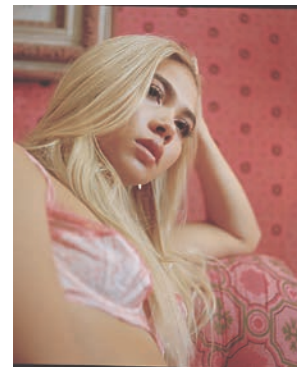


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Under Fire: Popular Hookup App Shared HIV-Related Information, Personal Data with Third Party

Mixed Bag in HIV Cases

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Federal statistics report a 14.8 percent decline in HIV cases between 2008 and 2015, but 25- to 34-year-olds saw a nearly 45 percent increase in new cases

New data released by the CDC last month is a mixed blessing as well. On the one hand, new cases of HIV have declined almost 15 percent. But that decline in new cases is not being seen among young men of color who have sex with men.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports there were 38,500 new infections in the U.S. in 2015 compared with 45,200 in 2008. There were also significant decreases in heterosexual transmission – from 13,000 to 8,800 – people who use intravenous drugs – 3,800 to 2,200 – and men who have sex with men who inject drugs – 1,500 to 1,200.

But under further exploration, some groups are faring better than others.

HIV among men who have sex with men has remained fairly level: 26,700 cases in 2008 compared with 26,200 in 2015. However, during this time HIV incidence among those 13 to 24 years old declined three percent per year: from 9,800 to 7,700 transmissions. In the age bracket of 25- to 34-year-olds, HIV rose 44.9 percent overall: from 6,900 to 10,000. Those individuals in the 35 to 44 years old age bracket also saw a decline of 4.7 percent per year. HIV remained stable in people aged 45 to 54 years old, 3,300 to 3,000 cases, and rose 30 percent among those aged 55 and older: from 1,000 to 1,300 during the same time frame.

The Latino community of men who have sex with men saw a 25 percent increase in cases during the same period.

Michigan health officials said Michigan's state trends mirror national data.

BY TODD HEYWOOD

The popular hookup and dating app Grindr is under fire for sharing users' disclosed HIV status and most recent testing data combined with identifiable information about users with two third party vendors.

The company says it has suspended the practice, but that the data was never breached nor sold, only provided to the companies in an effort to "improve" the app's functionality for users.

"When working with these vendors, we restricted data shared to that which was appropriate for the services they are providing and encrypted it when providing it to the contractors," the company said last week in a blog post on Tumblr. "This data from HIV status fields was used to test and support development of a new features, like our recently released HIV Test Reminders."

Grindr has recently launched a series of programs to encourage users to get screened regularly for HIV and other STIs and has generally been a vocal advocate for access to pre-exposure prophylaxis medications to prevent infections.

The news came only weeks after it was revealed that millions of people had their data taken by third parties off of Facebook. That data was then used to create detailed political and marketing profiles of individuals. Those profiles were then used in the 2016 Presidential election to target Facebook users for political advertising – potentially even by Russian trolls.

The Grindr defense is not sitting well with some advocates for the HIV community.

"The unfortunate reality is that many applications and websites that were designed for various levels of social engagement have increasingly given rise to various breaches in privacy and loss of perceived confidentiality," said Jake Distel, executive director of the Lansing Area AIDS Network. "Numerous such breaches have occurred with the most recent Facebook matter

While Michigan law criminalizes a failure to disclose an HIV positive status before engaging in sexual penetration "however slight," it also criminalizes the release of an HIV status. Legal experts differ on the extent to which the law applies to situations such as this instance with Grindr or personal disclosures that are repeated.

monopolizing all forms of press for recent weeks. Grindr apparently endeavors to make an argument that it is a public platform and that users who chose to do so could share their HIV status and latest test dates understanding that the information would then be available to other users of the site. Grindr's actions, however, appear to be more overt, with the actual sharing of information to third parties occurring without directly informing users. With such reports becoming more routine across the social media landscape some manner of control appears critical that continues to allow the opportunity for new social engagements while at the same time protecting personal privacies that have not been vacated."

Trevor Hoppe, a professor of sociology at the University of Albany SUNY and author of the book Punishing Disease: HIV and the Criminalization of Sickness, said the revelations don't directly impact HIV criminalization.

"Online profiles have been used in criminal cases already – the sale of that data to third parties doesn't change their utility or accessibility to law enforcement," he said. "Users should expect that any information they post to a public forum is, in fact, public,

and therefore should be subject to legal scrutiny at a later date."

Despite the lack of potential criminal sanctions associated with the allegations, the collection and sharing of such data – which included identifiable information such as GPS coordinates, telephone numbers and email addresses – could pose a threat to those who are forced to live in the closet because of the social stigma of sexuality and HIV. If those data sets were breached it could result in the outing of people in countries like Saudi Arabia where homosexuality is a crime, or the outing of persons who are HIV positive in communities where violence against them might happen.

While Michigan law criminalizes a failure to disclose an HIV positive status before engaging in sexual penetration "however slight," it also criminalizes the release of an HIV status. Legal experts differ on the extent to which the law applies to situations such as this instance with Grindr or personal disclosures that are repeated. Kendra Kleber, who used to do legal cases revolving around HIV in Michigan and is now a social security judge in Ohio, argues disclosure of another person's HIV status without their permission is a violation of Michigan's law.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, which administers much of the federal money related to HIV care and prevention in Michigan declined to comment on whether the Grindr disclosures violated Michigan law, but said it supported the "people living with HIV maintaining their confidentiality."

And MDHHS is not alone.

"While Grindr users shared their HIV status with the app, they did not knowingly share their status with third parties. Given the stigma that people living with HIV can face, there is great potential for harm," said Linda Vail, health officer for Ingham County. "A company that caters to gay, bi, trans and queer people should have been acutely aware of the sensitive nature of the data with which they were entrusted. It's an inexcusable invasion of privacy and a violation of trust."

Ann Arbor State Reps Host UM Sexual Assault Town Hall

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

In light of the Larry Nassar trial at Michigan State University, and recent movements like #MeToo and It's On Us, sexual misconduct is currently being discussed on national platforms. In an effort to bring more public understanding on this topic, State Rep. Adam Zemke (D-Ann Arbor) along with State Rep. Yousef Rabhi (D-Ann Arbor) hosted an April 5 town hall meeting at the University of Michigan to discuss available resources and

legislation for students on college campuses.

"More importantly than anything, we felt that a dialogue and an education around this topic needed to happen," Zemke said. "So, several weeks ago we started creating a panel as to who really would be the experts."

The event's panel consisted of Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center Director Kaaren Williamsen, SAPAC student volunteers Gabby McFarland and Maya Chamra, Chair of the UM Mental Health Work Group Dr. Todd Sevig, UM Title IX

Coordinator Pamela Heatlie and openly gay UM Police Sgt. Janet Conners.

And although sexual misconduct can occur anywhere, statistics show that college campuses have an especially harsh rate of sexual misconduct. A 2015 study reported by the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network or RAINN showed that that year, there were two sexual assaults for every one robbery on campuses, one in six college-aged female survivors sought assistance from victim service agencies and 21 percent

of TGQN – transgender, genderqueer and nonconforming – college students have been sexually assaulted, compared to 18 percent of cisgender – non-TGQN – females and 4 percent of cisgender males.

The town hall's primary focus was to provide a broad public overview of UM's specific services in the realms of sexual harassment and assault, and to provide a welcome forum for the public to get answers to

See Sexual Assault, page 13



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Town Losing Time to Appeal Trans Rights Ruling Against Funeral Home

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

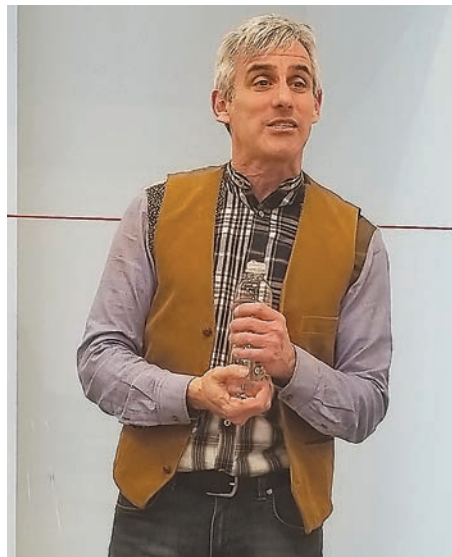
It's been a month since the landmark ruling from the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals was decided. The 6th Circuit, which covers Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee, ruled that Aimee Stephens was inappropriately fired from R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home in Garden City, Michigan, for being transgender.

Stephens had five years of excellent evaluations under her belt when she notified her employer that was transitioning from male to female, and that she planned to begin presenting as a woman at work. Shortly after, the funeral home fired her.

Stephens complained to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The funeral home was candid with the EEOC when it admitted to them that they had fired Stephens for being transgender. The EEOC ultimately sued the funeral home on the basis that the firing violated Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

While Title VII does not specifically cover gay or transgender people and even though Michigan law says you can be fired simply for being LGBT, previous cases have been successfully argued on the basis of sex discrimination.

"Title VII says you can't discriminate based on sex and our federal courts have recently expanded the definition of what sex discrimination is," said Jay Kaplan, who spoke to a small group at Affirmations on April 4 about the ruling. "We have a split in our circuit court of appeals and eventually it will be the



Jay Kaplan is the staff attorney for the ACLU of Michigan's LGBT Project. He spoke to a small crowd at Affirmations April 4 about the court ruling. BTL photo: Jason Michael

Supreme Court who will decide this issue for everyone."

Initially, the EEOC lost in federal district court.

"We had a really bad decision from the federal district court and it was decided to appeal to the 6th Circuit Court," Kaplan said. "The case was the EEOC against the funeral home. When the case was appealed we had a new administration coming in. So the ACLU filed to motion to intervene or, in other words, to be able to enter this lawsuit on behalf of Aimee."

The case was heard before a three-judge panel last October.

"The 6th Circuit is made up of 15 judges," Kaplan said. "Of the three judges we had two of them were appointed by President Obama so we knew they were going to be somewhat progressive. And the third judge was appointed by President Bush but had been nominated by Bill Clinton.

So we had these three judges who were open-minded to our arguments and listened to our arguments."

Five months later, on March 7, the ruling came down. It was an absolute victory for Stephens and the EEOC.

"It was an incredible decision because it did a number of things," said Kaplan. "The court made absolutely clear that transgender people are protected against discrimination under Title VII based on gender stereotyping. They said being transgender in and of itself is gender nonconforming. You're not able to conform to gender stereotypes.

"This was the first time a federal court, a circuit court of appeals, had addressed the issue of trying to use religion as an excuse or a defense against discrimination against LGBT people, particularly transgender people," Kaplan said. "The biggest threat to LGBT rights today is this attempt to use religious beliefs in nonreligious activity as a basis, as a reason, to justify that discrimination."

But the battle may not be over just yet. The losing side can request a rehearing of the case before the full panel of judges who are on 6th Circuit Court of Appeals.

"A majority of those judges would have to

decide they'd like to hear the case," Kaplan said. "The other side has 45 days to request this hearing."

The funeral home has until April 21st to make their decision. If they do to ask for the rehearing and if they are granted it, the outcome may be uncertain.

"The majority of the judges on the 6th Circuit are conservative," said Kaplan. "Just this past year President Trump had four conservative appointees to the 6th Circuit approved by the Senate, tilting the balance even more."

The uncertainty is difficult for Stephens and her family.

"When we first got the phone call it was great," said Donna Stephens, Aimee's wife. "Now it's just like what are they going to do? Are they going to appeal it or are they going to let it go? Right now we're on pins and needles."

The case, Donna Stephens said, has taken a toll on her family.

"There's been times when Aimee has said I can't do this anymore. And I'd say no, we're gonna do this," she said. "When she got fired we went through hell and we don't want to see that happen to anyone else."

For the moment, Kaplan said he is just basking in the victory.

"We just have to wait to see but the for the time being we have this sort of island oasis," he said. "We're really having some tough times with LGBT rights with this current administration. So we're just going to have to see what happens with this."

Volunteers Wanted: Creating Change Invites Volunteers to Host its 2019 Detroit Conference

After 30 national events have been held across the U.S., the LGBTQ conference Creating Change is seeking a dynamic crew of volunteers to help put on their 31st in Detroit in 2019. Creating Change hosted an informational meeting for potential volunteers on April 9 where conference founder Sue Hyde emphasized the conference's reliance on local help.

"We are serious about building our partnerships, relationships and working with you closely to bring Creating Change to life," Hyde said. "Over the years at the Creating Change conferences, we have hosted over 63,000 people. Some people are repeat offenders of course (laughs) ... in 2019 this is going to be the third time in Detroit: 1995, 2008 and now, 2019. We are excited to be back in Detroit."

The conference is put on by the National LGBTQ Task Force, and its aim is to "build the LGBTQ movement's political power from the ground up to secure the full freedom, justice, and equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people in the U.S." Each year has had a steady increase of participants, and 2018 was no different.

"Creating Change just closed in 2018 in Washington D.C. ... it was big, it was bold, it was beautiful and our thematic focus was learn, connect, resist," Hyde said. "We had 3,665 participants, we occupied over 1200 hotel rooms, over 400 volunteers, we had 70 exhibitors and we had about 300 different sessions. It's also one of the most representative and diverse gatherings in our movement."

In keeping with that diversity, Hyde

emphasized that she doesn't want all volunteers to "look exactly like me," and urges all who are interested to come forward. This year will also be the first time that Hyde will not be involved with the event's planning, as Andy Garcia, the Task Force's former senior manager of leadership programs, will be stepping in as its new conference director.

"Creating Change celebrates what is best about the LGBTQ movement: our abundant strength, our powerful diversity, and our unending commitment to a broad, progressive vision of working for justice and liberation."



Conference founder Sue Hyde looks on as Andy Garcia discusses Creating Change's impact. Garcia will be taking on the conference director position as Sue Hyde retires this May after 30 years. BTL Photo: Eve Kucharski.

Garcia said. "Through its values, the spaces it creates and the people it brings together, Creating Change has shaped the lives of so many of us, not just as activists, but as people."

