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Mike Pence'**

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A Hookup Gone Wrong Leads to Years in Prison

State's Outdated HIV Criminalization Law Negatively Affects Michiganders

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Jeremy Merithew's life took a turn for the worse when what was intended to be a casual hookup earned him a brush with discrimination and substantial jail time. That's because he was HIV-positive and his hookup, Dwayne Cook, claimed Merithew failed to disclose his status before the two engaged in oral and anal sex. That's a four-year felony in Michigan and has been since 1989.

His mother, Teresa Perrin, has been by his side for the whole fight.

"It's been a heartbreaking experience in what he's gone through," she said, "and not being able to get him out of it, and the way he was treated and the unfairness of it all."

Both Perrin and Merithew were in Lansing last week to lobby lawmakers to change Michigan's law. Iowa, California and Illinois have all modernized their laws in recent years.

Matthew Craig, coalition director for the Michigan Coalition for HIV Health and Safety, said having Merithew accompany the group in lobbying efforts to reform and modernize Michigan's laws is important.

"As far as when it comes to a personal story and talking about how Michigan's HIV criminalization laws affect Michiganders, I think it's important that we have people who have been affected badly by this law be able to speak to their own experiences," he said. "Basically, our ability to translate to lawmakers and let them know that this is something we need them to change."

Craig's coalition is working with lawmakers to provide them basic HIV education while lobbying for the introduction of legislation to modernize the law to require prosecutors to prove the accused had an intent to transmit the virus, as well as engaged in behavior demonstrated to transmit it. Because right now, intent doesn't have to be proven for the accused to be sentenced.

Miscommunication

In August of 2012, Merithew was finishing his studies to become a nurse. He lived in a Grand Rapids suburb, and used an app get into contact with Cook.

"Then, two days after, the police came to my door," Merithew said. "Knocking on the door, asking all sorts of personal questions. I answered them truthfully. I willingly went down to the police station with this guy so that they could interrogate me. They basically



Jeremy Merithew with his mother, Teresa Perrin, has been by his side for the whole fight.

chained me to the floor and, they sat there and interviewed me for over an hour or whatever after they let me sit there for a while and stew ... I think it was the next day they came back and arrested me."

Evidence used at trial, however, raised questions as to whether or not there was a disclosure of Merithew's positive status. Merithew said that he was asked questions before the hookup via email and answered "yes" to each.

His accuser, Cook, had his own issues. At the time of the hookup he was a married man with a pregnant wife who worked to raise money for a local housing agency. Ironically, that agency also administered federal money for the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) program.

Despite having been on medications for years and maintaining an undetectable viral load, Merithew's attorney, Christine Yared, was prevented by Kent County Circuit Court Judge James Redford from presenting any scientific evidence that he was incapable of

transmitting the virus.

It still grinds now 37-year-old Merithew to this day.

"I mean, it's just we live in the 21st century," he said. "Science should be taken into account when it comes to medical-type laws."

Publicly Outed

Before Merithew had a chance to confront his accuser in court, the local Fox News affiliate, Fox 17, revealed he had created an online profile on the same hookup app in violation of his bond terms. Judge Redford revoked Merithew's bond and he was sent to jail.

"Yeah, there was some guy online actually (who) turned me into Fox 17 news," he said. "And it was kind of creepy when my lawyer read after the fact, you know, who this guy was and basically said, 'Yeah, I've known him for years, I've been following him for years.'"

And the media scrutiny didn't stop there.

"That would be because Fox 17 news

actually published my online profile picture, which was a full nude picture, on the 6 o'clock news," he said. "So yes. The inmates were aware of what was going on. But in their minds, they saw it as I was intentionally trying to infect people, and so it's just called perception. The general public's idea of what HIV is, or what the criminal statute actually is."

Stigma Surfaces

While in jail, Merithew would soon face more allegations promoted by the television station. He would stand accused of trying to infect other inmates with food.

"I was getting sandwiches with my meds and I don't like bologna, so I was giving them away instead of throwing them in the garbage. This one guy who everybody was calling 'Crackhead Joe,' he would always go around saying, 'I'm not a crackhead,' and, bang, he would hit his arm like that," Merithew slapped his arm to indicate shooting up drugs.

Jeremy Merithew was paroled earlier this year, but he remains restricted. Because he was ordered to register as a sex offender, which the Michigan Sex Offender Registration Act does not require for his specific conviction, he's prohibited from using computers and must wear an ankle monitor. Those restrictions even prevent him from enrolling in online classes.

"He asked me, 'Why are you giving these sandwiches to so-and-so?' And I'm like, 'Well do you want extra mayonnaise on it too?' Just kind of getting him to go away, because he's just being annoying. So he went around telling all the guys that I was trying to infect everybody by ejaculating on the sandwiches."

According to Merithew, that attempt at getting his fellow inmate to leave him alone escalated unexpectedly and severely when others learned of his comment.

"The Bible-thumper fanatic came up to me that day and he tried to talk to me, but I was watching the news so I kind of just brushed him off," Merithew said. "So he went and told the CO about the incident, and then he came and talked to me and they locked me in segregation."

His attorney called the incident a "jailhouse joke," but Judge Redford, according an MLive report, said the incident was like yelling fire in a crowded theater.

Prosecutors, under the direction of then Kent County Prosecutor William Forsyth, tried to get Merithew to plead guilty to one count of violating the state's HIV disclosure law. When he refused, he received another count, this one for the oral sex he had had, as well as a felony charge of using a computer to commit a crime. He was found guilty on all three counts in May 2013, and in June of that year he was sentenced to a minimum of five years in prison.

A Tarnished Record

The stigma around his virus followed Merithew past that incident. He was sent to prison in Jackson for processing after his sentence and was kept in solitary confinement for 45 days. Then, despite having a low security risk, he was sent to a maximum security facility in Ionia, Michigan.

"Basically, Kent County contacted the prison and said that I was gonna come to the prison and intentionally try to infect everybody with HIV. So that was the reason that they locked me up," Merithew said. "And, during that time, I was speaking to a psychologist that was there in the seg. unit. Basically, he told me that they were saying I was vindictive, and all of this other horrible stuff. He said (that) he didn't see that, but they kept me there in segregation until they shipped me out."

After time in Ionia, he was transferred to the prison in Adrian – a lower-security facility.

Still, his HIV status traveled with him, and it reared its head while he was taking classes to learn how to work in food service. Someone asked Merithew to do the dishes although he wasn't yet officially qualified to do so.

"And all the guys back there in the kitchen started throwing a fit, so I went back and the next day I didn't have a call out for the culinary arts class," he said. "So, I basically sent – they call them kites – a note to the instructor of the class asking him why I was taken out of this."

Merithew said that the head of the vocational programs in the Michigan Department of Corrections, or MDOC, refused him based on his history in correctional institutions.

Misinformation, Revised Rules

The MDOC has a history of rejecting HIV-positive inmates from accessing jobs in food service.

"A prison holds about 1,000 (to) 1,200 people and as those 1,000 prisoners go through for breakfast, lunch and dinner, prisoners are scooping that food onto their trays," said MDOC's spokesman Russ Marlan in a 2009 statement to *Between The Lines*. "So if a prisoner was HIV-positive and sneezed onto a food item and then a prisoner ate that food item and that prisoner had a lesion in their mouth, they could contract the disease."

Marlan also used the concept of a prisoner bleeding on food as a potential for the spread of the virus.

"Say a prisoner cuts himself and his blood falls on a radish and somebody eats that radish and that he's got an open lesion in his mouth. There's a potential for him to contract that disease," Marlan said. "As responsible corrections professionals dedicated to running a safe and secure prison system, we made the decision not to allow them (prisoners with HIV) to work in that area of prison operations."

The department lifted that ban a year later, in 2010.

Merithew was paroled earlier this year, but he remains restricted. Because he was ordered to register as a sex offender, which the Michigan Sex Offender Registration Act does not require for his specific conviction, he's prohibited from using computers and must wear an ankle monitor. Those restrictions even prevent him from enrolling in online classes.

Merithew's accuser, Cook, declined to comment on this story.



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2018 Michigan Summer Prides

Ypsilanti Pride: Friday, June 1 – twitter.com/wpsipride

Ferndale Pride: Saturday, June 2 – ferndalepride.com

Motor City Pride – Detroit: Saturday, June 9 to Sunday, June 10 – motorcitypride.org

Kalamazoo Pride: Friday, June 8 to Saturday, June 9 – pride.outfrontkzoo.org

Grand Rapids Pride: Saturday, June 16 – grpride.org

Michigan Pride – Lansing: Saturday, June 16 – gaybe.am/j6

Flint Pride: Saturday, June 23 – gaybe.am/AX

Great Lakes Bay Pride – Bay City: Saturday, June 30 – gaybe.am/F6

Battle Creek Pride – Thursday, July 12 to Monday, July 16 – battlecreekpride.org

Hotter Than July – Detroit: Tuesday, July to Sunday, July 29 – gaybe.am/yy

Ann Arbor Pride – Friday, Aug. 3 to Sunday, Aug. 5 – annarborpride.com

Take some time to volunteer at a Pride event near you. Check out the websites for more information.

Ferndale Pride 2018 Welcomes Volunteer Help

BY DREW HOWARD

With Ferndale Pride 2018 just around the corner on June 2, festival organizers are still welcoming interested volunteers to help facilitate one of metro Detroit's biggest LGBTQ+ celebrations of the year.

Preparations for Ferndale Pride 2018 began as early as a year ahead of time, with the festival's core organizers working the past 10 months to schedule live entertainment, track and maintain the event budget, coordinate vendors and raise funds — among many other necessary things. Organizers are now enlisting the help of volunteers to work the day of the event.

"We need people for set up, we really need people for tear-down and we need people

throughout the day as runners who can carry things to the main event," Ferndale Pride Chair Julia Music said. "It could be as simple as running a paper to a vendor ... so many people need to be accommodated."

Music said that close to 100 volunteers are on the ground to help run the event every year, and that this year, the event's footprint will be "dramatically" different than past years. That's because the festival is zoned to run straight down 9 Mile from Woodward to Livernois road. And, volunteers will be needed to help accommodate both festival attendees as well as the 41 extra vendors that are now afforded a space thanks to new layout.

Shawn Starkey, head coordinator of logistics for Ferndale Pride, said volunteers are especially needed during the early hours of the festival.

"At 5:45 a.m. we literally have volunteers using spray chalk and marking where different

vendors set up," Starkey said. "They help set up tables, chairs and the tents. There are also volunteers there to help vendors when they arrive, to show them where they are and unload chairs."

For those interested in helping out, the official Ferndale Pride website ferndalepride.com provides a complete list of volunteer opportunities needed on the day of the event. Examples include setting up and/or monitoring the children's area, manning the check-in tables, collecting donations, assisting the DJ, guarding the barriers and



BTL file photo: Ferndale Pride volunteers 2017

providing general assistance as needed. Volunteers are also needed to photograph the event and monitor the festival's "sober space."

