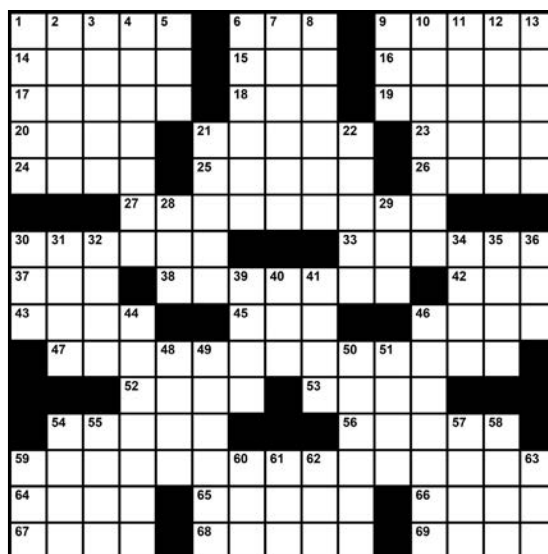
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Missing David

Q Puzzle

Across

- 1 With 9-Across and 27-Across, "In the first place, ____"
6 Title for Alec Guinness
9 See 1-Across
14 Isle of the birth state of Bette Midler
15 Aladdin's monkey
16 She had her hand up
17 Tickle pink
18 Hither's partner
19 Engaged in, as war
20 Eleanor's pooch
21 Plumbers go after them with their snakes
23 Bone below the elbow
24 Cash register part
25 Out-and-out nonsense
26 Stud poker demand
27 See 1-Across
30 One you may see in a shower
33 Billie Jean's game
37 That to Juan
38 Olyphant of "The Broken Hearts Club"
42 Cole Porter, for one
43 Dusting for bottoms
45 Suffix in scandal names
46 Fruitless
47 "In the second place, ____"
52 Fairy tales and such
53 Testicles, usually
54 Medium for Frasier Crane
56 Semifrozen soft drink
59 Character of David Ogden Stiers (1942-2018) on _M*A*S*H_ and source of this puzzle's quote
64 Wolfson of Freedom to Marry
65 Longtime _All My Children_ role
66 Continental disk

- 67 "The Way We ____"
68 Denis of "The Ref"
69 Type of balls
Down
1 "____ My Heart in San Francisco"
2 Start of a holy name
3 ____ fours (doggy-style)
4 Writer Barney
5 Practice B&D, e.g.
6 "Roma Sub Rosa" series writer Steven
7 Source for Rita Mae Brown, for example
8 Handled at the cash register
9 One-eighty from NNE
10 "The Double Man" author
11 Two under for Sheehan
12 Where to find your favorite boxers
13 Like one that comes on the beach
21 1920 Colette novel
22 "Empress of the Blues" Bessie
28 Pansy's place
29 Wilder's "The Bridge of San Luis ____"
30 Came upon
31 Morales of movies
32 Outed, for example, with "on"

- 34 Songwriter Holly
35 Eurythmics' "Would ____ to You?"
36 Gay-bashing, for example
39 Hang one's head
40 Arena cry, to Frida
41 Canvas covering
44 Customer on "Six Feet Under"?
46 Cause of AIDS, and others
48 Word after film or cafe
49 Tool you can stick in your garden
50 Walk like a man in drag
51 Load of money
54 "Spamalot" review, perhaps
55 Open a crack
57 Phaser setting in "Star Trek"
58 Chaplain Judge of the NYFD, e.g.
59 Small pussy cat noise
60 Land of singer S. O'Connor
61 Peeples of "Fame"
62 "Proud Mary" band, for short
63 Straight line


Find solution to this puzzle at www.pridesource.com

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AIDS/HIV

There are dozens of AIDS/HIV organizations and resources listed at www.PrideSource.com. Here are just three of them:

AIDS Walk Detroit

Contact info@aidswalkdetroit.org or 248-399-9255 for more information. The walk takes place this year on Sunday, Sept. 15, 8:30 a.m. at the Royal Oak Farmers Market

Macomb County STD Clinic

27690 Van Dyke
Warren, MI 48093
586-465-9217
<http://health.macombgov.org/Health-Programs-HPDC-HIV/AIDS/Counseling/Testing>

Matrix Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

120 Parsons Street
Detroit, MI 48201
888-226-6366
248-545-1435
www.matrixhumanservices.org/programs/ryanwhite/

UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond

3011 W. Grand Blvd. Suite 230
Detroit, MI 48202
313-446-9800
www.miunified.org
Michigan HIV/STD Hotline
800-872-2437

Advocacy

Equality Michigan

19641 W. 7 Mile, Detroit, MI
313-537-7000
equalitymi.org
[Facebook.com/equalitymichigan](https://www.facebook.com/equalitymichigan)