Interested participants in Creating Change 2019 should reach out to creatingchange@thetaskforce.org.

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NEWS

Anti-trans Bathroom Ballot Initiative Defeated in Anchorage

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

A ballot initiative in Anchorage that would have removed transgender protections from the city's non-discrimination ordinance has been defeated, transgender advocates against the measure declared Friday night.

Although the city had yet to declare the results officially, 57.3 percent of voters had rejected Proposition 1 in the ballots that were counted as of Friday night. With fewer than 10,000 ballots left to count, the campaign against the measure declared victory. The deadline to vote was Tuesday.

The defeat of Proposition 1, which sought to bar transgender people from locker rooms and bathrooms in workplaces and public accommodations consistent with their gender identity, makes Anchorage the first city in the United States to reject an anti-trans measure at the ballot. The rejection of the measure also ensures Anchorage, which passed its trans-inclusive non-discrimination ordinance in 2015, is one of more than 250 cities across the country with such a policy in place.

Lillian Lennon, field organizer for Fair Anchorage, the campaign to defeat Proposition 1, said in a statement Anchorage voters "rejected fear and intimidation to affirm that everyone in our city should have the same fundamental dignity and protection under the law."

"As a transgender woman, this victory is deeply personal to me and to so many of us in the transgender community," Lennon said. "It means voters saw past misleading tactics by opponents of transgender equality in order to treat people like me fairly. In a world that can be so hostile to transgender people in our daily lives, to know that the city of Anchorage has our backs means everything."

The Anchorage results stand in contrast to the results in 2015 against the Houston Equal Right Ordinance, a non-discrimination measure that was repealed at the ballot after opponents stoked fears about transgender people using the restroom, implying it would endanger children by opening them up to sexual assault. The non-discrimination ordinance, however, wouldn't have eliminated penalties for that crime and no



jurisdiction with a trans-inclusive non-discrimination has reported problems along those lines.

Masen Davis, CEO of the LGBT group Freedom for All Americans, said in a statement the results demonstrate "the tide is turning in our movement for LGBTQ-inclusive nondiscrimination protections."

"Our triumph in Anchorage shows that advocates for nondiscrimination protections know what it takes to win voters and change hearts and minds," Davis said. "The local campaign mobilized early, recruited a strong and diverse coalition, spearheaded a citywide conversation, and fired on all cylinders to run a successful campaign that put the faces, voices, and families of transgender people first. The campaigns ahead won't be easy, but Anchorage will serve as a shining example of what we can achieve when we have honest, one-on-one conversations about who transgender people are."

In the aftermath of the results, Fair Anchorage boasted running a campaign since Spring 2017 that featured Anchorage residents who would have been directly and negatively affected by Proposition 1, especially transgender youth and their families.

According to Fair Anchorage,

Proposition 1 was opposed by leading experts on public safety and women's privacy; the Anchorage Education Association; more than 110 local community leaders; 50 Anchorage businesses including the Anchorage Chamber, Anchorage Economic Development Corporation and Visit Anchorage; and dozens of faith leaders and congregations.

Kati Ward, campaign manager of Fair Anchorage, said in a statement the defeat of Proposition 1 in Anchorage marked a "groundbreaking, first-of-its-kind victory" and was the result of transgender people sharing their personal stories.

"When we learned last year that Proposition 1 might be on the ballot, we began to create a coalition that our city has never seen before," Ward said. "We brought together a powerful alliance of bipartisan elected officials, businesses, faith leaders, safety advocates, women, educators and families to send the message that Anchorage values freedom for all. This is a victory not only for transgender people, but for their allies and everyone who is proud to call Anchorage a welcoming place."

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



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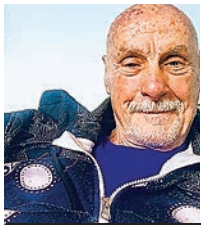
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Gay Life, Circa 1955 Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

At 19, I went to my first gay bar, The Silver Slipper, a dyke bar on Grand River, near downtown Detroit. I used borrowed ID, was escorted authoritatively by two lesbian regulars, Speedy and Draino.

Lesbians sat in an upstairs balcony space. Gays and “tourists,” downstairs. Tourists came to gawk at the queers.

Entertainer was porkulent Chi Chi LaTrine, aka Benjamin Ernest Franklin. He wore wide, be-ribboned picture hats, sang songs with lyrics of questionable OB-GYN soundness:

“Douche yourself with kerosene/Light it with a match/You will be the only queen with a blow torch for a snatch.”

Chi Chi’s comedy routines closed with his trademark insertion of a champagne glass into his ample facial cheeks and mouth (Sidebar: Franklin had a sociology M.A., and in the early ‘60s was the first gay person to speak to Wayne State University psych classes. Caught having a “tryst” in a WSU john, he reluctantly bypassed further grad studies).

With teenager friends Gary and Richard, I also hit the Scenic Bar in Toledo, Ohio. Soon our little circle – “Claudia (Richard),” “Margo (Gary)” and “Crystal (!)” – took our sing-along road show to Cleveland, staying at the “Y-M-C-A!”

I met Marcus there who took me home to his place, played Maria Callas arias from Verdi’s La Traviata and later fed me a wonderful breakfast. It was magic – until I learned, to my over-stuffed chagrin, that my gourmet cook was yet another crossdresser. Two that summer!

Addendum: Heard Maria Callas in recital at Detroit’s Masonic Temple in 1960. Her conductor was arrested in the notorious Woodward Avenue Stone Burlesque, and had to be “negotiated” for the scheduled concert.

Next came Big Apple week. Our threesome took the New York Central train – playing gin rummy for 13 hours – and booked into the notorious Sloan House Y. It was mid-July. No air conditioning. Heat, 90-plus. Sweat-soaked outdoors in minutes. So, we slept at day; partied at night.

I had no sooner unpacked my things when the phone rang.

“Hi! I’m Jerry. I saw you in the lobby. Can I take you to dinner?” He left two days later. Ever-faithful at 19, I thought of Jerry for 36.5 hours, 36 seconds (Jerry, who?).

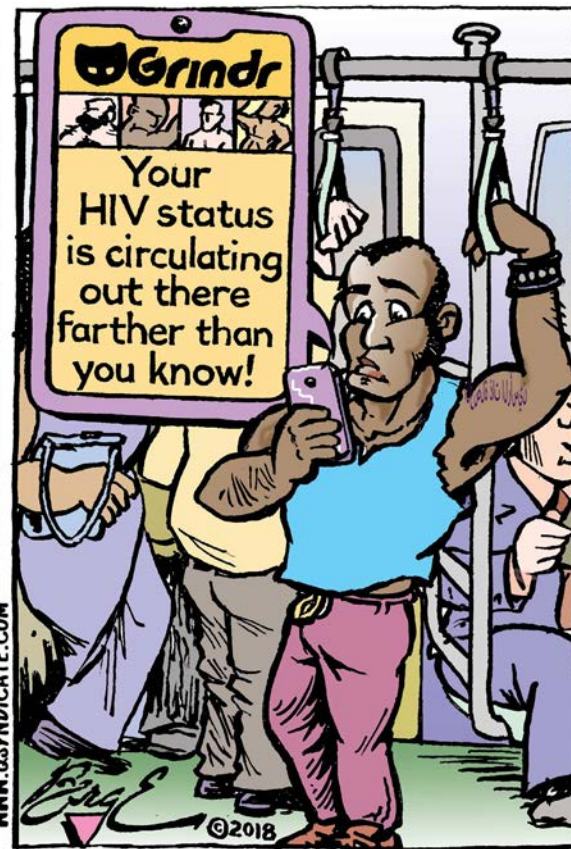
Our trio went to a Greenwich Village downstairs bar, the Sans Souci. “Cry Me a River,” sung by Roberta Sherwood was the jukebox hit. Bar ambiance was intimate and discreet. I met a bonafide actor: Gunther Wilde (Gunther, who?).

Richard reeled in two mid-30s Italians who invited us to Fire Island. We took the train to Babylon – three hours – and a ferry boat to Cherry Grove. “Truman Capote’s there,” they lied. I experienced a toothache, a sunburn, no sleep and a sore back – it was worth it.

In 1955, we had no role models. We suspected certain movie stars like Carleton Carpenter, Barbara Stanwyck and newcomer James Dean. All wishful thinking. These Senator McCarthy witch-hunting years were terror for “known homosexuals.” We had no choice but the closet.

For those who could pass for straight, problems were few – vice cops, crabs, VD, job firing, shock therapy, excommunication, incarceration and media exposes – if you kept your “she this” and “she that” to yourself.

Travel was a revelation. We gradually realized we weren’t alone. We were everywhere: doctors, stevedores, actors, professors, cops, nurses, Indian chiefs, average Joes, exceptional Jills. Gaydar was a godsend. Question: Who needs gaydar these days?



Step Therapy: A Problem for All Patient Communities

Viewpoint

BY VIRGINIA LADD

Members of the LGBTQ community face many unique health care challenges. They suffer from higher rates of smoking, depression, anxiety, HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. Compounding these challenges is the fact that LGBTQ individuals are more likely than others to experience difficulty accessing health care, due to a long history of anti-LGBTQ bias. Therefore, when LGBTQ patients do seek out health care professionals, it is incredibly important that they not be presented with any further obstacles to getting the right treatment. Unfortunately, the practice of step therapy is creating such an obstacle for patients like them across the country.

Step therapy is a harmful tactic used by many insurance companies in a misguided attempt to cut costs and increase profits. Ideally, a patient would immediately receive the medication that his or her doctor prescribes. Instead, insurance companies use step therapy to deny coverage of a doctor-prescribed medication and require that patients try a number of other drugs first before the company will cover the one originally prescribed by the doctor. In many cases, patient health suffers while there is a wait for the right medicine.

For patients who already are unlikely to have easy access to quality health care, this practice can create one more barrier to finding an effective treatment for their medical condition. What’s worse, patients with hard-to-diagnose conditions often are the ones most likely to be

forced into step therapy. Insurance companies don’t make the experience easy either. The process for appealing health care decisions made by insurers is complicated, exhausting, and frustrating for patients and their families.

Step therapy should not be a widely-used practice assigned arbitrarily; it should be used only when the doctor decides it’s in the patient’s best interest. Research shows that Michigan consumers agree – a poll conducted by Lake Research Partners in September 2017 showed that approximately seven out of ten Michigan health care consumers have an unfavorable view of step therapy. In the same poll, 95 percent of consumers said they believe that a doctor and not an insurance company should make the final say on how to treat a patient, and 78 percent strongly favor allowing doctors to override step therapy if they expect the treatment to be ineffective.

Fortunately, a movement is underway right here in Michigan to help combat negative impacts

of step therapy. Last fall, the American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association (AARDA),

which supports patients suffering from autoimmune diseases, launched the Let MI Doctors

Decide initiative. Let MI Doctors Decide works to educate and empower patients and doctors as they navigate step therapy. Through an online platform, the initiative provides resources, such as a patient guide

See next page

5 Life Strategies for LGBTQ+ Individuals to Avoid Out-of-Control Addictive Behaviors



BY MARK MCMILLAN

We have all heard how the opioid epidemic is ravaging communities. In 2014 alone, drug overdose was the leading cause of accidental death in the U.S., but prescription drugs are not the only killer, so is alcohol and illegal drugs. What you don't hear is the specific numbers for how the LGBTQ community is being impacted: we are more than twice as likely than our heterosexual counterparts – 39.1 versus 17.1 percent – to have used any illicit drugs. In addition, rates of binge drinking among lesbian women are almost double those of their straight counterparts – 29 to 15 percent – and very similar numbers for gay men exist, too: 34 to 19 percent. Unfortunately, our LGBTQ youth are also not immune. Studies have shown that substance abuse for them is twice as prevalent when compared with their peers.

These statistics position our diverse community as uniquely linked to addictive behavior, or what I like to call “out-of-control behavior” associated with alcohol or other drugs. But, while there is little argument the stressors associated with being

queer might make us more susceptible, that doesn't mean misusing alcohol or other drugs is part of the fabric of the community or that addiction is inevitable. In fact, I have assisted many of my LGBTQ clients with creating new and useful life strategies to help manage stressors that occur in their everyday LGBTQ lives.

This blog will examine five essential strategies my LGBTQ clients have found useful to avoid out-of-control addictive behaviors.

1. Build the right support system.

Surrounding yourself with trusted friends, family or extended relatives is critical to navigating an LGBTQ identity, especially if you're still struggling with your true identity or considering “coming out.” Your support system should not only build you up, it should act as a “validating source” – a sort of “moral compass,” if you will. This support system will assist with questions like “when I should come out,” “where I should be open about my identity/gender expression” and “would I be in danger letting people know my authentic self?” In addition, a good support system increases positive coping skills, self-esteem and self-confidence.

2. Develop your (unique) coping skills.

Coping skills are a critical component to any healthy lifestyle, and most especially for us who identify as part of the LGBTQ community. I'm talking about skills as

See Addictive Behaviors, page 13

► Step Therapy

Continued from p. 10

containing tips on working with doctors and insurance companies, information about appealing health insurance company decisions and stories from doctors and patients who have experienced step therapy.

AARDA has an interest in addressing step therapy because autoimmune diseases are often rare and hard to diagnose, making patients suffering from them more likely than others to be forced into the practice. This should be of particular concern to those with HIV, which has been shown to leave patients with an increased risk of developing autoimmune diseases.

AARDA has now been joined in its efforts by several other Michigan-based health care organizations that recently signed on to form a new Let MI Doctors Decide task force. Groups joining the task force include The American Behcet's Disease Association; Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America, Michigan Chapter; Hemophilia Foundation

of Michigan; Michigan Rheumatism Society; and the Scleroderma Foundation, Michigan Chapter. Together, task force members will help ensure an increased number of individuals have access to the Let MI Doctors Decide resources. The new effort demonstrates the profound impact this issue has on patients facing a variety of health conditions and the widespread desire to combat the practice of step therapy.