"Photography volunteers are a crew of volunteer professional and hobby photographers that help us record the entire event," Music told BTL. "The sober space is a dedicated area for those in the sober community or those interested in becoming sober. There are games, literature and activities. Volunteers in that area engage participants and help make sure the area is running smoothly."

Just as crucial as the day-of volunteer work are the promotional efforts leading up to the celebration. Greg Pawlica, finance coordinator with Ferndale Pride, said his team uses volunteers to spread the word online and in-person about the event.

"We ask people to distribute save-the-date cards to businesses," Pawlica said. "In the next couple of weeks we'll be distributing to bars and restaurants and commercial businesses, putting them on cash registers or desk areas where people pay their bills. We'll also be putting up posters announcing it's coming. A lot of times, we need volunteers for that - it's hard for one person to go to all the businesses."

Perhaps most important, however, is what individuals can do to support the festival financially, as Ferndale Pride organizers are known to give back a percentage of funds raised for the event to local nonprofit groups.

"When we first started, we wanted to make

sure the event wasn't just about spending the money the sponsors give to throw a party," Pawlica said. "We always wanted to make sure there's money leftover we could donate to local LGBT organizations to help them move forward."

Residual donation money has grown year to year, Pawlica said. Ferndale Pride's first outing in 2011 saw around \$1,000 given back to local non-profits, while the 2017 celebration racked up \$24,000. Pawlica is hoping to give back even more with Ferndale Pride 2018.

"Our goal this year is to raise \$81,000, and we want to give back \$26,000 or \$27,000," Pawlica said. "Everything is volunteer. All of us who work in co-chair positions or chairs of committee, we don't get paid."

The official Ferndale Pride website provides two options for donations: the "Rainbow Sponsorship" at \$200 and the "Unicorn Sponsorship" at \$50, \$100, and/or \$200. Perks for both packages can be found online.

Those looking to financially support this year's festival are also encouraged to attend one of the several upcoming fundraisers being held across Ferndale. Other Ferndale businesses like Rosie O' Grady's, Rebel Health and Fitness and Otus Supply will also host Pride-related events in the coming weeks.

For more information on how to get involved with Ferndale Pride 2018, including a full schedule of volunteer meetings, visit ferndalepride.com.

Lobby Day 2018 to Bring Community Members, Politicians Face-to-Face

BY DREW HOWARD

Equality Michigan promotes anti-violence and advocacy for the LGBTQ community and it's continuing its fight for pro-LGBTQ policies and politicians at its next "Lobby Day" on Tuesday, May 15. That day the public will have an opportunity to sit down and talk with elected officials about today's most pressing issues.

Erin Knott, political director for Equality Michigan, says this next installment will piggyback off the efforts of EQMI's previous Lobby Day in September 2017, where organizers focused their discussions around amending the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include protections for sexual orientation and gender identity.

"Over 40 municipalities have passed non-discrimination ordinances that protect the LGBT community," Knott said. "And while we celebrate over 40 municipalities that have passed pro-equality ordinances it's a patchwork system, and we need full inclusiveness ... and that means amending Elliot-Larsen."

LGBTQ+ individuals are not accounted for in the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, meaning they can be legally discriminated against in housing, employment and public accommodations. The Michigan Civil Rights Commission has twice tabled a vote to include such people, once on Sept. 18 and again in November.

EQMI will also facilitate discussions with lawmakers around efforts to pass House Bill 5550, which would prohibit licensed professionals from conducting conversion therapy on minors. Conversion therapy is the pseudoscientific practice of trying to change an individual's sexual orientation using psychological or spiritual interventions, and is opposed by several psychological experts.

State Rep. Adam Zemke (D-Southfield) reintroduced House Bill 5550 for the third time on Feb. 8. Michigan would become the 11th state to outlaw such practices if the bill passes.

House Bill 5550's reintroduction coincided with the recent controversy surrounding Metro City Church's alleged conversion therapy workshop, which the church's leaders call an "Unashamed Identity Workshop." Zemke denounced the actions of the church in a previous interview with BTL, calling the classes "wildly inappropriate" and "misrepresentative of our values" as a state.

Lobby Day 2018 kicks off at 8:30 a.m.

at the Michigan Municipal League on Capitol Avenue, where organizers will take a moment to introduce themselves and welcome attendees. Organizers will also debrief attendees on specific talking points regarding key pieces of legislation, Knott said, in an effort to better prepare individuals to hold a conversation with elected officials.

"We like to make sure folks have some knowledge on pro-equality pieces of legislation," Knott told BTL. "We develop talking points, do some role playing and answer questions so participants feel more comfortable."

Participants will then be sent on their way to the capitol to meet representatives for face-to-face discussions. Those interested in lobbying aren't required to show up at 8:30 a.m., Knott said, as EQMI will make accommodations for late arrivals.

You don't have to be a veteran activist to make an impact on Lobby Day, Knott added, as speaking from personal experience can be just as effective as memorizing talking points.

"At our September Lobby Day we had a couple folks who lost their job or housing because they were members

of the LGBTQ+ community who weren't protected under Elliot-Larsen," Knott said. "Stories of hardship in finding a new job of housing were really impactful when they were shared from the person who went through the terrible experience."

Knott repeatedly emphasized that Lobby Day is just one piece of a much larger movement to elect pro-LGBTQ candidates in the upcoming election.

"This is one of many activities through the months leading to the fall election cycle - it's going to be a steady drum beat," Knott said. "The narrative here is that when you go to the polls in November, be a pro-equality voter."

Knott confirmed that representatives Jon Hoadley (D-Kalamazoo) and Adam Zemke (D-Southfield), who have worked on legislation concerning Elliott-Larsen and conversion therapy respectively, will both be attending Lobby Day. Organizers will have a better idea of who's attending as the day approaches.

Those interested in participating in Lobby Day are asked to RSVP ahead of time by emailing Erin Knott at eknott@equalitymichigan.com. For more information on upcoming EQMI events, as well how to support its initiatives, please visit equalitymi.org.



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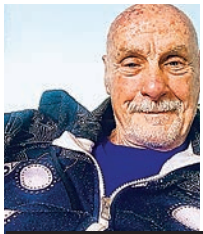
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A Visitor From My Past Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

It's been 65 years since I last saw the young man who now sits across from me. He has at age 19 what a friend calls "the lyric poetry of youth:" a freshness of look that's a joy to see.

Over the years he hasn't changed much (still the shy boyish look, still the blond cowlick). Oh my, in contrast, I have!

It's hard for me not to make comparisons. After all, it was summer 1955 when he first stood on the corner of Farmer and Bates at the Hub Grill in downtown Detroit.

It was a big step for him to take (Gays were not tolerated then and the closet was haven). I'll give him credit for taking that first scary step on what would be his long gayhood journey.

Yes, so much has happened since then. So many people I once knew are gone. A whole world has vanished, and I find myself bewildered by the sideshow that has taken its place.

A carnival of glitter, guns and guttersnipe. Trump, Pence, Pat Robertson, Franklin Graham, Theocrats. At my age it scares hell out of me.

As my young visitor looks out my studio window at the robins, buds, and overall struggle for spring, he seems both a friend and, curiously to me, a stranger. Did we ever exchange glances on that downtown crossing of gay bars?

Did we take time to get to know one another? There is I'm sure a kinship of sorts between us. A then-and-now contrast.

The important thing is he dropped by today (for whatever reason).

It's nice to have visitors, especially on a cloudy day. And I must confess there have been too many overcast days this reluctant April. It would be great if he could stay and keep me company, but what has youth got to do with old age?

I wonder after all these years how he found me (foolish I know, but I find myself asking what her thinks of me. This overweight, bald, retired fuddy-duddy. Have I become someone to respect? Would he be likely in time to trade places with me?).

He turns and smiles. Not a full, open smile, but a smile with a touch of hesitation. Sensitive is the word that comes to mind. Maybe he'll become a writer, a poet or an artist. He seems to have the temperament. Will he make something of his life? Ah, the perennial question for gay men!

I cough lightly, and he speaks, "If you're wondering why I dropped by it's because I thought you might have answers. I take important steps to be who I am. You've been down my road, it seems. What's it like at the finish? Would you do things differently?"

Direct and to the point.

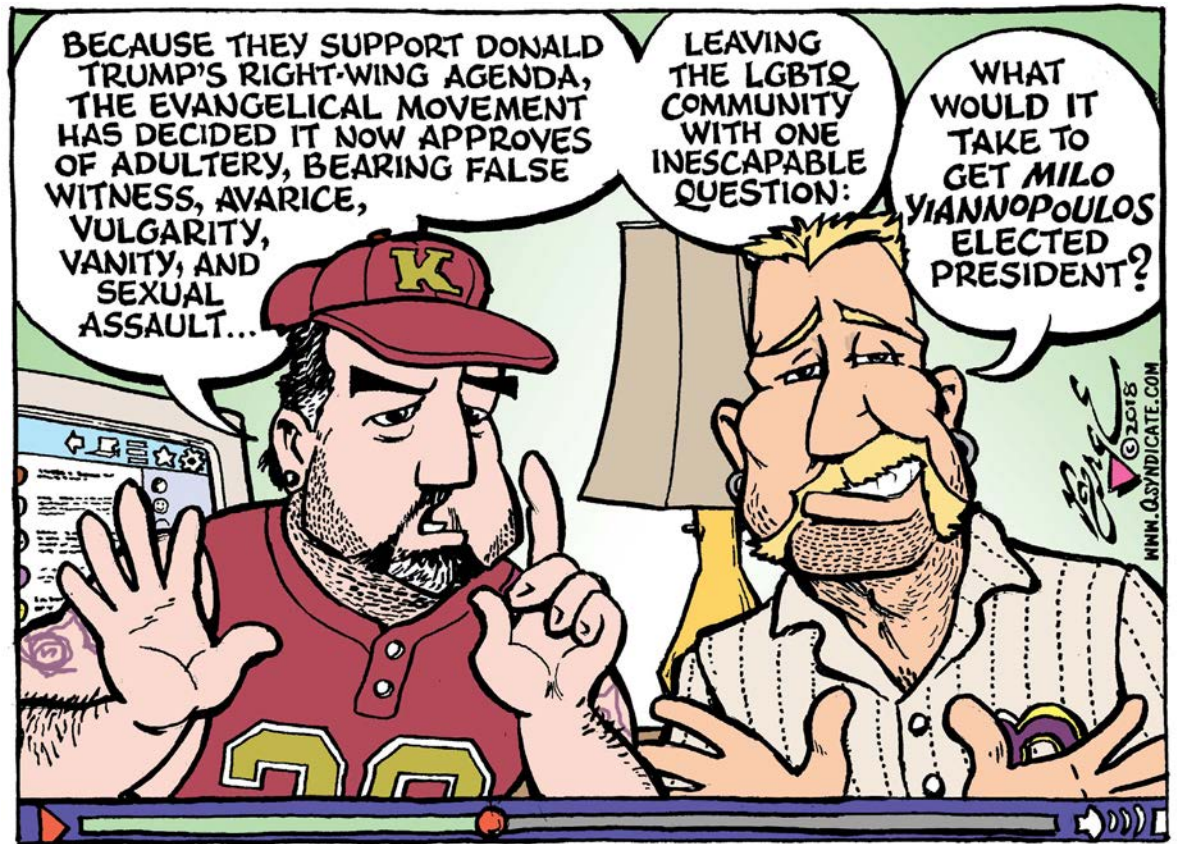
"Near the finish? Hey, young guy, I'm not over the hill yet! Different? Yes! I'd stay out of debt," I said. "I'd get my college degree sooner, I wouldn't drink, I'd have fewer lovers and more friends. And, I'd tell anybody who put me down to go suck a hardboiled egg. Would I be gay again? Silly boy!"