Campus

Currently there are 19 organizations listed as active online at www.pridesource.com/yellow pages. The following are some in the southeast Michigan area:

U-M Ann Arbor

Spectrum Center
Spectrumcenter@umich.edu
<http://spectrumcenter.umich.edu>
734-763-4186

Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center

gsc@oakland.edu
www.oakland.edu/gsc
248-370-4336

Eastern Michigan University

LGBT Resource Center
emich.edu/lgbtrc
734-487-4149

The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center

ltu.edu/student_affairs/lgbt.asp

Wayne State JIGSAW

[Facebook.com/groups/WayneStateJIGSAW](https://www.facebook.com/groups/WayneStateJIGSAW)
wsujigsaw@gmail.com

Community Centers

Michigan has nine active LGBTQ community centers, with a tenth planned in Lansing. Here are three of them.

Jim Toy Community Center

Ann Arbor
www.jimtoycenter.org
www.facebook.com/jimtoycenter
or follow them on Twitter @JimToyCenter.
319 Braun Court
Ann Arbor, MI
734-995-9867

LGBT Detroit

Detroit
www.lgbtdetroit.org
www.facebook.com/lgbtdetroit
or follow them on Twitter @LGBTDetroit.
20025 Greenfield Road
Detroit, MI
Phone: 313-397-2127

Affirmations

Ferndale
<http://goaffirmations.org>
www.facebook.com/Affirmations/
or follow them on Twitter @GoAffirmations.
290 W. Nine Mile Road
Ferndale, MI
248-398-7105

Legal

American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

Jay Kaplan, Staff Attorney, LGBT Project
2966 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI
www.aclumich.org
313-578-6800

Fair Michigan

PO Box 6136
Plymouth, MI 48170
877-432-4764, 313-556-2300
fairmichigan.org
[Facebook.com/fairmichigan2016](https://www.facebook.com/fairmichigan2016)

Know Your Rights Project

Outlaws U-M student group
outlawslegal@gmail.com
734-995-9867

Older Adults

SAGE Metro Detroit

290 W. Nine Mile Rd. Ferndale, MI
313-578-6812
sagemetrodetroit.org
Facebook: SAGE Metro Detroit

Political

The LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party

[Facebook.com/TheLGBT-CaucusoftheMDP](https://www.facebook.com/TheLGBT-CaucusoftheMDP)

Stonewall for Revolution

www.facebook.com/stonewall4reolution

Professional Groups

Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 32446
Detroit, MI 48232
detroitlgbtchamber.com
1-800-DET-LGBT

Ties Like Me

Professional networking events
third Weds. 5:30 - 8 p.m.
TiesLikeMe.org

Suits And The City

Lansing, MI
suitsandthecity@gmail.com
www.suitsandthecity.org

Transgender

FtM Detroit

<https://www.facebook.com/FtMDetroit/>
ftmdetroit@gmail.com

FtM A2 Ypsi

ftmannarborypsilanti@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/ftma2ypsi/>

Transgender Michigan

23211 Woodward Ave.
Ferndale, MI
info@transgendermichigan.org
www.transgendermichigan.org
800-842-2954

Trans Sistas of Color Project

19641 W. 7 Mile Rd. in Detroit
313-537-7000 Ext 107
info@tscopdetroit.org
www.facebook.com/TSCOPD/

Youth

Ruth Ellis Center

77 Victor Street, Highland Park, MI
48203
info@ruthelliscenter.org
Facebook: Ruth Ellis Center
313-252-1950

Ozone House

102 N. Hamilton Street
Ypsilanti, MI
734-662-2265
734-662-2222

Stand With Trans

Farmington, MI
www.standwithtrans.org
248-739-9254

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You can add your event to the Pride Source Calendar online and in print by going to www.PrideSource.com and clicking on Calendar, then "Add Event." Send any press releases and announcements to editor@pridesource.com



Find a digital version of PrideSource Magazine online under Our LGBT Yellow Pages

Find these resources online

- Adoption Services
- AIDS/HIV Hotlines
- AIDS/HIV Organizations
- Alzheimer's Association
- Animal Shelter
- Anti-Violence
- Archives/Collections
- Campus; Student and Alumni Groups
- Cancer Support Groups
- Choruses
- Community Centers
- Employee Resource Groups
- Families and Parents
- Foster Care
- Foundations and Funders
- Hotlines & Switchboards
- Labor Union
- Legal Organizations
- Museums
- Music Groups
- National Organizations
- Political Organizations
- Professional Organizations
- Religious & Spiritual
- Senior Living
- Seniors
- Social/Community Organizations
- Sports
- Substance Abuse
- Transgender Groups/Services
- Women's Health
- Youth Services

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