We are excited to see momentum continuing to grow in the effort to limit this practice. Health care in this country is already complicated and elusive enough for far too many patients, and when improperly applied, step therapy creates one more obstacle for those with difficult medical conditions. With healthcare as a top of mind issue for Michiganders across the state, it is critical that patients and doctors are empowered to make treatment decisions at all times.

Virginia Ladd is the president and executive director of the American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association (AARDA).

Creep of the Week

MassResistance

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

As I write this it is April 9, 2018, my birthday. It's also the day John Bolton starts as Trump's National Security Advisor. Bolton, who was ambassador to the United Nations under President George W. Bush, really wants to go to war with North Korea and Iran. Like, bad. And now we've got him whispering into the ear of the dangerously impulsive and ignorant man we have as a leader. Which should make all of us fear that we won't make it to our next birthdays.

And yet, in the face of potential annihilation, there are still people who think that men kissing men is much worse than men killing men. Spoiler alert: it isn't.

Such are the concerns of MassResistance.

No, MassResistance isn't when you pretend you're sleeping and cannot hear your mom hollering that it's time to go to church (something I spent much of my formative years doing, which is probably why I'm gay). Rather, MassResistance is a group battling the so-called homosexual agenda. Because priorities.

It's all the same stuff, and many of the same faces, we've been subjected to for decades. In fact, MassResistance just added notorious homophobe Peter LaBarbera to their staff.

“MassResistance has been expanding and we have needed someone of his caliber for a while,” MassResistance President Brian Camenker said April 8.

And what caliber is LaBarbera? Well, he's the president of Americans for Truth About Homosexuality, an organization that does everything but tell the truth about LGBTQ people.

“It goes without saying that Pete is despised and vilified by the LGBT movement,” Camenker added. Which is true! Here I am, vilifying him now: Peter LaBarbera is a villain.

MassResistance prides – not in the gay way – itself for being different from other anti-LGBTQ groups. For one thing, they're based in Massachusetts, a den of sin and hellfire ever since they were the first state in the country to make marriage equality the law. There are no signs on the restrooms and you have to get gay-married to own property or vote. Only straight people pay taxes. It's a real shame (that Bolton will lead us into a war and untold numbers of people will die).

On the MassResistance webpage they

And yet, in the face of potential annihilation, there are still people who think that men kissing men is much worse than men killing men. Spoiler alert: it isn't.

brag that they've been described as a “hardcore pro-family group.” They are very clear that they aren't like those mainstream pro-family groups.

“In contrast, rather than being truthful and confrontational, too many pro-family groups are more interested in being viewed as ‘reasonable’ and ‘not extreme,’” it says on their website. So, clearly, MassResistance should be seen as unreasonable and extreme (just like Bolton). Got it.

So extreme are they that they managed to get blocked from participating at the Conservative Political Action Convention this year – even though CPAC is a notorious den of hateful filth – after 2015 remarks Camenker made about LGBTQ people came to light. He said it was totally fine to be “insulting and degrading” toward LGBTQ people because this was a “war” not a “church service” – not to be confused with the literal war/wars Bolton wants to start.

MassResistance was super pissed that the Log Cabin Republicans were allowed at CPAC and they weren't. LCR, a group that continues to bewilder me, is probably the most milquetoast gay organization in existence. So MassResistance's hysterical characterization of LCR as a group that “pushes hard to homosexualize the Republican Party,” is, well, hysterical.

So be on the lookout for MassResistance creeps as they pop up in places like public libraries in Texas to fight God's war against LGBTQ book displays. And Jesus wept (after the earth was destroyed by nukes because Trump wanted to distract from his incompetence and his insanely corrupt administration).

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► Addictive Behaviors

Continued from p. 10

simple as listening to your favorite pop diva as a stress reliever, taking on a small home improvement project to have a sense of accomplishment or simply making that awesome Snapchat post that gets, like, a gazillion likes. These are more than just ways of dealing with more intense emotions like anger or sadness, these will help other less talked about intense emotions like loneliness and isolation. For example, maybe consider more mindfulness activities, like taking a yoga or dance class. The important thing is learning to process more intense emotion and modify the behavior accordingly.

3. Set Boundaries. Then enforce them.

We can't always cut negative people out of our lives – our more conservative family members, our overly dependent mothers, etc. – but setting firm boundaries and enforcing them can have a big impact. Friends and family who don't support us, see strategy 1 above, shouldn't necessarily be "cut off" from our lives. What we can learn to do is protect ourselves by setting up and enforcing appropriate boundaries. For example, do not tolerate homophobic or transphobic language, ensure those in our home respect us with words and behavior and limit contact with unsupportive family members. Appropriate boundaries assist us in finding our voice to self-advocate for safe and non-hostile environments.

4. Practice self-care every day.

► Sexual Assault

Continued from p. 4

their pressing questions. Notably, Williamsen outlined that sexual assault care services can range drastically from student to student.

"I think that's partly why you see the various kind of resources up here, is that as institutions we know this," Williamsen said. "People are going to look for various kinds of support at different times in their process. Some will want to go directly to the police, some will go directly to Title IX, some will want to institutional resource first. Most of the time, we know, people go to their friends. So, they will go where they are comfortable."

The panelists also discussed the strengths in their ability cross-communicate between departments, underlining that students can feel comfortable with UM services and are welcome to report sexual misconduct and violence to any of the present departments – even for off-campus incidents involving students.

"I know that a lot of times Title IX will call us, or SAPAC will share their information. As far as an answer to the previous question

Spend at least 15-minutes practicing self-care every single day. This time should be all about you and it often includes a coping skill or two. Self-care can be as easy as taking a long, luxurious bath, making and/or eating a good meal or simply a night of Netflix. Also, consider a "technology off" night, either with you or a loved one. Try limiting or modifying your social media consumption, especially the news feed, or simply turn them off.

5. Get the appropriate amount of sleep

Did you know the CDC reports that sleep deprivation can increase many health conditions, including obesity, high blood pressure and depression? In fact, the U.S. National Center on Sleep Disorders Research reports all psychiatric and substance abuse disorders are associated with sleep disruption. We should be getting between 7 to 9 hours of sleep a night, but according to a recent Gallup poll, 40 percent of Americans get less than the recommended amount of sleep. FOMO, late-night Netflix binging, Grindr, social media ... don't let these and so many other distractions put you at risk of misusing alcohol or other drugs to "help" you sleep.

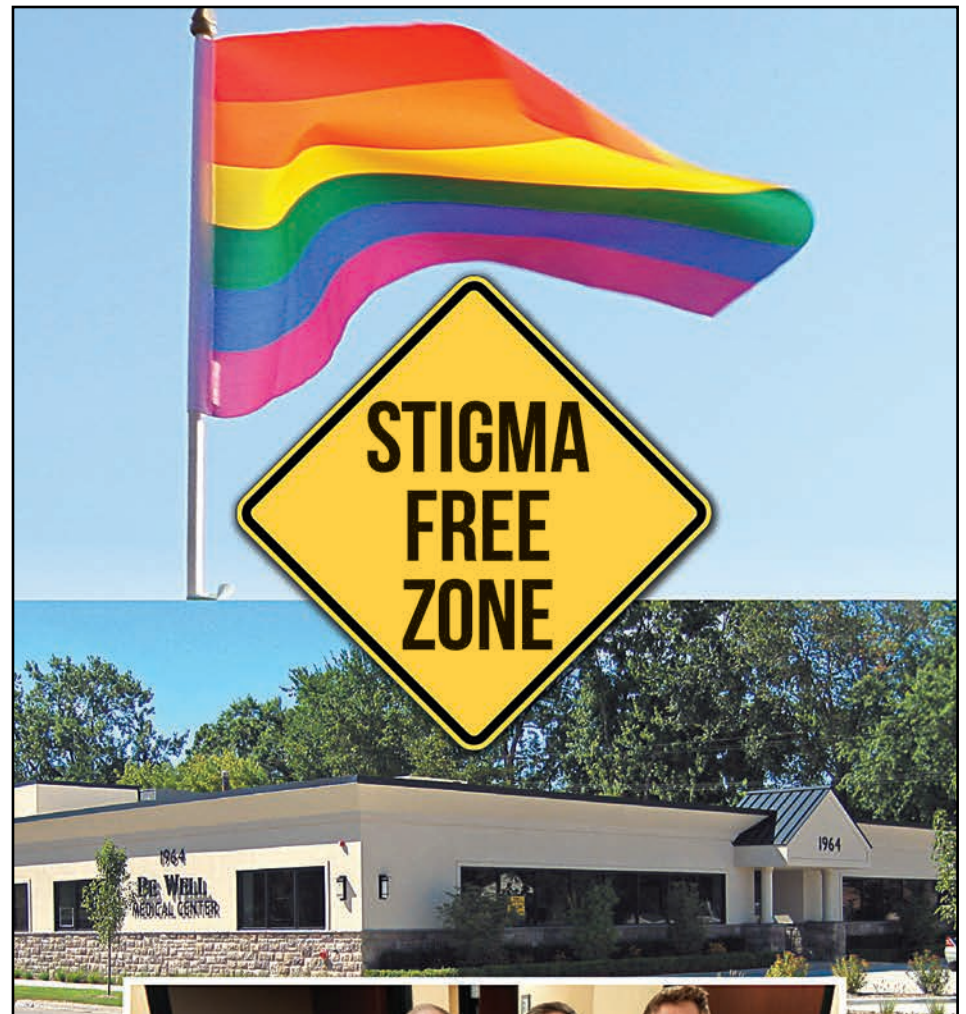
These deceptively simple strategies come directly from my experiences counseling my LGBTQ clients in recovery. They are critical building blocks to not only managing and maintaining a more healthy lifestyle, but also in becoming an active participant in the life you want to live.

Mark McMillan, LMSW, CAADC is a behavioral health therapist and certified addiction therapist at the Center for Relationship & Sexual Health. He can be reached by phone at 248-399-7447.

about an off-campus incident, if that comes through us maybe through SAPAC or Title IX, we will send the agency a report that has the basic information and then I turn that right over to the Ann Arbor police and then they will assign an investigator to that," Connors said. "We have a close working relationship with them for incidents that occur off-campus."

Heatlie also emphasized in the meeting that as of last fall, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights created new guidelines for dealing with sexual assault, in an effort to make things "fair(er) toward respondents" of sexual misconduct complaints.

"And they said they were going to issue a notice of proposed rulemaking and we've all been waiting since September for that to happen. We're in a little bit of limbo in terms of what our rules are going to be from OCR, but I think the thing to remember is the statute is still there and enforcement is still going on, but we just don't know what the guidance is going to be going forward," Heatlie said. "When that notice of proposed rulemaking comes out, every single one of you has a voice and you should certainly submit comments if this is a topic that interests you."



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WSU Student Educates Medical Professionals on LGBTQ Health

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Jars of tongue depressors, rubber gloves and a paper-lined examination table; these are the hallmarks of a medical office, and this scenario evokes a variety of emotions. For some, it's a place visited infrequently and out of necessity, while others might enjoy the occasional visit to their family doctor. Sometimes, the cold, sterile environment can conjure up anxiety. For the LGBTQ community, usually that anxiety exists because they haven't come out to the medical staff serving them. Or, it's because they fear being judged or mistreated for being open about their lifestyle.

"It's doctors so we're supposed to be able to trust them, but, especially for transgender people and especially transgender people of color, the abuse is definitely a part of their reality," said second year Wayne State University sociology student Lindsay Toman. "Eventually, people try not to go to the doctor and that helps create this cycle of health disparities that could be helped if med students learn more about it."

Toman has been paying close attention to the reactions of medical staff to LGBTQ people, because as an Albert Schweitzer fellow – a fellowship that focuses on providing medical care to underserved populations – she has created an hour-long presentation project that is aimed at stopping mistreatment from occurring against the LGBTQ community by targeting health professionals who would like to learn more about LGBTQ health.

"I was presented with the fellowship by Dennis Archambault through Authority Health. It's a really cool program. Any grad student in any program can design any health program they want, so I was reading about all these studies and showing that medical schools on average across the country spend about five hours dedicated to minority health,"

Toman said. "And, of that minority health, we really have no idea how much is actually being discussed about LGBTQ individuals. And to



Lindsay Toman

go even further than that, even when they bring up LGBTQ individuals, what kind of time are they allocating to lesbian health compared to bisexual health? I think it's problematic when we lump all LGBTQ people into one umbrella, because their needs are obviously so vastly different."

Over the last year, Toman has been regularly seeking out interested medical facilities and providing these presentations, free of charge, to any staff members who are interested. As

Toman began to explore the topic further, her research led her to a variety of studies that only served to reinforce her resolve in this project. Like a Lambda Legal study which showed that "20.9% of the transgender participants surveyed had experienced harsh language by their doctors, and 7.8% of them experienced rough or abusive treatment," also finding that "90% of the transgender individuals surveyed felt that medical personnel are not appropriately trained to meet their needs." As Toman herself is not part of the LGBTQ community, she capped off her research with focus groups of people who are. She asked the group participants what they would like to see develop in their healthcare.

"I ended up being surrounded by med students and it kind of exemplified that med students know that there's a problem, and they wanted to be involved in the project to show what's going on," Toman said. "What I also thought was interesting – which I'm writing about right now – is a lot of the med students would give me two-part answers. One would be how they would answer as a doctor, and the second would be, 'But as a lesbian,' or bisexual, or gay person, and these answers would not contradict themselves, but question the validity of each answer. I know med students are in a delicate situation. Homophobia and homophobia runs rampant in medical schools as well."

Now, in the final month of her project's originally allotted time slot, Toman said that she is hopeful that she might be able to continue her work in the long-term. She is

hopeful that this will be a possibility because medical practitioners and organizations have picked up steam in getting Toman to visit them.

"I'm excited that it's seemingly going to have legs. After I did focus groups, I also created an online survey that doctors could take, too. Because I also wanted to get their respective (opinions). What part of the LGBTQ umbrella did they know the least about?" Toman said.

And because there isn't that much information about LGBTQ health that isn't supplemental for doctors and students, Toman said she is glad to have been able to provide at least an introductory overview of LGBTQ health. She said that if the project does go further, she hopes to tailor it to a particular group's specific needs.