For once I said the right thing. He laughs.

"Great!" He beams, taking his leave. "It's important to know someone who's been there. Goodbye. For what it's worth, God bless!"

And, as hug warmly at the door, maybe for the last time, he smiles and says, "Thank you for being me. We've come a long way, Haven't we."

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



Viewpoint

This Is What's Wrong: Nassar and MSU Are Not Alone



BY SUSAN GRETTEBERGER

I am a Michigan State University alum. Currently, I am a faculty member at Central Michigan University, where I and my colleagues are entrusted with thousands of young adults beginning to negotiate the world on their own. I am a former female college athlete, I am a social worker whose clients who include young victims of sexual abuse and women who have experienced violence at the hands of men, I am personally connected to many young adults who have experienced sexual assault and, finally, I am the adoptive mom to four kids – including a daughter – who all went to college. From these many perspectives, I keep trying to untangle the MSU/Nassar scandal.

For me – living as I do at Ground Zero of this crisis,

Lansing, Michigan – the headlines and the commentaries were non-stop. I have been horrified at the harm done to hundreds of young female athletes who trusted a doctor to help them compete, and trusted their mentors to keep them safe. These women deserve every effort possible to make things better, even though things can never be made fully right. Yet, each time I read another story or was asked by another person if former MSU President Lou Anna Simon should have resigned, I stumbled on my response. I started to wonder what was wrong with me, a passionate advocate for women, fumbling for a clean answer and being annoyed as politicians and others called

See next page

This is *a* problem. It isn't the problem. Sexual assault of women, including young women, is an epidemic that touches every single campus in our country. It is fueled by a long-accepted social culture which devalues women and denies them the right to decide how they want their bodies touched.

► Viewpoint: Nassar and MSU

Continued from p. 8

for heads to roll, called for accountability. I think I know now.

This is what's wrong: Michigan State University and Nassar are not The Problem. The understandably fierce attention being paid to *this* scandal, to *this* egregious incidence of abuse by a particularly smooth and convincing physician who used his status to harm his patients and deceive even his medical colleagues is only a single situation. This is *a* problem. It isn't *the* problem. Sexual assault of women, including young women, is an epidemic that touches every single campus in our country. It is fueled by a long-accepted social culture which devalues women and denies them the right to decide how they want their bodies touched. The MSU/Nassar scandal absolutely must be addressed, but I almost hear sighs of relief as the focus of the national discussion of #MeToo has shifted to a discussion of a sports problem, of one university's problem. The sighs are from all those people and institutions which might otherwise be on the hot seat in MSU's place. This is not a sports problem. This is not specifically a higher education problem. It is a society-wide problem.

This is what's wrong: there are many thousands more young women – and although fewer in number, young men – who are struggling to hang on due to the sexual assaults they have experienced during the time they were, or perhaps still are, in college. The situation at MSU should be awakening demands for increased efforts to create a

culture of consent on campus, and demands for services to help the victims when the culture of consent is violated.

This is what's wrong: These sexual assaults are more common – a date gone very bad, a roommate's friend who stayed at their apartment, a trusted friend from home who this time decided he wanted sex, a boyfriend who is violent and doesn't care if he has consent, someone changes their mind but it doesn't matter. The results are devastating for each of these victims. Some are so shaken and distraught they fail their classes, and even attempt suicide. Many, maybe most, keep silent for various reasons. Nassar is the tiny tip of the iceberg for sexual assault on campuses, and campuses are but a reflection of a broader culture. When will people start asking what we need to do to make things better for all the victims on college campuses? Where are the politicians stepping up to offer funding so universities so that they can provide adequate counseling for victims of any sexual assault?

The exposure of Nassar's assaults should be prompting soul searching at every university in the country. Officials and politicians should also be asking how we change the broader culture and until we do, asking what we can do help the thousands of young adults on college campuses who have been sexually assaulted.

Susan Grettenberger, PhD, MSW is a Director/Professor in the Social Work Program at Central Michigan University. She and her wife Nicole are committed to ending sexual violence. (No last name used as she works for MSU). This article originally appeared in the National Association of Social Workers member newsletter.

Creep of the Week

Donald Trump

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

I was in a coffee shop and the song "Safe and Sound" by Capital Cities started playing. I've heard it many times and while it's good, I've never paid much attention to it. But I just finished reading Sarah McBride's memoir "Tomorrow Will Be Different: Love, Loss, and the Fight for Trans Equality." In it, this song plays a special role in her relationship with Andrew Cray, the man she would fall in love with. The man she would marry. The man she lost four days after their wedding to cancer.

So the song now makes me think of these two young people finding love in each other, making a life together and the tragedy of that life together being cut so terribly short.

But today "Safe and Sound" took on even more significance because as I was listening to the song I was reading about the Trump administration's plans to scrap transgender health care protections.

As the Boston Globe so plainly puts it: "The Trump administration says it plans to roll back a rule issued by former president Barack Obama that prevents doctors, hospitals and health insurance companies from discriminating against transgender people."

This is, of course, terrible, cruel and completely unnecessary. But there's an added layer of awfulness: one of the people instrumental in crafting the rule protecting trans people was none other than Andrew Cray.

You could say this is a good example of "adding insult to injury," but such hateful discrimination goes beyond insult. It will, however, lead to injury in that it will harm transgender people, a group so reviled by the Trump administration that every step forward toward freedom and equality under Obama, however small, has been met with hostile pushback.

There's this idea the so-called religious right has that trans people drive up health care costs with their incessant demands for transition surgery that surgeons are being forced to perform. That was one of the stated reasons behind Trump's ban on transgender troops: the country can't afford all these trans troops mooching off the military for health care. Let me just state that 1) There is nothing the military can't find money for if they want to and 2) If a transgender person serves the country by volunteering to risk life and limb, something the vast majority of Americans will never and would never do, then the least we can do is pay for their damn health care needs, transition surgery

If we have to wait until every American gets to know a trans person before full equality is achieved we are never going to get there. Which is why cis gender people need to advocate for trans folks. As anyone who isn't a cis gender heterosexual white male knows, having to fight for your most basic rights and constantly advocate for your own humanity is *exhausting*.

included.

As McBride points out in her book, people are much more likely to support trans equality if they know a trans person and the number of Americans who know someone has grown a lot in the last few years. But that number is still quite small because the transgender population is quite small. If we have to wait until every American gets to know a trans person before full equality is achieved we are never going to get there.

Which is why cisgender people need to advocate for trans folks. As anyone who isn't a cisgender heterosexual white male knows, having to fight for your most basic rights and constantly advocate for your own humanity is *exhausting*.

And unfortunately for transgender Americans, they are the direct target of the most powerful people in the country. It's not a fair fight by any means, but so long as we have hateful bigots in D.C., trans people are in an especially dangerous position.

Though let me be clear: trans people have always been in danger. While we've witnessed some gains in recent years, trans people are at a higher risk of discrimination and violence. Trans women of color are at an especially high risk of physical violence and being murdered.

If you support trans equality you need to be more than a silent partner. Speak out and stand up for trans people. Want some tips for how to be a good ally? The National Center for Transgender Equality has an excellent guide at transequality.org at gaybe.am/RX.

As Martin Luther King Jr. wrote, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Putting it another way, until trans people are safe and sound, nobody is safe and sound.

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report@equalitymi.org or call 1-866-962-1147

Equality Michigan is working with state legislators to update the Ethnic Intimidation Act to include proper protections for the gay and transgender community.

To get involved in the movement for better hate crimes law, contact policy@equalitymi.org.

Hundreds more resources can be found at
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Campaign Seeks to Expose Anti-LGBT History of ‘The Real Mike Pence’

NEWS

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

The nation’s largest LGBT group launched a new campaign on Thursday seeking to expose the anti-LGBT record of the No. 2 public official in the U.S.: Vice President Mike Pence.

The Human Rights Campaign initiative consists of a video highlighting Pence’s past anti-LGBT statements over his years in public office as well as a report detailing his anti-LGBT record and positions contrary to other progressive causes, such as abortion rights for women, climate change and gun control.

Chad Griffin, president of the Human Rights Campaign, said in a statement Pence, “Has made a career out of attacking the rights and equal dignity of LGBTQ people, women and other marginalized communities.”

“Now as vice president, he poses one of the greatest threats to equality in the history of our movement,” Griffin added. “With the world distracted by Donald Trump’s scandal-ridden White House, Mike Pence’s nefarious agenda has been allowed to fly under the radar for too long. He has become not only the most powerful vice president in American history, but also the least scrutinized. No more.”

One highlight of the material is the “religious freedom” bill Pence signed into law as governor of Indiana enabling individuals and



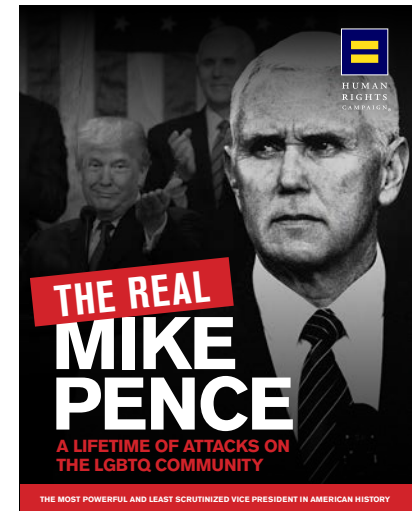
A new report seeks to expose the anti-LGBT record of Vice President Pence (Washington Blade file photo by Michael Key)

businesses to deny services to LGBT people. But the campaign also talks about his time as a lawmaker, when he took to the floor of the U.S. House to support a U.S. constitutional amendment that would have banned same-sex marriage nationwide and spoke out against hate crimes protections, the Employment

Non-Discrimination Act and “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” repeal.

In his role as vice president, the Human Rights Campaign credits Pence with quietly lobbying Congress to pass an amendment that would barred payment in the U.S. military health system for gender reassignment

surgery (The amendment failed on the House floor). With rumors circulating Pence was a driving force behind President Trump’s transgender military ban, the report asserts the vice president had a helping hand on the issue. Pence’s office has denied any major involvement on the issue.



Read the report online at gaybe.am/PD. This article originally appeared in the Washington Blade and is made available in partnership with the National LGBT Media Association.

Senate Confirms Anti-LGBT Jim Bridenstine as NASA Chief

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

President Trump’s pick to head NASA was confirmed on Thursday in the U.S. Senate despite opposition from lawmakers and LGBT groups who opposed him on the basis of his anti-LGBT record.

Rep. Jim Bridenstine (R-Okla.), who has served as a three-term member of Congress representing Oklahoma’s 1st congressional district in the U.S. House, was confirmed as administrator of the National Aeronautics & Space Administration by a party-line vote of 50-49.

Nominated by Trump to become head of NASA in September, Bridenstine’s nomination languished in the Senate for seven months. In addition to opposition over his anti-LGBT views, lawmaker cited as concerns Bridenstine’s denial of climate change and potentially placing him in charge of a U.S. agency that has monitored its impact.

A three-term member of Congress, Bridenstine has amassed an anti-LGBT record based on his votes in Congress. In the last Congress, the Human Rights Campaign

awarded him a score of “0” based on his voting record. Bridenstine earned a “30” out of 100 in the 112th Congress for rejecting an amendment that would have taken out LGBT protections in reauthorization for the Violence Against Women Act (although he ended up voting against the larger LGBT-inclusive bill).

In 2013, when the Boy Scouts of America lifted its ban on gay youths, Bridenstine delivered a speech on the House floor in opposition to the change, suggesting LGBT people are immoral.

“The left’s agenda is not about tolerance, and it’s not about diversity of thought,” Bridenstine said in 2013. “It’s about presenting a worldview of relativism, where there is no right and wrong, then using the full force of the government to silence opposition and reshape organizations like the Boy Scouts into instruments for social change.”

An opponent of same-sex marriage, Bridenstine has co-sponsored legislation against it and called the U.S. Supreme Court decision against the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act “a disappointment not only because it is contrary to millennia of human

experience, but also because it is clearly contrary to the choice of the people as expressed in a constitutionally valid process.”

Bridenstine also called Obama-era guidance requiring schools to allow transgender kids to use the restroom consistent with their gender identity “lawless federal bullying.” The Trump administration would later rescind the guidance.

Zeke Stokes, vice president of programs at GLAAD, decried the Senate confirmation of Bridenstine in a statement as “yet another attack by this administration on LGBTQ people.”

“It’s time for the Senate to take a hard look at the nominations they are confirming and the potential ramifications these anti-LGBTQ politicians stand to have on the LGBTQ employees in their agencies and within our country as a whole,” Stokes said. “Mid-term elections are around the corner, and our community has a very good memory.”

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



Rep. Jim Bridenstine (R-Okla) was confirmed as NASA chief despite his anti-LGBT views. (Photo public domain)

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FLASHBACK: Blade's 1989 Report on Barbara Bush Hugging Man with AIDS

BY WASHINGTON BLADE STAFF

Editor's Note: Below is the article the Washington Blade published in its March 24, 1989 edition on then-first lady Barbara Bush's visit to Grandma's House in D.C., which housed children with HIV at a time when the disease was a death sentence.

Bush died this week at age 92 and was remembered for being a gay ally and bringing visibility to AIDS at a time when both carried substantial stigma. As the Blade article notes, Bush during her visit embraced not only children with the disease, but a gay activist with AIDS, Lou Tesconi. Tesconi died in 1991 at age 42.

Barbara Bush Embraces Man with AIDS

First lady Barbara Bush focused media attention on AIDS this week and startled some city activists when she hugged a gay man with AIDS in deliberate view of a field of news cameras.

Bush had just finished visiting a local shelter called Grandma's House, for babies with AIDS, Wednesday morning when she escorted a small group of AIDS activists outside to a waiting corps of press photographers and reporters. According to Lou Tesconi, a gay man with AIDS who heads up another shelter for people with AIDS, Bush made a statement about AIDS "and then gave me a great big hug in front of everybody."

Hill conservatives pummel two federal AIDS efforts
Hills, Armstrong, Nickles block action on extension of federal AIDT subsidies
By Lisa M. Ryan
The House of Representatives today rejected a bill to extend the AIDS Incentive Tax Exemption (AITE) program, a move that would have allowed the federal government to subsidize the cost of AIDS-related research and development. The bill, which passed the Senate last week, would have allowed the federal government to subsidize the cost of AIDS-related research and development. The bill, which passed the Senate last week, would have allowed the federal government to subsidize the cost of AIDS-related research and development.

'P Street Pickpocket' trial ends with deadlocked jury
By Lisa M. Ryan
A man who was accused of pickpocketing a woman on P Street in Washington, D.C., was acquitted of the charge after a jury was deadlocked. The man, who was accused of pickpocketing a woman on P Street in Washington, D.C., was acquitted of the charge after a jury was deadlocked.

Barbara Bush embraces man with AIDS
By Lisa M. Ryan
First Lady Barbara Bush today embraced a man with AIDS, Lou Tesconi, in front of a group of reporters and photographers. The embrace was a historic moment, as it was the first time a first lady had embraced a man with AIDS in public. The embrace was a historic moment, as it was the first time a first lady had embraced a man with AIDS in public.

D.C. Council votes against AIDS budget
By Lisa M. Ryan
The District of Columbia Council today voted to reject a budget that would have allocated funds for AIDS-related programs. The council's decision was a setback for AIDS activists, who had hoped to see more funding for AIDS-related programs.



(Above) In front of a flurry of photographers and reporters, First Lady Barbara Bush embraces Lou Tesconi, a gay man with AIDS who runs Damian Ministries, a shelter for people with AIDS. (Right) Bush holds Donovan, a five-month-old boy with AIDS, at Grandma's House, a residential center for children with AIDS.

Barbara Bush and Jim Graham, then head of the Whitman-Walker Clinic, shake hands upon her arrival at the clinic for the dedication of the Bill Austin Treatment Center on Dec. 19, 1982. (Photo courtesy billwillsonphotos.com)

Tesconi and Jim Graham, administrator of the Whitman-Walker Clinic and one of the other activists who briefed Bush on AIDS during the visit, said they considered the first lady's hug to be an important symbol.

"This was really a splendid opportunity," said Graham, "for the first lady to indicate her general concern about people with AIDS. Her holding Lou Tesconi was historic. It was totally on her own impetus, she came forward, it was very emotional but warm, she gave him a real body hug."

Tesconi said Bush was clearly responding to his suggestion during the briefing inside the shelter that the first lady use her visibility and position to "collectively hug people with AIDS in front of the world." Tesconi said Bush hugged him while they were inside the shelter, too.

Wednesday's meeting was initiated by Bush, according to Tesconi, executive director and founder of the Damian Ministries, which provides services to women with AIDS and others. Tesconi said he also considers it an

Syracuse University Suspends Frat for 'Racist, Anti-Semitic, Homophobic' Video

BY MARIAH COOPER

Syracuse University has suspended its chapter of engineering fraternity Theta Tau after a controversial video emerged showing fraternity members mocking gay, black, Jewish and Hispanic people.

The Daily Orange, an independent student newspaper ran by Syracuse University students, posted a video from the chapter's private Facebook page called "Tau of Theta Tau."

In the video, the members perform a narrative that uses racist, sexist, homophobic and ableist language while also simulating sexual acts on each other.

"I solemnly swear to always have hatred in my heart for n*****, s***** and most importantly the f***** k*****," one member says during the video.

"You f-king k-s, get in the f-king showers," another member says in reference to the gas chamber.

One member also gets on his knees in front of another member and says "F*** black people" while simulating oral sex.

According to the Daily Orange, in an unreleased video from the Facebook page, one person sits in a rolling chair while another person tells him "He's drooling out of his mouth because he's retarded in a wheelchair."

In another part of the recording, a person says "Get together and [talk] about their significant others while drinking different wines and talking in gay, girly accents."

Syracuse University Chancellor Kent Syverud called the students' behavior "extremely racist, anti-Semitic, homophobic, sexist, and hostile to people with disabilities," in a statement on Wednesday.

The fraternity chapter released its own

statement explaining that the "satirical video" was meant to roast a conservative Republican member in the fraternity.

"It's with profound embarrassment and disappointment in ourselves that we find our fraternity in this situation," the statement reads from Theta Tau on its website. "Anyone of color or of any marginalized group who has seen this video has every right to be angry and upset with the despicable contents of that video."

"Each semester our new members are given the opportunity to write and act out a skit, in order to roast the active brothers. This event was never intended to be centered around racism or hate. This year, one of these brothers



Screenshot via YouTube

is a conservative Republican, and the new members roasted him by playing the part of a racist conservative character," the statement continues. "It was a satirical sketch of an uneducated, racist, homophobic, misogynist, sexist, ableist and intolerant person. The young man playing the part of this character nor the young man being roasted do not hold any of the horrible views espoused as a part of that sketch."

The national Theta Tau organization also released a statement saying that "the content of the video is unacceptable and directly violates the values and expectations that have been put in place for all of our chapters."

Even though the video was meant as a skit, the organization says "this does not excuse the behavior."

The University's Department of Public Safety is currently investigating the identities of the video's participants.

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

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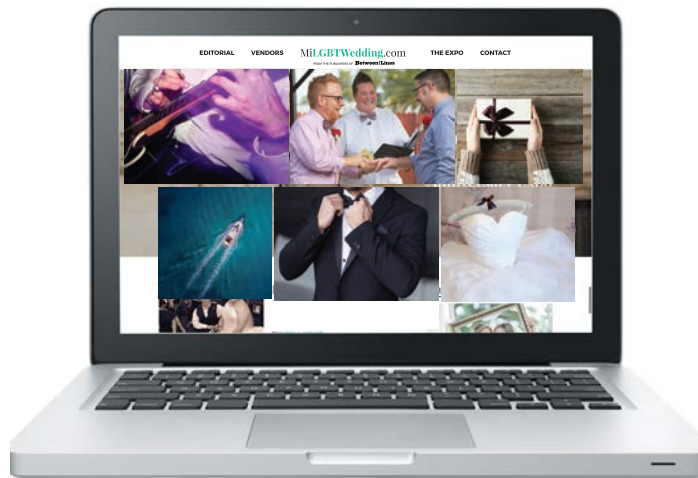
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JESSIE WARE DANCES THROUGH LIFE (AND SOON, HER NEXT ALBUM)

Songstress Talks Wig-Snatching and Gaining Confidence From the Queer Community

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Jessie Ware only recently learned what “wig-snatching” means, and fresh off the European leg of her current tour, I’ve taught her “guncle.” The 33-year-old British songstress takes full advantage of this latest lesson in queer-speak, breaking from our phone chat just long enough to inform her gay brother, Alex, he’s a guncle (“I’ll take that,” he says). With Ware’s nearly-2-year-old baby girl

in tow, the siblings have just arrived at a Palm Springs lodge they rented, a family vacation before Ware’s Coachella performance.