"Another goal of mine is to take this training and turn it into like a consulting project almost. Where I'm able to sit down with people and ask, 'What is it that you want to know more about health-related LGBTQ stuff?' For lack of a better term. To be able to mold my lecture to fit different groups," Toman said.

Because her ultimate goal is to avoid the "one size fits all" approach that's being taken by many organizations right now.

"I think I'm piquing peoples' interests, and whether or not those turn into further trainings we'll see, but it's interesting navigation practicing physicians, because it starts as soon as someone walks into the facility," Toman said. "Like if the front of house misgenders you, someone's going to be turned off. That person is not going to feel affirmed or supported, so it's kind of like I want to be able to go to an institution and work with every single person involved, even if it includes the custodial staff. Every single person involved with it, I want to interact with them and say, 'This is what you can do with your position to make it the most supportive.'"



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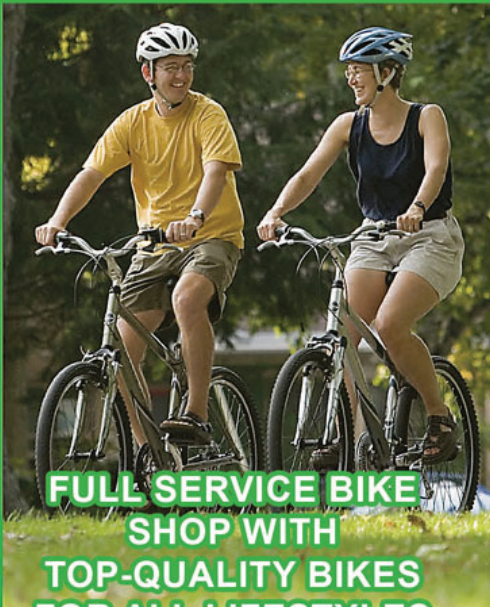
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HRC Releases Annual Healthcare Equality Index, Honors Six Michigan Health Care Facilities for LGBTQ Inclusion

BY BTL STAFF

WASHINGTON – Last March, the Human Rights Campaign Foundation (HRC) released the 11th edition of its annual Healthcare Equality Index (HEI), which scores healthcare facilities on policies and practices dedicated to the equitable treatment and inclusion of their LGBTQ patients, visitors and employees. A record 626 healthcare facilities actively participated in this year's survey, including 14 in Michigan. Of the Michigan facilities surveyed, six earned a top score of 100 and received HRC's coveted "Leader in LGBTQ Healthcare Equality" designation.

HRC recently launched HRC Rising, the largest grassroots expansion in its history that will include significant investments in Michigan ahead of the 2018 midterm elections.

"At a time when health care and the rights of LGBTQ people are under attack by the Trump-Pence Administration and state legislatures across the country, hundreds of top healthcare facilities are driving progress toward equality," said HRC Michigan State Manager Amritha Venkataraman. "These top-scoring facilities are not only establishing policies that save LGBTQ lives every day, they have become vocal advocates for equality in the public square. This year, we are heartened to see corporate champions, including many healthcare systems, not just speaking out, but also doubling down on their commitment to equality. We are also excited by the leadership of Affirmations, non-profit based in Ferndale, and the trainings they provide on LGBTQ sensitivity and diversity for healthcare providers."

The release of the 2018 HEI coincides with the March 27 deadline for public comments on the proposed Trump-Pence "conscience" regulation at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In a press release, the HRC stated that the "measure will directly harm LGBTQ people and women by prioritizing physicians' beliefs over life-saving patient care." "If finalized, it would empower health care providers to deny LGBTQ people and women necessary care, and deter healthcare organizations and providers from taking necessary action to guarantee that all patients have access to the care they not only deserve, but are legally entitled to," the press release said.

The 11th edition of the HEI marks the second year that participants have been given a numerical score based on their LGBTQ-inclusive policies and practices.



HEI participants are assessed on four criteria: LGBTQ Patient-Centered Care, LGBTQ Patient Services and Support, Employee Benefits and Policies and LGBTQ Patient and Community Engagement.

In the 2018 report, over 400 facilities earned HRC's "LGBTQ Healthcare Equality Leader" designation, receiving the maximum score in each section and earning an overall score of 100. Another 95 facilities earned the "Top Performer" designation for scoring from 80 to 95 points.

"With 82 percent of participating facilities scoring 80 points or more, health care facilities are demonstrating concretely that they are going beyond the basics when it comes to adopting policies and practices in LGBTQ care," the press release said.

The progress reflected in the 2018 HEI includes:

- 59 percent increase in hospitals that have written gender transition guidelines;

- 42 percent increase in hospitals that offer trans-inclusive benefits;

- 21 percent increase in the number of participants that have transgender-specific policies;

- 63 percent increase in training hours recorded - clocking in at more than 70,000 hours of LGBTQ care training provided.

Of the hospitals that did not actively participate in the HEI, but were included based on HRC Foundation research, only 63 percent have patient non-discrimination policies that include both sexual orientation and gender identity, and only 53 percent were found to have an LGBTQ-inclusive employment non-discrimination policy. The equal visitation policy, at 93 percent, is the only one that comes close to matching the rate of the participating facilities.

"While the 2018 HEI shows a growing commitment across the nation to equitable

“The right to believe is absolutely fundamental. The right to discriminate is not. Discrimination has no place in this country, especially in healthcare.”

– Government comments section by a man from Casper, Wyoming

and inclusive health care, it also illustrates work left to be done," said Tari Hanneman, Director of the HRC Foundation's Health Equality Project, and author of the HEI. "And that work has never been more urgent, given the all-out assaults on the LGBTQ community from the highest levels of government."

In comments submitted to the administration on the final day it was allowed, parents, spouses, nurses and physicians expressed alarm at the prospect of allowing health care workers to prioritize their beliefs over care – whether it be for a transgender person, for a patient seeking life-saving access to PrEP or LGBTQ couples needing fertility services to start their family.

"The right to believe is absolutely fundamental," wrote a man from Casper, Wyoming. "The right to discriminate is not. Discrimination has no place in this country, especially in healthcare."

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation describes itself as the "education arm of America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people. HRC envisions a world where LGBTQ people are embraced as full members of society at home, at work and in every community."

BRIEFS

LGBT Health Resources Removed from HHS Website

A webpage devoted to lesbian and bisexual health, links to LGBTQ topics and other references were removed between September and October 2017 from WomensHealth.gov, a website maintained by HHS' Office on Women's Health. The removals were tracked in a pair of reports by the Sunlight Foundation's Web Integrity Project and shared with POLITICO.

HHS said the pages and links, some of which were first posted in 2012, were taken down as part of a routine update. However, the Sunlight Foundation determined that existing health topic pages do not appear to have been updated with new material and the now-missing lesbian and bisexual health content was not integrated elsewhere. "Bisexual and lesbian health" was also removed from the website's listing as well as a lesbian and bisexual health fact sheet. Sunlight Foundation researchers told POLITICO the fact sheet was quietly moved to a different location in the website's archives and "placed on an island." No links currently direct to it. The office's Twitter account, @womenshealth, which has nearly one million followers, also has not mentioned LGBT health issues since a post on Nov. 11, 2016.

Michigan Orders Closure of 210 Marijuana Shops

Michigan regulators said March 29 that they ordered the closure of 210 medical marijuana businesses over a two-week period, largely because their owners failed to apply for a state license by a mid-February deadline or did not receive authorization from their municipalities. Most of the shops – 158 – were in Detroit. Authorities also hand-delivered orders to eight businesses in Lansing, seven in Flint, five in Gaylord, three each in Ann Arbor and Battle Creek, and smaller numbers elsewhere. Shops that did not close immediately could be denied a license down the line if they apply, be referred to local, state or federal law enforcement, or face other penalties or sanctions. The cease-and-desist orders come as the state continues the process of more tightly regulating the medical marijuana industry under a 2016 law that aimed in part to address confusion surrounding the legality of dispensary shops that opened after voters in 2008 authorized marijuana for medical use. The new law includes a three percent tax on provisioning centers. Roughly 277,000 patients are registered with the state to grow their own marijuana or obtain it from 43,000 registered caregivers who can supply a limited number of people.

See next page

► Health News Briefs

Continued from p. 17

Southeast Michigan Will Benefit from \$3.4 Million in Health Care Grants

The Michigan Health Endowment Fund will give about \$10 million in funds to 57 organizations across the state that are focused on child nutrition and public health challenges, according to a Crain's Detroit Business report. The monies are directed to organizations that align with the agency's Nutrition & Healthy Lifestyles and Community Health Impact programs. Eighteen groups focused on nutrition received between \$100,000 and \$500,000 to help address Michigan's high rates of childhood obesity, which more than tripled in the past three decades. The endowment fund's nutrition program has seen a \$5 million increase in funding compared to last year, now reaching \$6.5 million, the report said. Eastern Market Corp. was awarded \$400,000 to beef up their food access and nutrition education programs. The remaining grants issued up to \$100,000 to 39 initiatives

that zero in on community health issues. Southeastern Michigan Health Association received \$100,000 for its overdose prevention project, the release said. A full list of recipients is available at crainsdetroit.com.

Health App Stores Medical Records On iPhones

When Apple released iOS 11.3, along with a slew of other fun additions, the updates included a new feature: Health Records. For patients within certain health systems – like the University of Chicago Medicine, Truman Medical Centers, and OhioHealth in the Midwest – medical records can be viewed on the iPhone. Apple announced the new feature months ago, but now members of the community will know how Health Records will work. Reports show it's located within the Health app for easy access and keeps the information readily available for the patient to view and hand over to doctors - which is easier than carrying around an entire medical file. All data contained will be encrypted and protected with the user's iPhone passcode. Patients from

only 39 health institutions across the U.S. can view their records after updating to iOS 11.3, but that list is expected to grow.

Going to Concerts Is Good for Your Health (Study)

The bright lights, screaming crowds and pulsating beats that come with attending a concert can actually help people live longer, a new study reports. According to research conducted by UK music venue O2 and Patrick Fagan, a Goldsmith University lecturer and expert in behavioral science, 20 minutes at a gig "can lead to a 21 percent increase in [a] feeling of well-being," reports the study. Comparatively, yoga increases well-being by 10 percent, and dog-walking by 7 percent. "Additional scholarly research directly links high levels of well-being with a lifespan increase of nine years pointing to a direct link between gig-going and longevity," states the report, noting that attending a concert once every two weeks could potentially expand a music lover's life expectancy by nine years. The test subjects for the study participated

in psychometric and heart-rate tests while performing multiple activities. While watching live music, feelings of self-worth and being close to others both improved by 25 percent. Mental stimulation was the most affected with an improvement by 75 percent.

ACLU Sues Ohio Dept. of Health Over Trans Birth Certificate Policy

The ACLU and ACLU Ohio in conjunction with Lambda Legal have filed a federal lawsuit against the Ohio Department of Health over what they call a discriminatory birth certificate policy that only applies to transgender individuals. The plaintiffs, Stacie Ray and Basil Argento, say they have been denied the ability to change the gender marker on their birth certificate from what they were biologically born as to how they identify themselves today. According to the ACLU, Ohio is one of only three states that still do not allow transgender individuals to make this change.

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Talking Body

Decorative Artist Matt Lambert Explores Queer Body Politics

HEALTH FEATURE

BY EMELL DERRA ADOLPHUS

To fully consume the queer concepts in Matt Lambert's body of work, use your primordial senses: touch, sight, sex. The 28-year-old decorative artist has a BFA in printmaking and ceramics (summa cum laude in metals) from Wayne State University, and they has an MFA from the Cranbrook Academy of Art, where they studied metal and leather smithing, fiber and sculpture. Expertly wielding those disciplines, Lambert adorns the naked male form with protection and vulnerability.

Lambert's pieces include silky floor-length fiber masks beaded with raw metal, mirrored breastplates, intricately tied leather headdresses with animal bone, fur and feathers necklaces — it all plays between primitive and polished to reimagine masculinity. Or, to simply blow the binary away entirely, they explains.

"When I talk about queer body politics, it is about making space for the body to explore and not be categorized," Lambert says. "This has now lead into a photographic and performative element in my work. It is giving a body — anybody, everybody — time, space and validation to explore and experiment."

This month, Lambert will travel to Oslo, Norway, for six weeks to participate in a gender and body adornment residency, a joint effort between Praxis Oslo, Norwegian Crafts, and writer, curator and maker Benjamin Lignel who is working on a gender project with writer and curator Namita Wiggers. The project started as a book on gender, but talks have since evolved into a potential open source platform. "They realized a book doesn't reflect gender, which is fluid," Lambert says. In art, fluidity is freedom, they says, "to express



things and share ideas and thoughts without the pressure for approval."

Growing up, Lambert split his time between the city of Detroit and the forests of Ontario. They mostly keeps a low profile in the local art scene, and they creates in a cozy studio space in Detroit's Boston-Edison District. But internationally, Lambert's been busy building a commentary around gender.

In 2016, Lambert became the first international artist trained in contemporary jewelry to be invited as an international resident for 2016-2017 with Iaspis the Swedish Arts

Grants Committee's international programme for visual artists and designers. Lambert's work has been collected internationally and shown at venues such as ArkDes, the Swedish center for architecture and design, the Craft Council of British Columbia Gallery in Vancouver, Canada, and the Handwerkskammer für München und Oberbayern in Munich, Germany. Lambert is represented by Platina Gallery in Stockholm, Sweden and Gallery Loupe in Montclair New Jersey. They has two upcoming solo exhibitions — one through May at

the Sculpture Center of Ohio and another in the spring of 2019 at the Benaki Museum in Athens Greece as the featured artist of Athens Jewelry Week. Lambert will also present CAKE with collaborator Edward Cabral at the Swedish Fine Art Biannual in Gothenburg Sweden in 2019.

"I pull a lot of my style from the decorative arts," they says. "I also trained as a leather worker in a coach trimming shop that did car interiors by hand. This eventually lead to making fetish gear, which some of that shows up in my work

just from the memory that exists in my hands still from making that work."