For her solo live shows, Ware’s culled a setlist encompassing her three musically varied releases: her debut “Devotion” (2012), which features her breakout single “Wildest Moments”; her even-more sophisticated “Tough Love” (2014); and last year’s experimental “Glasshouse,” a collection so personal she tells me she wants to record a full

album of escapist club music next.

Though jet-lagged, Ware discussed her plans to start watching “RuPaul’s Drag Race,” her supportive friendship with Sam Smith, and how the queer community helped her through a very challenging time.

Speaking of your brother, is he dating one of your gay fans yet?

No, he isn’t dating one of my gay fans yet. He was on tour with me and we were in Berlin

and I could see it was a really gay crowd and it was such a wild night, and I was like, “Listen, guys, my brother’s looking fab tonight, it’s Berlin, a lot of very handsome men out there; who would be up for taking my brother out?” It turns out that my brother had been on a date with one of them previously in the day and Alex texted me after the show, “I don’t need you to pimp me out. I’m fine.” But I have tried. There’s been some admirers, but I definitely think he’s enjoyed – I’m sure he’s

Jessie Ware

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definitely used it to his advantage before. But no, we don't have a new guncle to add.

"Taking in Water," a song about your brother's struggle to come out, is so special and has meant a lot to many queer people.

You're making me wanna put it back in the show. I haven't got it in the set. I haven't sung it for years, and I love that song and I remember how much people loved it, and you're making me think maybe I should practice it with my band.

I'm sure that would make a lot of gay people who come to your shows very happy. By the way, I hear there's been some wig-snatching going on at these performances.

Oh my goodness, the wig-snatching has been a revolution and also so fun.

Didn't someone throw a wig on stage at your Manchester show?

I've had multiple wigs, thongs, bras. The first wig I dragged around with my heels like a dead cat, accidentally. I hadn't seen it come on the stage, and then I walked around with it, so it kind of ruins the wig-snatching moment, I feel. It wasn't as fabulous as it could have been, but it did make everyone laugh.

A wig is one thing, but what prompts a fan to throw a thong on stage?

I don't know if they're all just trying to entertain me and they know I find it hysterical, but you know, it's not just gay men – I think maybe that was from a gay woman, and that was fabulous.

Or a drag queen.

Or a drag queen! Absolutely. I'd kind of love it to be from a drag queen, but I didn't see any in the audience. I think it came from when the song "Midnight" (the first single from "Glasshouse") came out and I had been away for a bit. I came back and "Midnight" was this kind of fierce diva moment for me. I really sang out, and I think my fans really enjoyed it. The online world has always been pretty positive for me, but just hysterical. And memes and gifs – I feel like such a fucking old woman! It was just so fun, and I didn't know what wig-snatching was. It comes from "RuPaul's Drag Race," right? And I feel really bad because RuPaul has always been really sweet. From the beginning, RuPaul would retweet videos of mine, and I think some contestants have performed some of my songs on the show. So, I need to watch it because I had to Google what wig-snatching meant and it was kind of embarrassing. It

made me feel very straight and very old.

You kept Whitney and Barbra vinyls in the recording booth while recording "Devotion." For "Glasshouse," which divas were guiding you?

I think spiritual guides for "Glasshouse" were probably Carole King and Nina Simone, even though you probably can't hear that in the record. I really kind of got obsessed with the art of songwriting. And Joni Mitchell. That was something I felt I needed to improve upon, and I really appreciate what they were doing, and I got lost in that and those were the worlds I was living in and listening to a lot.

When we spoke in 2012, you couldn't quite explain why the queer community connected with you. Six years later, has the reason for that bond become clearer?

If I'm being honest, I still don't know why they embrace me, but I fully support it and enjoy it. It's been so important to my shows. It's given me energy, it's given me confidence, having the queer community so devoted to me and supportive, and I think they're incredibly loyal and they're fun.

When I was a rabbit in the headlights five years ago, they gave me the confidence I needed to feel like I could go into that zone of feeling like, as much as it was maybe tongue in cheek for me, that diva mode, which I think they really celebrate and I really tried to do that for this show. I think sometimes I've been quite apologetic – it's a very British thing to do – but I think the queer community has given me this positive celebration of being able to express myself, and it's almost escapism and it's fun, and that's how a live show should be. I'll never forget how loyal they've been; that counts as something when you're three albums in and fans come back from five years ago.

Sam Smith is a devoted fan and has been tweeting about you since the beginning of your career.

He's a really good friend of mine and we're so proud of each other. He's so supportive, and I love that all his backstage shots are him in, like, the highest heels that I can't even wear, and a wig. Seems like every day he has a different wig and a different heel on. Above all, he's a really good friend and he's at the end of the phone, and I am for him for when he has worries and he wants to complain about this bloody industry. It's a tough, old industry, and so he's incredibly supportive, and I love him. I love him so much.

What industry challenges have you had to deal with?

Sometimes the business side of the industry was taking over the creative side and it took me to really just stop and be like, "I feel a little bit dead on the stage." I was lacking confidence. I just had a baby; I thought people were going to judge, however stupid that sounds. It's a very male-led industry. Straight, male-led industry, and they have opinions and they seep through

Continued on page 16



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A series

► **Jessie Ware**

Continued from p. 15

into you whether you like it or not. I'm a pretty strong woman, I think, but you can't help but have that. And you come back from having a baby, and I felt I had so much to prove. I had to kind of be – pretend to be – this superwoman who could do everything. It was just ... it's been exhausting.

This record was really important for me to write because it was documenting a stage in my life which was new, and I have all these emotions and feelings, and I think sometimes you feel a little bit dead, you run out of new feelings. Having a child was a different kind of love, which was so inspiring and amazing to write about, but also the most challenging. I think what's next for me is, I wanna make a record that's pure dance, and I think it's because of the queer community.

What, personally, inspired this upcoming dance detour?

I think it's a reaction to doing something so autobiographical for this third record. I don't feel like I need to do that again. I don't think there are so many songs I need to write that are like "Sam" (from "Glasshouse") and I wanna test myself – it's a challenge. I see the reaction to songs like "If You're Never Gonna Move" and "Midnight," these kind of more bombastic, uptempo things – I hate the word uptempo; it

doesn't make it sound as important – but I feel like I really wanna enjoy that soul boogie. Can I say disco? I don't know.

Club music?

Club music! Which is where I came from! Sometimes you kind of forget – I haven't forgotten where I came from. I have a lot of love for that world that embraced me at the beginning, and I feel like I wanna go back to it and enjoy it and dance.

Who are your dance divas?

Chaka Khan. Any of the Whitney upbeat stuff. I love Róisín Marie Murphy, I love Tina Marie.

Sounds like this album could help loosen you up.

And I think that's what I need! This job is supposed to be fun, and sometimes you forget. It's something that especially the queer community will enjoy. I've done enough mid-tempo ballads. It's time for a bit of a switch-up.

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).

BROADWAY IN DETROIT 2018-19 SEASON



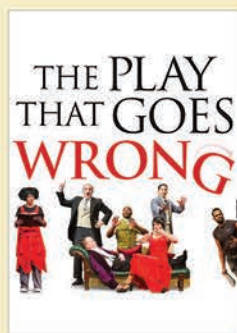
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Theatre NOVA's 'The Devil's Music: The Life and Blues of Bessie Smith' Extended

BY BTL STAFF

ANN ARBOR, Mich – Ann Arbor's Theatre Nova has announced an extension of its smash hit "The Devil's Music: The Life and Blues of Bessie Smith" by Angelo Parra. The show was slated to run through April 22 but has been extended through April 29 due to full houses, glowing audience response and critical acclaim.

"One of your best productions. Wow! Can she ever sing and move? I could almost convince myself I was seeing the real Bessie. Excellent piano, too. A day later and I'm still tapping the beat," said one audience member.

The show also appealed to all ages.

Like for one fan who said, "Great show. I brought my mom with me – 90 years old – (and) there were times when we were both transported to a different time."

The show is the Michigan premiere of the hit Off-Broadway musical that celebrates the life of musician Bessie Smith. "The Devil's Music" re-imagines Bessie's final electrifying evening after she and her band are turned away by a whites-only theater. The show is music-heavy as it's packed with many of Bessie's all-time hits, with songs like "I Ain't Got Nobody," "St. Louis Blues" and "'Tain't Nobody's Biz-ness If I Do."

However, as fun as the show may be, Ann Arbor's "Pulp" magazine has said that the show knows when to "rein" in the celebration and be serious about

Smith's life as well.

"Director Lynch Travis makes fine use of the small, intimate Theatre Nova space by having Edmonds dance, swagger and sashay across the tiny 'house-party' space, drawing the audience toward her and into her story," the magazine said. "The music isn't random, and Travis makes the connections clear as Smith unreels her story under the influence of an ever-handy glass of alcohol – usually gin – but ... she and Travis do not let Smith become a caricature."

Theatre NOVA is located at 410 W. Huron, Ann Arbor. Remaining performances are April 19, 20, 21, 27 and 28 at 8 p.m. and April 22 and 29 at 2 p.m. Theatre NOVA features free parking for patrons.



Ann Arbor's Dawn Farm Offers Presentation on Gratitude and Addiction Recovery

BY BTL STAFF

Addiction recovery is by no means an easy feat, but understanding that one might need help is one way to get treatment started. Dr. Amy R. Krentzman is hosting a free presentation that focuses on gratitude and how understanding it can aid with one's recovery.



She has a Master's degree in social work and is an assistant professor at the school of social work at the University of Minnesota and an adjunct research investigator at the University of Michigan Medical School, and will present some

her findings at this presentation.

The free event will be held from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, May 22 at the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center auditorium. It is located at 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti.

Jim Toy Center Hosts Chipotle Fundraiser May 1

BY BTL STAFF

Few LGBTQ activists receive the same amount of recognition as Jim Toy has. Over the past 40 years, he has resolved himself to providing a safe spaces for LGBTQ people across the state of Michigan, and even has a dedicated Ann Arbor-based LGBTQ center in his name. Notably, Toy was also responsible for establishing the first campus center devoted to support sexual minority group members.

For those interested in supporting the community center as well as Ann Arbor Pride 2018, they can purchase dinner at the Chipotle at 235 S. State St., in Ann Arbor on Tuesday, May 1.

To make sure that 50 percent of the proceeds go to these LGBTQ causes, show the cashier the Facebook event on a phone. The flyer can be found by going online to gaybe.am/os.

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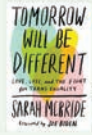
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Marching Dykes, Liberated Sluts, and Concerned Mothers:

Women Transforming Public Space
Elizabeth Currans
Professor at EMU



Tomorrow Will Be Different:

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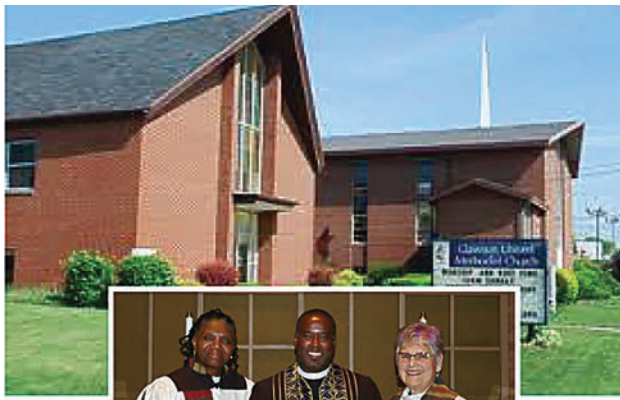
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King Krule at St. Andrew's Hall in Detroit

A varied blend of indie rock, punk, jazz and all that's in-between, King Krule doesn't shy away from a unique sound that's uniquely his own. Born Archy Ivan Marshall, the London-born musician is coming to Detroit's St. Andrew's Hall. The 23-year-old musician is now touring with his latest album "The Ooz." More information can be found online at saintandrewsdetroit.com.



Happenings

OUTINGS

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." Michigan businesses Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, 1000 E. Beltline Ave. NE, Grand Rapids. 888-957-1580.

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. therobintheatre.com.

Tuesday, May 1

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups 7 p.m. Event Time: 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. FREE and OPEN to the community. For parents of transgender kids, this group

meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7 to 8:30 p.m. St. Mary's In-the-Hills Episcopal Church, An event every month that begins at 7 p.m. on day First of the month, repeating indefinitely St. Mary's In The Hills Episcopal Church, 2512 Joslyn Court, Lake Orion. 248-391-0663. 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. ferndalepride.com.

Sunday, May 6

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups 6:30 p.m. Event Time: 6:30 to 8 p.m. FREE and OPEN to the community. For parents of transgender kids, this group meets the 1st Sunday of each month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Hilltop Counseling 115 W. Maumee St., Adrian. An event every month that begins at 6:30 p.m. on day First of the month, repeating indefinitely Hilltop Counseling, 115 W. Maumee St., Adrian. 313-909-5408. standwithtrans.org. hilltopcounseling.org.

Thursday, May 10

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. Check website for monthly location, RSVP is Required. An event every month that begins at 6:30 p.m. on day Second of the month, repeating until December 13 Soho, 205 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-542-7646. info@detroitlgbtchamber.com. ferndalesoho.com. detroitlgbtchamber.com.

Friday, May 11

Live Band Karaoke at Dino's for Ferndale Pride 9:30 p.m. Another awesome Ferndale Pride event happening at Dino's in Ferndale for Live Band Karaoke! Put on your musical shoes and come perform! Dino's Restaurant, 22740 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 248-591-3466. julia@ferndalepride.com. ferndalepride.com.

Editor's Pick

TWIndover Women's Resort Spring Cleaning

Camping can be a great way to enjoy the warmer weather, and now it's also possible to "rough it" in luxury and catch up with friends at the same time at the Windover Women's Resort. On April 27 through 29 the resort is hosting its "Settlin' in and Opening Up" weekend where they'll finish up spring cleaning and invite camp-goers to help out with lunch and amenities provided. More information can be found online at windoverwomensresort.com.



Editor's Pick

Touring Cast of 'On Your Feet!' Helps Fight AIDS with Concert for a Cure

Cast members of the nationally-touring production "On Your Feet!" will perform a special concert to benefit Broadway Cares and Equity Fights AIDS. This special concert will take place at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 7 at Ferndale's Loving Touch at 22634 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. More information can be found online at thelovingtouchferndale.com.



Saturday, May 12

13th Annual Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit Mutt Strut! 8 a.m. The 5K run and 2.2 mile walk is Metro Detroit's only springtime pet-friendly run and walk! The Mutt Strut welcomes families and individuals of all skill levels for the run and walk along Dearborn's Gateway Dearborn's Gateway Trail, 22051 Cherry Hill St., Dearborn. events@metrodetroitanimals.org. famdmuttstrut.org.

Monday, May 14

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups 6:30 p.m. Macomb Teen/Youth Support Group Event Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. All youth are welcome to attend this FREE group. Come and meet other trans* youth and teens and support each other through your journeys. We meet the 2nd An event every month that begins at 6:30 p.m. on day Second of the month, repeating indefinitely Dakota High School, 21051 21 Mile Road, Macomb. 586-723-2700. chippewavalley.schools.org.

Saturday, May 19

Spring Fling Dance – Women Out And About 7 p.m. DJ Carol, BYOB, Private Dance Party at the Dance Scene. FREE Parking, Free Leis, and more! \$15 Advance, \$20 at the door. The dance scene, 25333 Van Dyke, centerline. 248-943-2411. womenoutandabout.net.

Soho's 5th Annual Hot Daddies Contest 8 p.m. Another great Ferndale Pride event happening at Soho! Come one, come all. It's the 5th Annual Hot Daddies Contest. Soho, 205 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-542-7646. julia@ferndalepride.com/ferndalepride.com.

MUSIC & MORE

Kygo at Masonic Temple May 3, 6:30 p.m. Norwegian born, Kygo, is slated to perform at Detroit's Masonic Temple. Today, Kygo has been nominated for over 30 music industry awards and has won 10. See our website for more information. Detroit Masonic Temple, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., #100, Detroit. 800-854-2196. templetroit.com

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

Live Band Karaoke at Dino's for Ferndale Pride May 11, 9:30 p.m. Another awesome Ferndale Pride event happening at Dino's in Ferndale for Live Band Karaoke! Put on your musical shoes and come perform! Dino's Restaurant, 22740 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale. 248-591-3466 julia@ferndalepride.com. ferndalepride.com.

13th Annual Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit Mutt Strut! May 12, 8 a.m. The 5K run and 2.2 mile walk is Metro Detroit's only springtime pet-friendly run and walk! The Mutt Strut welcomes families and individuals of all skill levels for the run and walk along Dearborn's Gateway Dearborn's Gateway Trail, 22051 Cherry Hill St., Dearborn. events@metrodetroitanimals.org. famdmuttstrut.org.

Mysterium May 17, 6 p.m. Following last year's sold-out inaugural event, Mysterium will feature DSO musicians performing in three unique settings for an exhilarating musical experience. Ticket includes three unique performances, hors d'oeuvres, signature drinks, and an afterglow. Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-576-5162. dso.org.

Ann Arbor Guitar Trio CD Release Concert May 17, 7:30 p.m. The Ann Arbor Guitar Trio, a new ensemble founded on the idea that more guitar is better, will release their debut CD, "Tides," at the Kerrytown Concert House. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. 4th Ave., Ann Arbor. anestmusic@gmail.com. kerrytownconcerthouse.com.

Otus Supply Featuring Kate Wright May 23, 8 p.m. Another fantastic Ferndale Pride event coming at you! Come listen to the music of Kate Wright in Otus Supply's 'The Parliament Room'. Check website for ticket pricing. Otus Supply, 345 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-291-6160. julia@ferndalepride.com julia@ferndalepride.com. otussupply.com. ferndalepride.com.

Cinetopia Film Festival at Ann Arbor's Michigan Theater May 31, 7 p.m. Created for the people of southeastern Michigan, the Cinetopia Film Festival features the best feature-length dramas, comedies, and documentaries from the world's best film festivals (e.g. Sundance, Cannes, Venice, Toronto, Berlin, SXSW, Tribeca, etc.). An event every week that begins at 7:00pm on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, repeating until June 10 Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397. cinetopiafestival.org.

ART 'N' AROUND

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.

epiphany studios Spring Show and Sale May 4, 4 p.m. Experience the art of glassblowing at the epiphany studios annual Spring Open Studio Friday, May 4, 4 to 8 p.m. and Saturday/Sunday, May 5 to 6. Noon to 6 p.m. Epiphany studios, 770 Orchard Lake Road, Pontiac. 248-745-3786. epiphanyglass.com.

Westside Art Hop May 19, 10 a.m. Westside Art Hop is an art walk in neighborhood homes, studios, porches and yards on Saturday May 19th, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Find cards and gifts from under \$5, up to fine art at 700 Mount Vernon Ave., Ann Arbor.

Star Wars and the Power of Costume May 20, 10 a.m. Star Wars™ and the Power of Costume explores the challenges in dressing the Star Wars universe from the Galactic Senate and royalty to the Jedi, Sith and Droids™. Featuring more than 60 hand-crafted costumes. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-833-7900. dia.org.

THEATER

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. May 13 Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-872-1000. broadwayindetroit.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 street 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.

A2CT Workshop: Physical Characterization May 12, 1 p.m. Participants in this workshop will explore finding a character, and creating postures, gait and gestures for that characterization. Technique exercises will be combined with structured improvisations to eliminate the self and find the other. A2CT Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. 734-971-2228. a2ct.org.

A2CT Jr. Theatre Presents: Elephant and Piggie's We are in a Play! May 18, 7:30 p.m. In a galaxy far, far away (Cincinnati), the caper of the millennium is underway: the theft of millions of dollars of Star Wars merchandise and memorabilia. But even the best laid plans can go awry An event every week that begins at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, repeating until June 16. One event on June 7 at 7:30 p.m. An event every week that begins at 2 p.m. on Sunday, repeating until June 17 Milan High School, 200 Big Red Dr., Milan. 734-681-0112. info@roustabouttheatre.com. roustabouttheatre.com.

All Childish Things: The Special Edition 7:30 p.m. In a galaxy far, far away (Cincinnati), the caper of the millennium is underway: the theft of millions of dollars of Star Wars merchandise and memorabilia. But even the best laid plans can go awry An event every week that begins at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, repeating until June 16. One event on June 7 at 7:30 p.m. An event every week that begins at 2 p.m. on Sunday, repeating until June 17 Milan High School, 200 Big Red Dr., Milan. 734-681-0112. info@roustabouttheatre.com. roustabouttheatre.com.