From their family, Lambert was cut from a creative cloth. "I would say there is a thread of creativity in my family. A lot of needle work with textiles as well as many other things," they says. "My mother's cousin was also a metalsmith who went to Wayne State and went on to work for Tiffany & Co. When I graduated high school and formally declared metalsmithing a degree at Wayne State, I inherited her studio which was a tremendous help for my own studio."

Lambert originally set out to be a psychologist. They received his bachelor's in psychology from WSU (cum laude with departmental honors) and started working in a rape and trauma lab. They took up art after finding the work mentally draining.

"It became very frustrating. I did not find this kind of work to be fulfilling and was taking a wear on me mentally," they says. But Lambert hasn't given up on the mind completely. By blending the binaries in their work, they hopes to provoke a dialogue around gender that empowers people to live in their truth. From their own journey with gender, Lambert has learned to accept that the truth can change.

"There is that tired saying 'marching to the beat of a different drum.' Well I would like to think I've learned enough to make enough drums at this point," they says. "I hope in general people can take away from my work that it's OK to be different. Whether that's loud or quiet."

At this point in the evolving discussion on gender and sexuality, uniformity "would just be weird," they adds.

Visit mattlambertstudio.com for more information.

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BY BTL STAFF

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Visit spoon.guru/usa

My Possible Self

The My Possible Self app describes itself as a personalized self-help tool that helps you meet the stresses and strains in your life head-on by tracking your mental wellbeing. Use the “moments” function to monitor your feelings and recognize any patterns or triggers in your

behavior, and the self-help “modules” to tackle issues such as stress, anxiety, loss or major life changes.

Visit mypossibleself.com/

Calm

Being named “App of the Year” by Apple helped this meditation and mindfulness app created by British tech entrepreneurs Michael Acton-Smith and Alex Tew reach No. 3 among free downloads.

Visit calm.com/

Clue

Menstruators the world over will rejoice over Clue, a simple app with a beautiful design for tracking your period and predicting when the next will occur. Using the data you enter about your cycle — and other factors — you can use Clue to plan ahead, whether it's for pregnancy or just to keep ahead of your cycle. Reminders and a handy calendar tool can help take the guesswork out of life. Best of all, it's totally gender neutral, and not the expected pink.

Visit helloclue.com/

RunKeeper

Runkeeper is a perennial favorite among running apps, using your phone's GPS to track your running, cycling,

hiking and other distance activities. The app records your pace, distance, total exercise time, calories burned, and other useful metrics, while also allowing you to take and tag pictures on the go.

Visit runkeeper.com/

Oh She Glows

With more 95 plant-based recipes, Oh She Glows meal options aren't just healthy, they're also extremely aesthetically pleasing. While the photography alone might make it tough to choose what you want to whip up, the interface is simple to use. Each recipe has a brief description, directions, a list of tips, and nutritional information.

Visit ohsheglows.com/

Lose It!

The Lose It! app keeps things simple, and it's perfect for people just getting started with meal tracking. It's got a huge food database and breaks down meals by breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks. You can log food manually, scan barcodes, or even log just by photographing it with the app's “Snap It” feature. With a premium subscription (\$29.99/year), you can get access to more nutritional stats and trends in your diet.

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Ypsilanti Nutritionist Offers Queer and Trans-Inclusive Healing

HEALTH PROFILE

BY DREW HOWARD

The relationship between trans, queer and LGTBIA+ patients and their healthcare providers has forever been a shaky one, as the medical community's understanding of sex and gender has oftentimes failed to keep up with advancements in modern medicine.

Lark Malakai Grey, an openly queer nutritional therapist who specializes in autoimmune and gastrointestinal issues, is making a concentrated effort to mend such wounds, starting first with their own nutritional practice "Transformative Wellness" in Ypsilanti. Here, Grey aims to take a personalized approach to nutrition with all patients regardless of whether they're queer, a person of color, trans, or of a different faith.

"I'm really deeply embedded in the queer community, and I'd say that 97 percent of my peer group are queer, trans or somewhere in that group," Lark told BTL. "And so I know that a lot of folks struggle with this, and have had a terrible experience with western medical system as it relates to queer or trans patients."

"Armed with that knowledge and personal experience, I just want to be really explicit about the fact that that's not going to happen when folks are working with me."

One of Grey's chief beliefs is that emotional and physical health rarely exist in separate spheres – in a Venn diagram, the two would make "a perfect circle," according to the Transformative Wellness website. Grey's treatment packages are built around this idea, and include a mix of life coaching



and tarot card readings that can be supplemented alongside straightforward nutritional therapy.

Grey currently offers four packages at Transformative Wellness: an integrated nutrition/coaching package, a nutrition-only package, a coaching-only package, and a tarot-guided coaching package. While all four are separate and unique, Grey maintains a consistent approach among each one that aims to treat the root of a patient's ailment, not just their symptoms.

Grey explained this approach in the context of a patient being treated for irritable bowel syndrome.

"We dig into where this problem is coming from so we can make a treatment plan, as opposed to most of the people I see who have IBS who are told by the doctor they'll always feel bad, so they need to avoid XYZ foods," Grey said. "And that's not really helpful - I'm trying to do the opposite. Don't just avoid, but try and figure out what's making you sick."

They add that the act of adjusting to an illness, rather than facing the root of the problem head on, can put patients in financially unrealistic situations. "A lot of folks in the more natural healing community can get militant, saying this has to be raw milk sourced from a local farm, for example," Grey said. "I recognize that's not realistic for so many people."

Grey's firsthand experiences provide a foundation for much of their work, allowing them to empathize with patients in ways they believe not every nutritionist can. Grey herself has dealt with Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, chronic gut issues, adrenal fatigue and mental illness, while their partner was also treated for severe Crohn's disease.

Learning how to treat both their partner's and their own nutritional needs inspired Grey to pursue an official education through the Nutritional Therapy Association, earning them a certification in the field in 2016.

"I have a really good idea of how to keep my body well, and I think that's really important in the work I do," Grey told BTL. "Not only because it makes me feel confident that what I do works, but also because it means I can empathize with my clients, both in how they're feeling when they come to me but also in the process of healing – every step of the way I can genuinely tell them I've been there."

As an openly queer individual, Grey said they've also had negative healthcare experiences where intersex people, trans people and other identities are "erased" on patient evaluation forms. Only accounting for two genders tells you a lot about a practitioner, Grey said, and can create an even greater lack of trust between LGBTQ+ patients and their doctors.

"Cis-heteronormativity gets into conversations and erases trans and non-binary identities, not just in healthcare, but the same in any other piece of society," Grey said. "That then makes people hesitant to ask for services that they need to be healthy."

"The male female gender question is harmful in so many ways," Grey continued. "Asking only that question doesn't make any room for other identities, and puts people in a position to have to come out to their doctors in a way that sucks, or they choose not to, which then puts them in a position of having difficulty disclosing to their doctors...it's easier to check a box then tell a doctor."

Heteronormativity is pervasive not only in traditional western medicine, Grey said, but also in the natural healing world, which can be "very gendered" and dismissive of different experiences. This is why Grey makes sure to provide six different gender and sex options on their intake forms, in addition to asking each of their patient's preferred pronouns.

Grey adds that Transformative Wellness isn't just for queer clients or alternative identities, but rather an inclusive space where anyone seeking treatment can feel safe.

"I just want to provide the healthcare I want, making sure to put out in the world the care I'd like to receive – that's what I'm doing."

Connect with Lark Malakai Grey at Transformative Wellness by phone at 734-548-9978, email Lark@transformativewellnessA2.com or online transformativewellnessa2.com



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OUR LESBIAN LADY LIBERTY

Hayley Kiyoko: Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Unabashed Queer Pop

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Even lesbian Jesuses get swept up by the grandeur of the Statue of Liberty.

“I’ve never seen it before! It’s huge! Oh my god, it’s huge!” enthuses a giddy-as-ever Hayley Kiyoko, proclaimed “the lesbian Jesus” by her adoring disciples. The unapologetic pop fixture can’t help but check out of our conversation to soak up the moment, her driver cruising over a bridge in New York City. “It’s on my left. I had to, like, gasp. Oh my god, it’s so cool.”

The 26-year-old singer is doing a string of press calls to tout her debut album, “Expectations,” and though I’ve understandably lost her to a colossal Neoclassical monument, Kiyoko eventually remembers why she’s on the phone in the first place: oh, right, music.

Kiyoko’s DIY music career launched in 2013, when her partially crowdfunded debut EP “A Belle to Remember” was released. “This Side of Paradise” followed in 2015 and featured “Girls Like Girls.” The single’s video, which has amassed more than 82 million views on YouTube (collectively, her self-directed videos have eclipsed 170 million views), took a hard, unflinching look at the challenges of facing same-sex desire. Kiyoko released her third EP, “CITRINE,” in 2016, which included single “Gravel to Tempo”; in the song’s video, she leaves a group of mean girls speechless with her seductive dance moves. “Curious,” a single from her first full-length, released via Atlantic Records, is as brazenly sensual as any straight pop star’s lustfulness – and the world is better for it.

While taking in the historic NYC views, Kiyoko opened up to me about letting her music tell her queer story (even when it came to coming out to her grandma) and the “gentle and vulnerable and emotional” bond she has with her fans.

Your 94-year-old grandma recently discovered you’re lesbian thanks to one of your music videos. What was that like?

(Laughs) It’s funny: I’ve just been gently sending her videos I’ve been directing, but I don’t know if she’s been watching them or not, because that was the first time she responded directly about my music. I still don’t know what video she watched, but with every video, it’s very obvious that I like girls, so I feel like the cat’s out of the bag – finally.

INFO

Hayley Kiyoko

7 p.m. June 6

Saint Andrews Hall

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saintandrewsdetroit.com

Which videos of yours would be a good gay conversation-starter for grandmas to watch?

(Laughs) I feel like “Girls Like Girls” is a good introduction.

Tell me how you came to be so open about your sexuality as a pop musician.

It’s just been baby steps. I did the “Girls Like Girls” music video, which was the introduction; even still, people didn’t really know where I was at. Then, I released “Gravel to Tempo.”

It’s like, what song do I wanna release next? OK, great. What do I want the story to be? OK, great, and then I release it. Every video I’m wanting to challenge myself and tell a different story and a different perspective on a situation that I’ve experienced. Now, obviously looking back at all these videos, it tells a very solidified story, and I like girls and I was never – as you know, it’s a difficult thing to want to be open about it because it’s a very personal thing and it’s something you don’t feel like you need to share, but it’s been a situation where I’ve connected with so many people through it.

I’ve kind of had to really own it and feel confident about it, because I realize that there aren’t a lot of people who do that. So, you have to lead by example, and that’s the best way to help normalize those feelings, and that’s always been my goal: just to normalize things and not have it be a conversation. I always told my manager: “I don’t want to come out. I just want people to watch my art and take it for what it is.”

Can you talk about some of the queer themes on this album and how your life inspired those songs?

I have a song “He’ll Never Love You (HNLV),” and I love that song because it talks about a situation I was in where this girl wanted to be with me but was too afraid to own her sexuality. So, it was one of those situations where I had to let that person go. It was always a frustrating situation because I knew how she felt, but you can’t encourage anyone to love themselves. That’s a journey on their own.

When, as a public figure, did you first feel 100 percent comfortable being open about your sexuality on a mass level?

I would say probably the music video after “Girls Like Girls,” so “Cliff’s Edge.” That was obviously a bold music video as well, and you can’t argue with what’s going on in that video (laughs). So, that was definitely a moment where I was like, “I’m gonna own

this and I’m gonna own who I am,” because, to be honest, on a personal level I’ve always known who I was since I was younger; just sharing that with the world is another level of pressure, I would say.

How would you compare how you felt about your sexuality during “Girls Like Girls” versus “Cliff’s Edge”?

I almost didn’t put “Girls Like Girls” on my EP. It was a very last-minute decision and then I also wasn’t sure what I was really doing because I was seeing the reactions and I didn’t know what my next step was. I didn’t really know where I was going with my career and what my message was, and it was just kind of up in the air, because I made “Girls Like Girls” in a very honest place, just like every other video I do. But after you do something, it’s like, what do I do now?

How did you gauge what was next regarding your queer music narrative? Do you have a team of queer people who are guiding you?

No, I don’t think that’s a reality (laughs). I mean, I don’t know. I’m just being myself and I really don’t consult anyone. I just put it out.

But a lot of pop acts have a team working with them.

Oh yeah. No, no, no. My team is my manager and my day-to-day. I have my team, but they’re all straight (laughs) and they can’t relate. So I go, “This is what I’m doing,” and then we do it, and then I release it. There’s nothing contrived or manipulated with what I do. It’s really: write a song; OK, I wanna shoot a music video;

we create a music video; I do whatever I want with it; and then I decide when I wanna release it, and then I put it out on YouTube. That’s really the process. I’m sure it’s different for other artists, but I’ve always been extremely controlling with my art. And when I signed to Atlantic they knew that, so they let me do whatever I want to do.

That control has probably been one of the reasons you’ve been able to connect with all these fans who call you their “lesbian Jesus.” Could you describe the connection you have with your queer fans?

I think the connection is very gentle and vulnerable and emotional because, a lot of the times, it’s interesting: sometimes, kids will say things to me that they’ve never said to anyone else. It’s really an open space, and

See next page

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DSO Musicians Perform Trios in Birmingham

BY BTL STAFF

Detroit Symphony Orchestra flutist Amanda Blaikie and cellist Una O’Riordan will accompany pianist Rudolf Ozolins in a night of chamber trios. The event will be on Friday, April 13 and held at Birmingham’s Hagopian World of Rugs.

Chamber music is a form of classical music that is specifically composed for a small number of players.

“... chamber music engages both performer and audience in an intimate artistic dialogue not only through its casual settings, but also in its descriptive storytelling nature and requirement of special musical and social skills not found in symphonic works,” said a press release. “Chamber music eliminates any divide between audience and performer by engaging all into sharing an ever-changing dynamic and flowing artistic process.”

The performance will highlight the skillsets of all three musicians, demonstrating Blaikie’s “sparkling tone” and “sensitive, expressive musicality” according to a press release. O’Riordan will come prepared with her vast experience as a chamber musician, having performed across Michigan in a variety of series-based performances such as Birmingham’s “Pro Mozart, Classical Brunch” and “Enescu.” Ozolins’ technical mastery is impressive, too, as he has studied music in the U.S. for 17 years.