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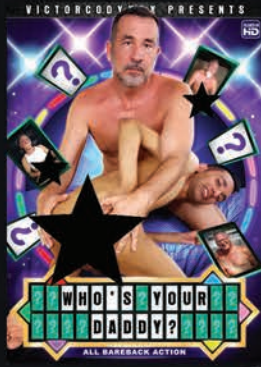
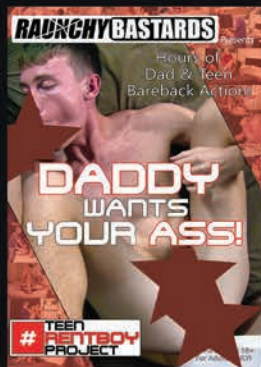
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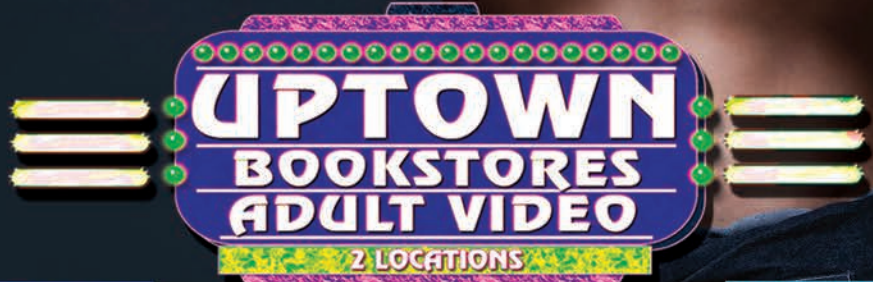


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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Your Olympics Crush is 'Dancing With The Stars'

No, we didn't say *which* Olympics crush. That's because the upcoming all-athletes season of "Dancing With the Stars" features several recent popular Olympic athletes, and one of them is America's Queer Sweetheart of figure skating, the witty and fierce Adam Rippon. The other two, though not LGBT, are just as swoon-worthy, depending on your orientation. There's softball power pitcher Jennifer Finch Daigle to entice the lesbians, and Chris Mazdzer, the luge stud whose scruffy appeal has not gone unnoticed by virtually all gay men with internet access. They'll be joining problematic faves like Tonya Harding and all-around fave-faves like Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. In other words, the competition this time is poised to rival the best seasons of the beloved (and, come on, really corny and you know it) series in terms of sheer physical power. Finally, we know Adam won't disappoint when it comes his patented brand of charm and sass, so that's reason enough to watch. The ABC show bows at the end of this month.

pretty good. The project has no title, but it does have "Downton Abbey"'s James and "EastEnders" mainstay Himesh Patel, as well as the most vague idea of a plot that involves music of the 1960s and/or 1970s, depending on whose rumors you believe. Doesn't matter, you had us at Kate.

It Is A Bad Idea To Mess With 'Gay Kid and Fat Chick'

TV comedy director Amy York Rubin ("Grown-ish," "Fresh Off The Boat") has signed on to direct the next film from comic actor Bo Burnham (his debut feature as a writer-director, the already-acclaimed "Eighth Grade," hits theaters this summer). It's called "Gay Kid and Fat Chick," at least for now, and we don't dislike that title at all. Not only is it instantly memorable, but it takes dismissive language and uses it powerfully in a story of teenage outsiders who create costumed superhero identities in order to get revenge on bullies, kind of like a queer "Kick-Ass." At the moment this one is in development – at Paramount – so there's no cast, but here us out when we say that J.J. Totah ("Champions") is the only choice to play "Gay Kid." That young man is practically already a queer superhero in real life. Anyway, we hope the script doesn't involve them having to learn lessons about the futility of revenge. If you've seen "Heathers" you know there's no satisfaction in that.



Kate McKinnon

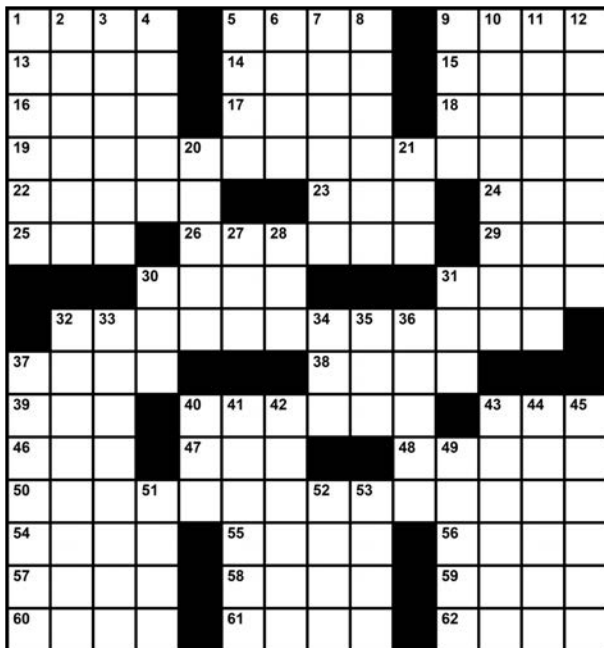
Follow Kimberly Reed's 'Dark Money'

Transgender director Kimberly Reed's documentary "Prodigal Sons" was the kind of indie success story every filmmaker hopes for: critically acclaimed, crowd pleasing, and award winning. Then her profile rose when she co-produced the moving documentary "The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson." And now her latest, "Dark Money," hits arthouse theaters this summer before airing on PBS. This time around the subject matter is less queer specific and more urgently universal: the influence of untraceable corporate money and the way it influences not only American elections but also our democracy itself, thanks to the infamous Supreme Court ruling on Citizens United. It's the kind of activist filmmaking designed to depress audiences but to make them rise up against the oppressive forces that keep the super-rich in seemingly unstoppable power. Here's hoping it pushes the national conversation toward breaking the grip corporations have on American politics and life. Cue a group sing-along of "The Internationale."

Kate McKinnon Is Currently In Talks For A Film With No Name

"In talks" is what they call contract negotiations over salary, and while those are being hammered out, let's all agree that whatever's being offered Kate McKinnon ("Ghostbusters") should, just on principle, be doubled. She's that appealing, even in films that aren't (and he's been in a few of those by this point. Good news, then, that the film she's in talks to star in is from "Love, Actually" creator Richard Curtis, and acclaimed director Danny Boyle ("Trainspotting"), so the chances of it being pretty good are, well,

Romeo San Vicente doesn't hate Mondays, just Capitalism.



19 She plays a lesbian in the comedy reboot
22 Farewell to fifty million Frenchmen
23 I, Claudius?
24 New York Knicks org.
25 "Breakfast on Pluto" actor Stephen
26 Bones in the back
29 Martin of the Daughters of Bilitis
30 In midvoyage, maybe
31 Rupert Everett's "___ Life"

48 Orally pleased
50 She plays a late-in-life lesbian mom in the comedy reboot
54 Melville's whale hunter
55 Place for a Malgieri pastry
56 Actress Skye
57 Video game name
58 Porking noise?
59 Set down
60 Genie portrayer Barbara
61 Adopted son of Adam and Steve?
62 Untouchable head

12 Tony of "The Odd Couple"
20 Ballet ___
21 Little black bk. listings
27 Prop for "Once Upon a Mattress"
28 "At Seventeen" singer
30 Numbskull
31 Cheerleader's shout
32 Smacked one's lips over
33 Site of Macbeth's death
34 "Sister Act" extra
35 Nice beach season?
36 Aspirin brand
37 PR piece about "Revamp," for example

Down

1 Many a senator stuck it in him
2 Pinball Wizard's game venue
3 Realm of C.S. Lewis
4 Give the slip to
5 Drag queen's blade
6 Cowhand's chow
7 Atkins, who played Woolf on Broadway
8 Come out
9 Short run
10 Poisonous bush
11 Dominate like a hairy guy?

32 She just rebooted her comedy series from the '80s-'90s
37 Some whistle-blowers
38 Colorado neighbor
39 Fairy's cousin
40 "Frozen" studio
43 Rene Auberjonois role
46 Flower for Colette
47 Army N.C.O.


They're Back Q Puzzle


Across


1 Martin Crane's support
5 "The African Queen" author
9 Way out of the closet
13 Asian inland sea
14 Like a muscle Mary's


waist
15 Thomas ___ Edison
16 Drag queen's stocking shade
17 "Desert of the Heart" novelist Jane
18 Gertrude Stein's "Wars I Have ___"

rebooted her comedy series from the '80s-'90s
37 Some whistle-blowers
38 Colorado neighbor
39 Fairy's cousin
40 "Frozen" studio
43 Rene Auberjonois role
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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Find over 300 Non-Profit Listings Serving Michigan's LGBTQ Online @ pridesource.com

AIDS/HIV

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

AIDS Walk Detroit

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

Macomb County STD Clinic

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

Matrix Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

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

UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond

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

Advocacy

Equality Michigan

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

Campus

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

U-M Ann Arbor

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

Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center

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

Eastern Michigan University

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

The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center

ltu.edu/student_affairs/lgbt.asp

Wayne State JIGSAW

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

Community Centers

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

Jim Toy Community Center

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

LGBT Detroit

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

Affirmations

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

Legal

American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

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

Fair Michigan

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

Know Your Rights Project

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

Older Adults

SAGE Metro Detroit

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

Political

The LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party

[Facebook.com/TheLGBTACaucusoftheMDP](https://www.facebook.com/TheLGBTACaucusoftheMDP)

Stonewall for Revolution

www.facebook.com/stonewall4reolution

Professional Groups

Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

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

Ties Like Me

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

Suits And The City

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

Transgender

FtM Detroit

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

FtM A2 Ypsi

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

Transgender Michigan

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

Trans Sistas of Color Project

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

Youth

Ruth Ellis Center

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

Ozone House

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

Stand With Trans

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

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You can add or update any listing by going to www.PrideSource.com and clicking on Yellow Pages. Once you submit your listing, our staff will contact you to confirm your information. You can add your event to the Pride Source Calendar online and in print by going to www.PrideSource.com and clicking on Calendar, then "Add Event." Send any press releases and announcements to editor@pridesource.com



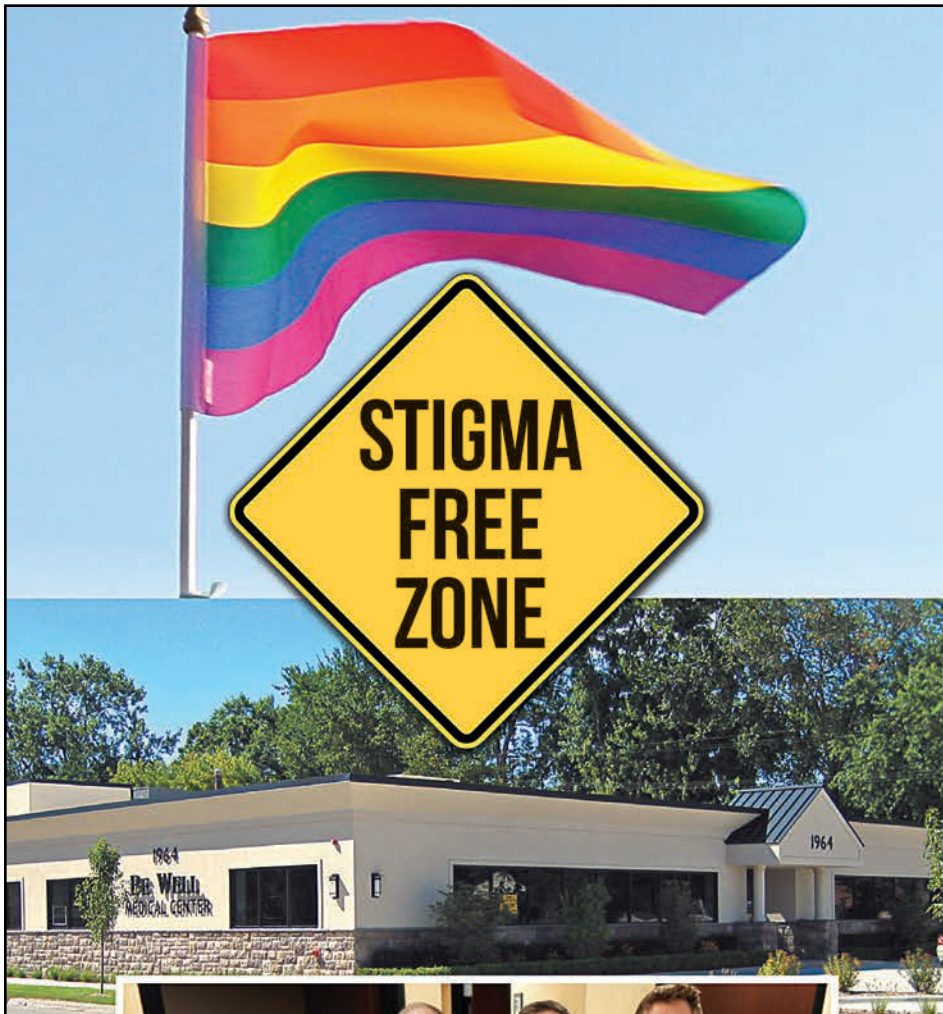
Find a digital version of PrideSource Magazine online under Our LGBTQ Yellow Pages

Find these resources online

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

PRIDESOURCE Magazine The New Print Edition Coming June 1

Pride Source Magazine is currently in production. Non Profit basic listings are free. Just send your information by April 15 to janstevenson@pridesource.com. All advertising and content inquiries can also be made by calling 734-293-7200 ext. 101



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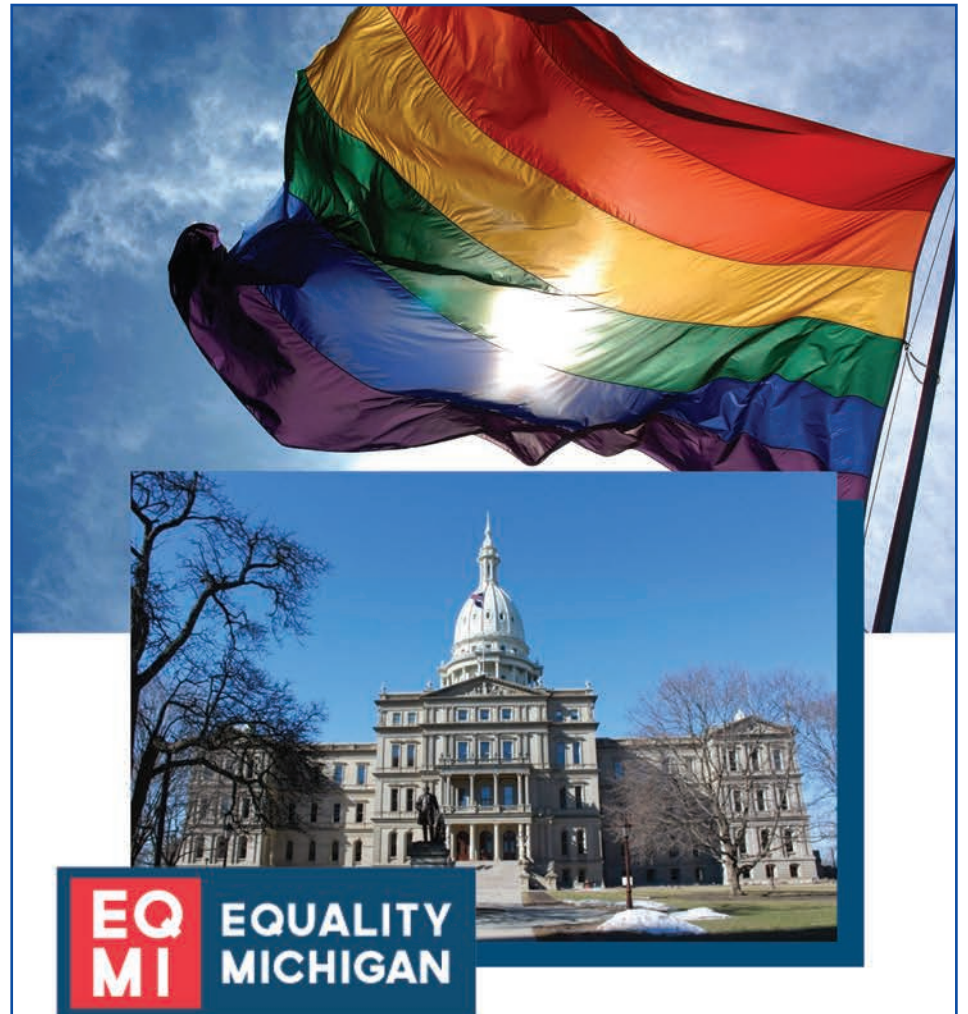
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www.equalitymi.org

Rep. Hoadley, Sen. O'Brien Honored by Caring Across Generations

BY BTL STAFF

LANSING – On April 19, State Rep. Jon Hoadley and State Sen. Margaret O'Brien were announced as Care Champion awardees by Caring Across Generations, a national care giving advocacy campaign.

Rep. Hoadley, an openly gay man, was recognized for being the chief sponsor of the Long-Term Care Study Bill HB 4674. That bill would do a rigorous needs assessment of long-term care in Michigan, so that we have the research necessary to make informed decisions around long-term care in a state whose population is aging rapidly. The bill has bipartisan support and over 40 co-sponsors. Hoadley gave testimony on it during a hearing in the Health Policy Committee in the fall of 2017.

"I am excited and honored to accept this award on behalf of all of the folks who are doing work to protect the Caring Majority," says Rep. Hoadley. "The Long-Term Care Study Bill is both the right thing to do for our citizens and taxpayers of Michigan. I hope we



can continue to build momentum to sign this bill into law."

Senator O'Brien was recognized due to her support for in-home caregivers and families providing care, such as care for children, elderly parents or disabled family members.

In particular, her bill, SB 749, passed in the Senate in 2018 to allow, beginning in tax year 2018, a Michigan income tax credit for dependent care that mirrors the one offered at the federal level.

"More and more families are struggling

with how to care for our loved ones while making ends meet, but our policies are lagging far behind the reality of what Americans need," said Ai-jen Poo, co-director of Caring Across Generations. "Luckily, we have care champions like Rep. Hoadley and Senator O'Brien, who are showing us what is possible when principled leadership is coupled with bold policy solutions. We need more elected officials like Rep. Hoadley and Senator O'Brien to call for making our care infrastructure strong enough for the 21st century."

Michigan United is a partner of Caring Across Generations. Its representative Ryan Bates said that he too was pleased to honor both Hoadley and O'Brien.

"For years, Rep. Hoadley and Senator O'Brien have been legislators we can count on to support the Caring Majority. We're pleased to be able to honor Rep. Hoadley and Senator O'Brien for their work, and look forward to continuing to work together to ensure that all of us who need care and all of us who provide that care get the support we need," said Bates.

Michigan's Safe Delivery Law Helping Save Newborns

BY BTL STAFF

LANSING – As part of Child Abuse Prevention Month outreach efforts, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is urging Michigan citizens to learn about the state's Safe Delivery Law, and how they can help keep babies safe by promoting awareness of the statute.

To highlight the importance of this potentially life-saving law, April 20 has been proclaimed Safe Delivery of Newborns Day by Gov. Rick Snyder.

Under the law, a biological parent may legally surrender an infant no more than 72 hours old to an emergency service provider. An emergency service provider is a uniformed or otherwise identified employee or contractor of a hospital, fire department or police station that is inside the building and on duty, or a paramedic or emergency medical technician, who responds to a 911 call.

"Tragically, newborn infants have died due to neglect and exposure after being abandoned. This reminds us of the importance of ensuring public awareness of the Safe Delivery Law," said Nick Lyon, MDHHS director. "We urge all Michiganders to help spread the word about the safe, legal and anonymous option of surrendering an infant, who will then be placed with a loving adoptive family."

Since the state law was enacted in 2001, more than 200 babies have been surrendered in Michigan.

To learn more about the Safe Delivery Law, visit Michigan.gov/safedelivery or call the toll-free 24-hour hotline at 866-733-7733.

ACLU of Michigan to Hold LGBTQ Community Forum in Benton Harbor

BY BTL STAFF

BENTON HARBOR – On Tuesday, May 1 at 6 p.m., Jay Kaplan of the ACLU of Michigan, in partnership with the OutCenter, will hold a free community forum at Benton Harbor's Phoenix Coffeeshop.

"The forum is an outstanding opportunity for allies and LGBTQ+ community members to gather and talk about the issues we are facing in our area right now," said OutCenter Board Chair Marci Weber.

Presenter Jay Kaplan said that, "As the ACLU of Michigan's LGBT Project serves members of the LGBT community throughout the State of Michigan, it's important that we visit communities throughout Michigan to provide an update on legal and policy issues, as well as hear from constituents regarding both their concerns and needs, in order to ensure that we are addressing



them."

"The forum will also give us suggestions on the hard questions we should be asking those that wish to represent us in government," Weber said.

Discussion will be around the state of LGBTQ+ rights in Michigan, including employment and housing discrimination, religious exemption acts, insurance and healthcare for transgender people and legal challenges facing LGBTQ+ families, such as adoption. There will be plenty of opportunity for community input, questions and concerns, as well.

"I am looking very much forward to meeting with LGBT community members and allies affiliated with the OutCenter and am hoping to have both the opportunity to inform as well as have a productive dialogue with the community," said Kaplan.

The Phoenix Coffeeshop is located at 124 Water St. in Benton Harbor. The venue will also provide coffee and food available for purchase throughout the evening.

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