DSO Second Flute Amanda Blaikie is joined by DSO cellist Una O’Riordan and pianist Rudolf Ozolins in Trio’s Company, DCWS’ Nightnotes Series finale, on Friday, April 13.

“(He) received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in piano performance from Indiana University. In 2013, he completed a Doctoral degree in piano performance at Michigan State University.”

Tickets cost \$25, \$22 for seniors and \$10 for students. All tickets cost \$7 more at the door. To purchase tickets ahead of time visit detroitchamberwinds.org or call 248-559-2095.

► Hayley Kiyoko

Continued from p. 25

I think that they know I’m accepting of them. I’m always encountering very emotional experiences, and I’m very sensitive, and I’m very aware and connected to that, so that’s something we share.

What’s it like to think you’re the lesbian pop star you wished for when you were a struggling queer teen?

I don’t know. I feel like – I guess I don’t really think about it that much. I feel like I’m not really looking at myself all the time in the sense of, look who I am. I’m like everyone else, just trying to get through life day to day. And I really want to get to a certain point in my career where people are just listening to my music and giving me an opportunity and a platform, so I don’t really reflect, because I feel like I have so much to share.

As a teen you were pretty hungry for representation, though.

Oh yeah, 100 percent. And there were some great acts out there that I loved, like Tegan and Sara, for example. I love them. But yeah,

it’s interesting: I didn’t have a person where I was like, “She knows exactly what I’m going through, and we are connected.” I had icons and idols who were close but not someone that I really connected with.

I had read in The Guardian that Katy Perry’s “I Kissed a Girl” influenced you.

It did? I mean, I wouldn’t say ... I don’t think I said it was an influence. They had asked me what I thought about that and what my take on it was, and, because a lot of people were saying negative things, I was saying I have nothing negative to say about it because it reminded me, OK, there’s Katy Perry singing about experimenting and kissing a girl, and that’s great and I support that, and I’m gonna be someone who likes girls all the time and sing about that. So, to me, I thought it was a positive thing because I thought it was a step toward what I was gonna do down the line one day.

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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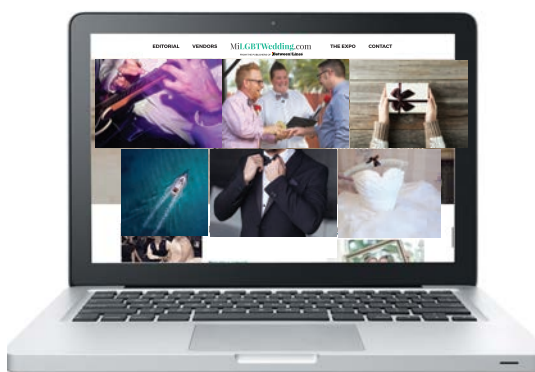
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Informational Session on Gerrymandering in Birmingham Library

BY BTL STAFF

In a presentation titled "The Road to Redistricting Reform" Wayne State University political science professor Kevin Deegan-Krause Ph.D. will provide an overview of what gerrymandering is, its negative aspects and how best to prevent it. This event will be held on Wednesday, April 18 at Baldwin Library in Birmingham.

Deegan-Krause received a bachelor of art's degree in economics from Georgetown University in 1990, and a Ph.D. in government and international studies from the university of Notre Dame in 2000. His experience in the political field is extensive, as his research in comparative politics emphasizes

European politics, political parties, democratic institutions and national identity.

"He is the recipient of the Truman and Fulbright Scholarships as well as of IREX Individual Advanced Research Grants. He has served as a consultant for the U.S. Department of State on the politics of central Europe," said a press release. "His ongoing research focuses on the transformation of political parties and he is working with Tim Haughton of the University of Birmingham on a book entitled 'The New Party Challenge: Cycles of Party Birth and Death in Europe and Beyond.'"

The free event begins at 7 p.m. The Baldwin Library is located at 300 W. Merrill St., Birmingham. More information can be found online at baldwinlib.org.

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Hundreds Reminisce About Historical Detroit Gay Bar Scene

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Menjos Entertainment Complex General Manager Tim McKee has reason to be proud of himself. The first in a three-part series of panel discussions, this one on the history in gay bars in Detroit, drew a crowd of more than 250 people to the Olympus Theater Saturday night.

“It was amazing,” McKee said. “The response was overwhelming. It was a mixture of people young and old and everything in between ... races and sexes across the board. Everybody loved our mini museum. It was truly an overwhelmingly positive event.”

The discussion, which was moderated by historian and Adjunct Assistant Professor of History and LGBT Studies at Michigan State University Tim Retzloff, featured a panel that included DJ Stacey “Hottwaxx” Hale, publisher of *Metra* magazine since 1979 Mary “Metra” Sappington, Palmer Park historian Douglas Haller, former captain of the Tribe leather group Mark Weiss and well-known drag performers Torchy and Lady “T” Tempest.

“The first gay neighborhood was downtown along Monroe Street in the city’s theater district,” Haller told the crowd. “Then it moved up the Woodward corridor to Wayne State, which was then called the University Cultural District. Then it moved out to Palmer Park and, eventually, Royal Oak and Ferndale.”



Palmer Park historian Douglas Haller speaks Saturday night as fellow panelists Lady T Tempest, Mike Weiss and Torchy listen.” BTL photo: Jason A. Michael

Memories are Made of This

Drag entertainer Torchy performed as a female impersonator for the first time in 1970.

“It was a fluke,” he said. “I was going with this guy and he talked me into getting into a dress and entering a contest at the Iron Hinge. I won second place. That was the first time in life I had had attention. I said, ‘well I’m gonna do this again next week.’ I thought I was pretty.”

Torchy was an instant hit.

“They were tipping me and tipping me and I thought, ‘Oh shit, I got me a profession,’” said Torchy. “Back then you didn’t get paid. You worked for tips. Sometimes you’d make \$5 dollars on a number sometimes \$10. I made \$180 dollars on one number and that was thanks to an Aretha song.”

Sappington enjoyed going to gay bars long before she created her *Metra* magazine, which would chronicle the gay bar scene in 1979.

“I always hung out in gay bars,” Sappington said. “I had a hair shop in Romeo, Michigan, and I advertised in the only gay paper that I knew of, which was *Metro Gay News*. So

they went out of business and some friends and myself got together and decided to start *Metra* magazine.”

Finding a printer, at first, was difficult.

“They were all too prejudiced,” Sappington said. “So, we just kept going around until we found a printer. Everything is better now. If you got the money they’ll print.”

Sappington was also recognized for hosting the *Metra* picnic, which she produced for 36 years.

“It was a fun, fun, fun party,” said Sappington, who alluded to the fact that the event could get a little frisky — complete with “frolicking” in the bushes. “A lot of young kids were thinking they were going to a picnic. It wasn’t your grandmother’s picnic.

Sappington had such a hard time finding a location for the picnic that she actually bought a park to host it in.

“Too many places gave us a hard time because we were gay,” Sappington said. “We

had security there but only to keep people out and keep the straight people away.”

Though she discontinued the picnic several years ago, Sappington said she might just bring it back.

“I was thinking about maybe in 2019 finding a place and having a picnic,” she said.

Payoffs and Deadly Diseases

Torchy talked to the crowd about the magnitude of the gay bar scene in Detroit in the 1970s.

“There were 45 gay bars and five steam baths,” Torchy said. “It was huge in the ‘70s.”

But, size or not, there was a cost to doing business with the gay community.

“All bars paid off back then,” said Torchy. “Even if you go back far enough you’ll find it was illegal to serve a known homosexual at a bar anyway.”

Then, in the early ‘80s, the AIDS crisis hit.

“They just started dying like flies,” Torchy said. “I know over 350 people alone who have died from AIDS. I have the names written down.”

Weiss was affected, too.

“I personally know a number of men that have died from AIDS,” he said. “I mean good friends. My husband lost his first lover to AIDS. It was frightening. AIDS was a death sentence back then.”

Tempest spoke about the toll the epidemic took on her.

“When your phone rings and you’re afraid to answer it because you couldn’t take one more friend, family member, LGBT person dying of AIDS ... it’s scary. It scared the living hell out of us.”

The second installment of the panel discussion series will take place Friday, June 22. The scheduled topic is the legendary queens of Detroit.

LGBT Detroit Spring Fundraiser Revisits the Famous Door

DJ Melvin Hill to be Honored

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

For their spring fundraiser April 21, LGBT Detroit will pay homage to the Famous Door, a nightclub popular with the African-American LGBT community in the '70s, '80s and '90s.

"We honor that space," said LGBT Detroit Executive Director Curtis Lipscomb. "The Famous Door was a place where African-American gays and lesbians were the primary clientele. It was open at a time when a lot of gay bars were not open to African-American participants. So we just honor it this way."

The Famous Door, which was located at



On the dance floor at the Famous Door circa 1981. Image courtesy of Metra magazine.

1256 Griswold downtown, was a straight bar until around 1972, when it was acquired by Ernie Backos. Backos had operated the Ten Eleven from 1952 until its closing in 1971. Soon, the club's new ownership turned it into a hot spot for young, black gay folk who wanted to dance.

Melvin Hill was the DJ at the Famous Door from 1977 until it closed in 1998. Known today as a legend among house music DJs, Hill will be honored at the event.

"Melvin is an iconic disc jockey," Lipscomb said. "He commanded a space. He was one of several DJs who really created a unique experience for Detroiters back then. So we're pleased to honor him."

Hill's imprint made a mark on the DJ community, too.

"When you think of the Famous Door you think of Melvin Hill," said DJ John Collins, who will be spinning at the fundraiser along with DJ Tone. "What was great about the Famous Door was that Melvin was able to really program great music and introduce a lot of music to the kids."

For his part, Hill remembers people coming

to the bar from near and far.

"It wasn't just a Detroit thing," Hill said. "A lot of guys came there from Chicago and New York, especially on weekends. Everybody was there for the dancing and the music. The young kids danced. They came there and changed clothes in the bathroom just to dance. They'd practice dancing before I ever came on spinning. It was a contest all night."

Hill would begin his shift at 9 p.m. with a more adult sound. But, by 11 p.m., things would take a turn.

"After 11 it became the buildup and by the 1 o'clock hour it was the explosion," said Hill. "There was an explosion ... a lot of beats and drums. I played mostly vocals there. At least until 1 a.m. Then, it was climax time."

Hill said he is thrilled that LGBT Detroit is revising "The Door," as regulars called it.

"I think it's a good idea," he said. "It's to teach the kids a little history on what happened in this city and how it got started. It's important to not let the memory die."

Hill said that today's club scene is vastly different from when The Famous Door was at its peak.

"These kids today, what they're experiencing now doesn't compare. We came to dance. We didn't wait until 12:30 to come in like they do now, and then they just walk around and don't dance as much," Hill said. "Every time you came out of the Famous Door you were soaking wet. It was about the dance."

Lipscomb said that he urges the event's attendees to stop and appreciate the huge change in the music scene.

"This night is to reflect on our past, present and future through music," Lipscomb said. "It's really about the music and about the dancing. We're definitely going to have images what will conjure thoughts about the Famous Door. People have been kind to send us photographs, which we will showcase in our slide show."

And, if all goes well, he predicts that turnout for the event will be high.

"The Spring fundraiser funds the programs we offer for free," Lipscomb said. "We'd like everyone to be there. We're expecting 400 people in the room."

The Famous Door, LGBT Detroit's Spring fundraiser, will take place on Saturday, April 21 from 8 p.m. to midnight. Tickets are \$25 and are available from lgbtdetroit.org/events. Historian and Adjunct Assistant Professor of History and LGBT Studies at Michigan State University Tim Retzlaff contributed to this report.

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Women's HIV Support Group

Beginning on May 10, UNIFIED - HIV Health & Beyond will offer a "Healthy Living, Support and Resources" group from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. for women living with HIV in UNIFIED's 10-county service area. This includes Jackson, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw, and Wayne. Please RSVP to Jonathon at 313-446-9800 no later than May 3. Visit facebook.com/miunified/ for more details about the group to be held at 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Suite 230, in Detroit.



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Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, April 12

Lesser Known Gender and Sexuality Identities 11:30 a.m. This event will focus on bringing awareness and understanding to some of the lesser-known gender and sexual identities. Individuals who identify with some of these, such as asexual, intersex and two-spirit, will present a panel Oakland University, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. 248-370-4336 gsc@oakland.edu. oakland.edu.

Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce Merge & Mixer 6:30 p.m. Michigan Employee Resource Groups for Equality (MERGE) Monthly Networking Event. All are welcomed to network. Host by: Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce. RSVP is Required. Soho, 205 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-542-7646 info@detroitlgbtchamber.com. ferndalesoho.com. detroitlgbtchamber.com.

Pop-Up Event: Dance! Introduction to Partner Movement 7 p.m. Learn the rumba or 4 count hustle at Affirmations with our friend Jeffrey T. Rakowski from Evoke Ballroom. All couples and ages are welcome in this free workshop series. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105.

Friday, April 13

Friday the 13th @ Zeke's Rock & Roll Ferndale Pride Fundraiser 11 a.m. Come join us on Friday, April 13 at Zeke's Rock & Roll BBQ featuring Amelia Airharts. 20 of

sales all day and \$10 cover starting at 9 p.m. Proceeds both benefit Ferndale Pride.

Average White Band Comes to the MGM Grand 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 Ave., Detroit. 877-888-2121. mgmresorts.com.

Saturday, April 14

Affirmations Proudly Presents 'Celebrating Community' Spring Bash! 5 p.m. Affirmations is proud to present Spring Bash 2018 - Celebrating Community, at the beautiful MGM Grand Detroit on Saturday, April 14th. We expect over 400 guests to attend the gala. The evening includes open bar, MGM Grand Detroit, 1777 3rd Ave., Detroit. 877-888-2121 mgmresorts.com. goaffirmations.org.

Spring Bash 2018 - Celebrating Community 6 p.m. Join Affirmations on

Saturday, April 14 at MGM Grand Detroit for a celebration of Metro Detroit's LGBTQ+ community and its allies. Help to ensure that our doors stay open 12 hours a day, 6 days a week. MGM Grand Detroit, 1777 3rd Ave., Detroit. 877-888-2121. mgmresorts.com. detroit.gaycities.com.

Sunday, April 15

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



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Editor's Pick

Meditation and Tea

Start your weekend with a healthy dose of mindfulness, intention and community - and, perhaps, a little screaming. On April 28 from 10-11:30 a.m. the SheHive hosts their weekly, guided meditation followed by discussion and tea. Participants will be guided through a practice that encourages them to release sound as a means of grounding and centering. At the request of the facilitator, all profits from this class will support a SheHive scholarship fund for women in need of a little extra help and support. SheHive is located at 2505 Hilton Road, Unit #107, in Ferndale. For more information, visit facebook.com/SheHiveDET.



Editor's Pick

Community Cyclists Unite to Face Addiction

For the 9th consecutive year, local nonprofit Dawn Farm will partner with a group of University of Michigan nurses and anesthesiologists to host the 9th Annual Ride for Recovery to allow people of all fitness levels to tackle the problem of addiction. The event will be held from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. on April 29 at Dawn Farm on Stony Creek Road in Ypsilanti. Registration fee is \$35 and will contribute to the care of an addict seeking help and hope at Dawn Farm. Visit runsignup.com/Race/MI/Ypsilanti/RideforRecovery to register or make a donation.



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

Thursday, April 19

Lisa Lampanelli at Motor City Casino Sound Board 8 p.m. Lisa Lampanelli is one of the most high-profile insult comics. Though actually born in Connecticut, she is identified as a New Yorker, where she built up her career on the stand-up comic circuit. She is Motor City Casino Sound Board, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 313-309-4700. soundboarddetroit.com.

Saturday, April 21

Brunch at Dino's Benefiting Ferndale Pride 9:30 a.m. Come join us at Dino's for Brunch, 10 percent of sales during brunch benefit Ferndale Pride! Dino's Restaurant, 22740 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 248-591-3466 julia@ferndalepride.com. dinoslounge.com.

Sunday, April 22

Indigo Girls at Motor City Casino Sound Board 7:30 p.m. Indigo Girls are a Grammy Award-winning folk rock music American duo consisting of Amy Ray and Emily Saliers. They started performing with the name Indigo Girls as students at Emory University, performing weekly at Motor City Casino, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 866-782-9622. soundboarddetroit.com.

Tuesday, April 24

Queer Queens of Comedy 7:30 p.m. Carol Leifer has done it all. She is an internationally acclaimed comic, comedy writer and producer. Writing for this year's Oscars. Poppy Champlin is producing this three-city tour that goes from Columbus to Toledo and Toledo Funnybone, 6140 Levis Commons Blvd., Perrysburg., 419-931-3474. Pophaha1@gmail.com. Toledo. funnybone.com. QueerQueensofComedy.com.

Wednesday, April 25

Ferndale Pride Volunteer Meetings Update 7 p.m. All Ferndale Pride Volunteer Meetings have been moved to the Geri Kulick Center, 1201 Livernois, Ferndale, MI 48220. Any questions, contact the event chair, Julia Music at julia@ferndalepride.com One event on May 9 at 7:00 p.m. One event on May 23 at 7:00 p.m. 248-544-6767. ferndalemi.gov. ferndalepride.com.

Friday, April 27

2nd Annual Spring Luncheon Equality Michigan 11:30 a.m. Kalamazoo born and raised Eric Fanning — the first openly gay, former U.S. Secretary of the Army — will

be Equality Michigan's featured speaker at our 2nd annual spring luncheon "The Business Case for Equality" on Friday Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, 1000 East Beltline Ave NE, Grand Rapids. 888-957-1580. meijergardens.org.

Sunday, April 29

Joyful Resistance 3 p.m. Under the direction of Mighty Medicine's DeShaun Snead: Salus Singers: Lansing's Queer Quoir Our debut Spring Concert! Founder/Director Phiwa Langeni will be our emcee for the afternoon. You won't want to miss it! \$10 Pre-Sales, The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 989-878-1810 info@saluscenter.org saluscenter.org therobintheatre.com.

Tuesday, May 1

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups 7 p.m. St. Mary's In The Hills Episcopal Church, 2512 Joslyn Court, Lake Orion. 248-391-0663. stmarysinthehills.org. standwithtrans.org.

Wednesday, May 2

Rosie O'Grady's First Wednesday Gayest Tin Can Raffle Ever! 7 p.m. Join us at Rosie O'Grady's for their First Wednesday Gayest Tin Can Raffle Ever for Ferndale Pride! Rosie O'Grady's, 279 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-591-9163. julia@ferndalepride.com. rosieogradyshirishpub.com. ferndalepride.com.

MUSIC & MORE

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 Amelia Airharts. 20 of sales all day and \$10 cover starting at 9 p.m. 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. 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 Ave., Detroit. 877-888-2121. mgmresorts.com.

Sorrow – A Reimagining of Gorecki's Third Symphony April 14, 8 p.m. Henryk Gorecki's iconic third symphony, often called "Symphony of Sorrowful Songs," made a huge impact on listeners in the

early 1990s and was a musical touchstone for virtuoso saxophonist and Ann Arbor native Colin Stetson. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397. ums.org.

Eisenhower Dance Detroit April 14, 8 p.m. Eisenhower Dance Detroit concludes its enrapturing 2017-18 Metro Series with ARC, a program delving into the repressive nature of labels in society, their effects on identity and overcoming these judgments and challenges. Detroit Music Hall, 350 Madison St., Detroit. 313-887-8501. info@eisenhowerdance.org. musicall.org.

The 29th Annual Bow Wow Brunch April 15, 10:30 a.m. Detroit's animal lovers will do their cocktail chic for homeless pets on April 15, when the Michigan Humane Society will host its Purrfect Bow Wow Brunch, presented by Strategic Staffing Solutions, at the MGM Grand MGM Detroit, 1777 3rd Ave., Detroit. 877-888-2121. events@michiganhumane.org. mgmresorts.com. bidpal.net.

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., Ann Arbor. ums.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 p.m. One event on April 21 at 8:00p.m. Power Center, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. (734) 647-3327. smdt.umich.edu. ums.org.

Lisa Lampanelli at Motor City Casino Sound Board April 19, 8 p.m. Lisa Lampanelli is one of the most high-profile insult comics. Though actually born in Connecticut, she is identified as a New Yorker, where she built up her career on the stand-up comic circuit. She is Motor City Casino Sound Board, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 313-309-4700. motorcitycasino.com. soundboarddetroit.com.

Foster Care and Adoption Orientation April 21, 9 a.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. orchards.org.

Brunch at Dino's Benefiting Ferndale Pride April 21, 9:30 a.m. Come join us at Dino's for Brunch, 10 of sales

The Complete History of America (abridged)

By Adam Long, Reed Martin, and Austin Tichenor

April 6-22 Fri. & Sat. 7:30 p.m. and Sun 3:00 p.m.
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www.DetroitMercyArts.com

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See Calendar, page 33

OUR MISSION

The Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce mission is to promote and empower our Metropolitan Detroit LGBT, allied business members, non-profit members, corporate partners and their employees through leadership, advocacy, and education.

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www.detroitlgbtchamber.com

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 32446 Detroit, MI. 48232

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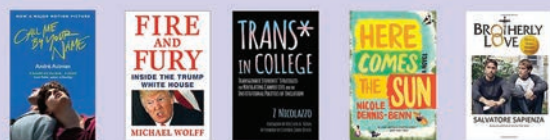
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Editor's Pick



VegFest

VegFest, Michigan's largest one-day event focused on a healthy plant-based lifestyle, is from 10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. on April 29 at the Suburban Collective Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave. in Novi. Speakers include the Detroit Lions' starting running back Theo Riddick, PBS favorite Dr. Joel Fuhrman, and America's healthy heart doctor Dr. Joel Kahn.

Enjoy restaurants, free taste samples, celebrity and expert presentations, cooking demos, cruelty-free shopping, fun for the kids, and more. Get your advance tickets online for only \$14 (\$17 on the day of event). For more information visit VegMichigan.org.

Calendar

Continued from p. 33

during brunch benefit Ferndale Pride! Dino's Restaurant, 22740 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 248-591-3466. julia@ferndalepride.com. dinoslounge.com.

RJ Spangler and John "Tbone" Paxton Return to Ann Arbor For an Afternoon Delight April 21, 2 p.m. RJ Spangler, Detroit drummer/bandleader, and Tbone Paxton, trombone/vocals, expect to cover a lot of musical ground on a Saturday afternoon. Adding saxophonists Dan Bennett and Goode Wyche III, they will be performing swing and on Zal Gaz Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor. 734-663-1202. rjspd9@gmail.com. zalgaz.org.

Walt Matzke's Four Pianos April 21, 7 p.m. This Piano Philharmonic is a stunning, magical performance featuring four exceptional pianists playing, masterfully and in tandem, a variety of familiar music from classical to Broadway, pop to Hollywood film themes on four grand pianos. Marygrove College Theater, 8425 W. McNichols Road, Detroit. 313-927-1200. walt@fourpianos.com. fourpianos.com.

Verdi Requiem @ Hill Auditorium April 21, 8 p.m. Verdi Requiem presented by the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. Arie Lipsky, Music Director & Conductor, featuring Indra Thomas, Susan Platts, Sean Panikkar, Gary Relyea and the UMS Choral Union. pre-concert lecture: 7 p.m.

Murray Perahia, Piano April 22, 4 p.m. "His sound can be pure gold, and he voices chords with a clarity that you have to hear to believe." Murray Perahia's place in the Ann Arbor Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. ums.org.

Indigo Girls at Motor City Casino Sound Board April 22, 7:30 p.m. Indigo Girls are a Grammy Award-winning folk rock music American duo consisting of Amy Ray and Emily Saliers. They started performing with the name Indigo Girls as students at Emory University, performing weekly at Motor City Casino, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 866-782-9622. soundboarddetroit.com.

2nd Annual Spring Luncheon Equality Michigan April 27, 11:30 a.m. Kalamazoo born and raised Eric Fanning- the first openly gay, former U.S. Secretary of the Army- will be Equality Michigan's featured speaker at our 2nd annual spring

luncheon "The Business Case for Equality" on Friday Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, 1000 East Beltline Ave NE, Grand Rapids. 888-957-1580. meijergardens.org.

On Your Feet! at the Fisher Theatre May 1, 8 p.m. From their humble beginnings in Cuba, Emilio and Gloria Estefan came to America and broke through all barriers to become a crossover sensation at the very top of the pop music world. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-872-1000. broadwayindetroit.com.

Rosie O'Grady's First Wednesday Gayest Tin Can Raffle Ever! May 2, 7 p.m. Join us at Rosie O'Grady's for their First Wednesday Gayest Tin Can Raffle Ever for Ferndale Pride! Rosie O'Grady's, 279 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-591-9163. julia@ferndalepride.com. rosieogradyirishpub.com.

Fort St. Chorale presents Mozart Requiem May 6, 3 p.m. The Fort St. Chorale and Chamber Orchestra present Mozart's beloved Requiem Sunday, May 6 at 3 p.m. in Detroit's historic Fort St. Presbyterian Church, under the baton of renowned conductor Dr. Arianne Abela. Fort St. Presbyterian Church, 631 W. Fort St., Detroit. 313-961-4533. secretary@fortSt.org.

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups May 6, 6:30 p.m. Hilltop Counseling, 115 W. Maumee St., Adrian. 313-909-5408. standwithtrans.org. hilltopcounseling.org.

ART 'N' AROUND

Eisenhower Dance Detroit April 14, 8 p.m. Eisenhower Dance Detroit concludes its enrapturing 2017-18 Metro Series with ARC, a program delving into the repressive nature of labels in society, their effects on identity and overcoming these judgments and challenges. Detroit Music Hall, 350 Madison St., Detroit. 313-887-8501. info@eisenhowerdance.org. info@eisenhowerdance.org. musicHall.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 E. Milwaukee Ave., Detroit. 248-445-1277. haterkitty.com.

THEATER

Metamorphoses April 13-22, 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 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak. 248-541-8027. stagecrafters.org.

U.S. Senator Kamala D. Harris As Annual Legacy Dinner Special Guest April 14. Cobo Center, 1 Washington Blvd., Detroit. 313-877-8777. cobocenter.com.

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 8:00 p.m. One event on April 21 at 8:00 p.m. Power Center, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. 734-647-3327. smt.d.umich.edu. ums.org.

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. One event on April 20 at 8:00 p.m. One event on April 21 at 8:00 p.m. One event on April 22 at 2:00 p.m. Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. 734-764-2538. smt.d.umich.edu. a2ct.org.

Kissing the Witch April 19, 8 p.m. Ubiquitous Theater presents a play by Emma Donoghue. A collection of familiar fairytales re-envisioned through the feminist lens. The women unite, the patriarchy unravels and witches might kiss. One event on April 20 at 8:00 p.m. One event on April 21 at 8:00 p.m. Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti. ubiquitous theater@gmail.com. dreamlandtheater.com.

National Theatre Live in HD: Shakespeare's Julius Caesar May 6, 7 p.m. High-Definition Broadcasts from National Theatre, London. Presented in partnership with the Michigan Theater. Nicholas Hytner's production thrusts the audience into the St. party that greets Caesar's return, the congress that witnesses his murder, the rally Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397. ums.org.

Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

'A League of Their Own' gets a show of its own

Remember that part in "A League of Their Own" where Rosie O'Donnell talks about feeling different from the other women, and how that was pretty much all the lesbian coding the script was willing to give to "Rosie O'Donnell in a movie about women's baseball"? The movie was basically the identical cousin of "Fried Green Tomatoes" in that it was entirely about lesbians except not willing to be about them at all, yet still iconic and queer in retrospect. Isn't it time, then, for a reboot that allows its sporty gals a chance to play ball and also maybe kiss the not-male gender of their fondest dreams? Yes, it is, and thanks to "Broad City"'s Abbi Jacobson and "Mozart in The Jungle" producer Will Graham, it's happening. Amazon is going to host the sitcom, which will not be a remake of the film, or even necessarily include the characters in the film, but will follow the league as they travel the country hitting triples for feminism. And, no, we don't have any inside information about how much lesbian content there'll be, it's just that we *know*, you know? Because, please, have you seen "Broad City"?

Ben Platt will 'Run This Town'

Everybody wants to be in the Ben Platt business these days. Understandable, of course, the natural outcome of the Tony Award-winning actor making theatergoers weep during his run in Broadway's "Dear Evan Hansen." Next up for the young queer song and dance man is a drama called "Run This Town" from first-time director Ricky Tollman, who's also the screenwriter. It's about a journalist (Platt) who stumbles onto the scandal-filled trail of an obnoxious politician. Damien Lewis ("Homeland") is the wicked lawmaker, and "Vampire Diaries" Nina Dobrev and Mena Massoud, the star in Disney's live-action "Aladdin," have signed on to play political operatives. Obviously, it would be better if there were musical numbers, like everything else in life. But we're happy Mr. Platt's star keeps rising. And it's a timely project, considering the record overwhelming number of horrible politicians walking around Washington, D.C. Now, if only art had the power to run them all out of office...

And 'Now, Apocalypse'

Veteran queer filmmaker Gregg Araki ("Mysterious Skin") and Steven Soderbergh ("Unsane") might not be the first people you think about when the word "sitcom" comes up, but don't be so quick to think a comedy collab can't work. Soderbergh will produce Araki's latest project for Starz, a half-hour comedy called "Now, Apocalypse," and if you think about Araki joints like "Nowhere" and the pitch-black comedy of his early films like "The Living End," you can probably see where this could go. The show will focus on a young person with the mythically resonant name Ulysses, and his journey, alongside a cast

of fellow travelers, will involve the search for love, sex and fame in the coolest corners of Los Angeles. To keep it youthful, Araki is co-writing with Vogue.com sex columnist Karley Sciortino, who also hosts Viceland's kink-intensive sex series, "Sluterver." Considering that a recent episode of that show involved people who fantasized about doing it with werewolves and that Araki's own delirious cult film "Nowhere" involved lots of sex and encounters with cockroach-like monsters, this is probably going to be a pretty trippy apocalypse.

Alia Shawkat and Holliday Grainger: Party 'Animals'

We follow Alia Shawkat's film and TV projects because she never bores us. The "Arrested Development" star makes the kind of career moves we applaud and admire, whether it's the nervy cult comedy "Search Party" or the acclaimed series "Transparent." So we have every plan of following her to "Animals," the latest film from director Sophie Hyde. Hyde's earlier project, "52 Tuesdays," was about a teenage girl with a gender-transitioning parent, and won acclaim at a variety of film festivals. "Animals" is based on British author Emma Jane Unsworth's well-received novel of the same name (Unsworth will also adapt the book to screenplay) and will star Shawkat and Holliday Grainger ("Cinderella") as young twentysomething women staggering into adulthood while maintaining a commitment to relentless partying. In other words it's probably the story of your life and we're going to trust that any life lessons learned won't be overly earnest.

Romeo San Vicente can't be tamed.



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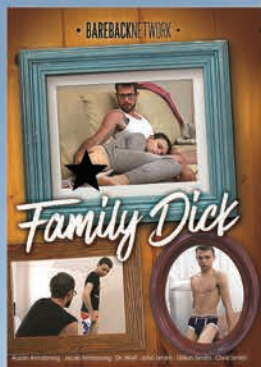
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Sun Noon - 8pm

Metro Detroit LGBTQ Bars

Adam's Apple

A friendly neighborhood bar open to everyone. Open 7 days a week. Voted the best karaoke bar for two years by Local 4 News in Detroit. Check out Facebook page for upcoming events.

18931 W Warren Ave., Detroit, MI
313-240-8482
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/adamsapple.mi/>

Aut Bar

Iconic LGBTQ gathering place in Ann Arbor since the early 1990s. Restaurant and bar, serving eclectic menu with a Mexican flair. Located in Braun Court which is also home to the Jim Toy LGBTQ Community Center and Common Language Bookstore. Courtyard open on warmer nights. Hosts many community event fundraisers, rallies and celebrations. Popular with men, women and trans.

315 Braun Court, Ann Arbor
autbar@gmail.com
734-994-3677
www.autbar.com

Briggs Sports Bar

Located in downtown Detroit, across from GM World Headquarters, Briggs Sports Bar is a popular after-work watering-hole. This attractive club draws an energetic crowd to its Trophy Room dance club with "kickass" djs. The SkyBox rooftop is perfect for enjoying a cocktail while taking in an unrivaled view of downtown.

519 East Jefferson Ave., Detroit,
313-656-4820
www.facebook.com/Briggs-Detroit

Club Gold Coast

One of Detroit's oldest and most popular night spots, Club Gold Coast features male strippers and is open 7 nights a week. Located in the Palmer Park area of Detroit, once the epicenter of Detroit's gay scene.

2971 E. Seven Mile Rd., Detroit
313-366-6135
www.facebook.com/clubgoldcoast

Escape Lounge Nitnight Club

So you've partied all evening but you're not ready to call it a night. Escape Lounge is an all-male, after-hours, all-night eatery & bar. Opens at 10 p.m.

19404 Sherwood St., Detroit
313-892-1765
www.facebook.com/EscapeLounge.gaybar

Gigi's Cabaret

Gigi's cabaret is the longest running female impersonation revue in Michigan, in business over 30 years, and it's a longtime Detroit gay hot spot.

Reservations can be made via Facebook or call 313-584-6525. Open Mon., Thur. & Fri. after 8 p.m. Sat & Sun After 7 p.m. (Closed Tue. & Wed.)
16920 W Warren Ave., Detroit
www.facebook.com/gigiscabaret

Hayloft Saloon

Sports & Video Bar is a male club offering Karaoke, pool, darts, six LCD screens and internet juke box. Open since 1980, The Hayloft is owned by Ron Harrington who also owns the gay bar, Side Traxx in Traverse City. This is a no-nonsense sports bar where men meet other men for fun, friendship and more.

8070 Greenfield Rd., Detroit
313-581-8913
<http://hayloftsaloon.com>

The Liberty Bar

Great little bar in the heart of Pontiac, Michigan. Food, drinks, in business over 60 years. They have a pub menu, with a trendy twist, and an extensive drink menu with a huge beer selection. Open for lunch too. Very friendly atmosphere.

85 North Saginaw St., Pontiac
248-758-0771
www.thelibertybar.com

Menjos Gay Entertainment Complex

Has been a gathering place for the gay community of Metro Detroit for decades. It's also a bit of a Madonna mecca since she used to be a regular when the Material Girl was also a local Michigan girl. The mostly male 20-to-30 something crowd comes for the dancing and entertainment. The Complex includes the Menjos Bar, the Eagle Leather bar and the Olympus Theater. Open Wednesday to Saturday.

928 W. McNichols, Detroit, MI
313-863-3934
www.newmenjoscomplex.com
www.facebook.com/menjoscomplex

Necto Nightclub (Pride Fridays)

Ann Arbor's downtown nightclub, Necto attracts people from University of Michigan's campus and the surrounding area. Multiple weekly & special events. The Pride night

has been a staple in Ann Arbor's gay scene since 1984.
516 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor
734-994-5835
www.necto.com

Pronto!

Has served the LGBTQ community for decades, right in the heart of Royal Oak. Pronto's has teamed up with the Drag Queen Bingo hosted by Five 15 every weekend in the space right next door to Pronto!

608 S Washington Ave., Royal Oak, MI
248-544-7900
www.facebook.com/prontovideobar

Queen's Bar Detroit

But don't be confused by the name. It's not about Queens as in gay men. Queens is named after the NYC borough - the owners have another Detroit bar named Bronx. Although not specifically an LGBTQ bar, Queen's Bar has an unpretentious vibe and clearly welcomes LGBTQ patrons with a super-friendly staff that is very open.

35 Grand River Ave., Detroit
313-285-8019
www.facebook.com/pg/queensbardetroit

Soho Ferndale

This classy spot features wine, jazz, martinis and a comfortable, casual environment. Located right in the heart of Ferndale's gay district, Soho has a weekly line-up of trivia, karaoke, dance parties, and sweet drink specials. Popular with both men and women.

205 W 9 Mile Rd., Ferndale
248-542-7646
www.ferndalesoho.com

Woodward Bar & Grill

In the heart of Midtown, it is the oldest gay bar in Detroit dating back to 1960. It's storied history is reflected in the pictures on the walls and in conversations you'll hear from loyal patrons. The Woodward is open for lunch and dinner with simple but excellent fare, especially their burgers. During the day it serves the many business people in the area, turning mostly LGBTQ after 5 p.m. It's popular with the Black LGBTQ community and is a welcoming environment for men, women, trans.

6426 Woodward Ave., Detroit
313-872-0166
www.facebook.com/Woodward-Bar-Grill-455392641237497

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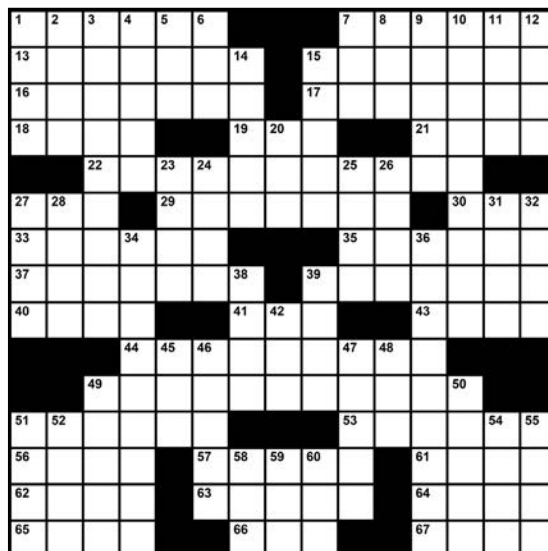


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Q Puzzle

Across

- 1 “___ because you think I look like a guy?” (with 7-Across)
7 See 1-Across
13 Establishes sexual preference?
15 Classical guitar great

- 16 Put it to your mouth at a gay rodeo
17 Like the most in-vogue porn stars
18 Heal, like a bone
19 Earhart’s domain
21 They may be liberal
22 “___ because you don’t look like a guy” (with 49- and 66-Across)
27 H.S. math course
29 How fag hags find


- gays
30 Suffix with hero
33 Was an angel on Broadway
35 Frank once of the House
37 Hairstylist, maybe
39 Pain in an orifice
40 Male enhancement exaggeration?
41 Home o’ the brave
43 XXX, to Greeks
44 Suddenly and completely
49 See 22-Across
51 Goldberg of “The Color Purple”
53 Opera tenor Caruso
56 Sauce brand
57 Above the horizon
61 Opposite of loads
62 Wilde country
63 Bodybuilder Charles
64 “___ fan tutte”
65 Pine for
66 See 22-Across
67 You may go down on one

Down

- 1 Get into a slip
2 Pakistan neighbor
3 Eatery on the Orient Express
4 “The best is ___ come!”
5 “A Chorus Line” song
6 Versatile vehicle
7 To God, to Caesar
8 Guy under J. Edgar?
9 The whole shebang
10 “Ay, ___ a king” (Shakespeare)
11 Type of personal lubricant
12 Goes down on
14 Quick bite
15 Small bush
20 It changes a seDor’s gender
23 “Glen or Glenda: ___ Two Lives”
24 Baldwin staffer
25 “Dark Angel” star
26 “Maude” producer
27 Name on a column
28 Byron poem
31 Old fruit drink
32 Bette Davis feature of song
34 Tease

- 36 Where Dover moved his “bloomin’ arse”
38 Trojan Horse, e.g.
39 Lawman Wyatt
42 “Fifth Beatle” Sutcliffe
45 Lover with a penetrating glance?
46 “The Seven Samurai” director Kurosawa
47 Buck of C&W
48 Family
49 “The African Queen” co-star, informally
50 Make a pass at
51 Small songbird
52 Bugs Bunny’s Broadway musical?
54 Lambda Legal Defense suit, e.g.
55 Garfield’s pal
58 Sexual ending
59 Pitch preceder
60 Colette made a splash in it

THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT SAUGATUCK & DOUGLAS, MICHIGAN...
that makes them two of the most gay friendly small towns in the country. LGBTQ tourists find something difficult to define but easy to recognize, like magic, it is everywhere you look.



APRIL 20-22

FURRFEST




GO/GO Boys
JESSE BAM BAM **NICK KERN**

Weekend hosted by
Muffy Fishbasket

FRIDAY PM
DJ DOUG 9P
“MEAT” & GREET
BEAR-E-OKEY
GO/GO BOYS

SATURDAY
BREAKFAST @ CAMPIT RESORT
DINNER
DJ DOUG 9P
DUNES DIVAS **BIG GIRL SHOW**
GO/GO BOYS
MIDNIGHT SNACKS

SUNDAY
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
BINGOLICIOUS 4-7P
(drink specials 4-6P)
MISS DUNES RESORT 9:30P

Use Group Code **Furr2018**
for special room rate and weekend passes

  
SAUGATUCK, MICHIGAN **DUNESRESORT.COM** 269.857.1401



THE DUNES
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Save the Date

Join the Flint Institute of Arts for our
FREE Community Weekend on April 21–22 as
the FIA celebrates its new Contemporary Craft Wing
and state-of-the-art Hot Shop!

Admission is free thanks to Huntington Bank and Hot Shop
demonstrations are free thanks to McLaren Health Care.




For a full list of events, please call 810.234.1695
or visit flintarts.org.

Major funding for the construction of the
Contemporary Craft Wing and Art School
Hot Shop was provided by the Charles
Stewart Mott Foundation.



FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint
810.234.1695
flintarts.org



Pavel Hlava
Czech, 1924–2003
Flower (detail), 2001
Blown, cut, and assembled glass
16¼ × 21¼ × 3 inches
Courtesy of the Isabel Foundation, L2017.58
Photo credit: Douglas Schaible Photography