

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



Solidarity Rallies
Across Michigan
This Weekend

AARP Reports
on LGBT Aging

Sean Hayes Talks
'Will & Grace'

Supreme Court
Sends Back
'Religious
Freedom' Case

***Flint Eastwood's
'Real Love' Defies
Religious Homophobia***



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COVER

6 Flint Eastwood's 'Real Love' Defies Religious Homophobia

NEWS

4 History Wheel 3

6 Flint Eastwood's 'Real Love' Defies Religious Homophobia

8 Congresswoman Lawrence, 14th District Democrats Endorse Jeremy Moss

8 AARP National LGBT Liaison Reports on LGBT Aging at Conference

10 Solidarity Rallies Across Michigan This Weekend

10 Protestors Brave Bad Weather to Rally for Immigrant Solidarity

14 Supreme Court Sends Back 'Religious Freedom' Case From Anti-Gay Florist

14 US Withdraws from UN Human Rights Council

16 Three LGBTI Activists Killed in Mexico

OPINION

12 Parting Glances

12 Viewpoint

13 Creep of the Week

LIFE

18 Sean Hayes Talks 'Will & Grace'

24 Regular WIG Drag Shows Take Midtown

28 Deep Inside Hollywood

COOL CITIES

22 Royal Oak Summer Concert Starts on July 5

26 Happenings

29 Puzzle and Crossword

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



33 Drag Queens Spill About Their History in Panel Discussion

33 LGBT Detroit's Hotter Than July 2018 Schedule

34 A Major Milestone for Campaign to End Partisan Gerrymandering

34 Community Enjoys Free BBQ Courtesy of Wrigley's Pharmacy

34 Adam Rippon to Keynote Equality Michigan

THE INTERVIEW

Sean Hayes Talks 'Will & Grace'

See page 18



MICHIGAN NEWS



AARP National LGBT Liaison Reports on LGBT Aging at Conference

See page 8

NATIONAL NEWS



Supreme Court Sends Back 'Religious Freedom' Case From Anti-Gay Florist

See page 14

CREEP OF THE WEEK



Sara Huckabee Sanders

See page 13

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THE '90S - 1996

AUGUST - Queer Political Groups Merge

The Michigan Human Rights Campaign Committee and the Lesbian and Gay Community Equality Project joined forces to become the Michigan Pride Political Action Committee, or Pride PAC, to better mobilize the gay and lesbian vote in the 1996 elections.



JUNE - Lesbian Couple Settles Housing Suit

Gretchen Fogel and Carla Daniels accepted an undisclosed settlement to resolve their discrimination case against University Townhouses Cooperative. They were denied the opportunity to apply jointly to the Cooperative because they were not related by blood or marriage. This is believed to be the first time that marital status and sex provisions of the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act were used to uphold the housing rights of a same-sex couple.

FLASHING BACK TO THE PAST:

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993
BTL 25th ANNIVERSARY
 Between the Lines



APRIL - Students For Equality

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance at Oakland University held a protest on April 24 to condemn the OU Board of Trustees for its refusal to amend university non-discrimination policies to include sexual orientation in the Equal Opportunity Policy for students. The amendment came before the Board again in June and a decision was made 5-2 in favor of passing it.

JULY - State of AIDS in Michigan

As of July 1, Michigan had seen a total of 6,872 AIDS cases, of which 72 percent (4,014) had died. It was estimated that there were from 8,500 to 11,500 cases of HIV-positive people in Michigan - 16th highest in the nation.



JUNE - Close Call

Dr. Henry Messer was in the hospital for eight days after being shot in the abdomen at the Triangle Foundation offices on June 28 during an apparent robbery attempt. Messer was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the June's Gay and Lesbian Pride Awards Banquet in Detroit.

THE JENNY JONES MURDER

A Shocking Crime - Scott Amedure from Lake Orion goes on the nationally-syndicated "The Jenny Jones Show" on March 6, 1995 and reveals he has a secret crush on acquaintance Jonathan Schmitz. Three days after the taping, Schmitz drives to Amedure's mobile home and delivers two shotgun blasts to his chest, killing him.

A Disappointing Verdict - Schmitz is tried for first-degree murder in 1996, but is found guilty of a lesser charge, second-degree murder, as a result of Oakland County Prosecutor Dick Thompson's "gay panic"

defense. Schmitz is sentenced to 25-50 years. The decision was overturned on appeal. Upon retrial, Schmitz was found guilty of the same charge once again and his sentence was reinstated. The Triangle Foundation's Executive Director Jeffrey Montgomery was a frequent contributor to Court TV during the trial.

(Almost) Wrongful Death - In 1999, the Amedure family sued "The Jenny Jones



Show" for wrongful death using Geoffrey Fieger as their attorney. The family was awarded a \$25 million judgment, but it was subsequently overturned by the Michigan Court of Appeals. The Michigan Supreme Court declined to hear the case.

(Some) Time Served - Schmitz was incarcerated in the minimum-security Parnall Correctional Facility. He was granted parole and released from prison on Aug. 22, 2017 after serving only 22 years.

The Gay Panic Defense

- The gay and trans-panic defense is banned in murder cases in only two U.S. states - California (September 2014) and Illinois (August 2017), but the American Bar Association suggests other states follow their lead. This prohibits attorneys from submitting as a defense that their client was threatened by the victim's real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.



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Flint Eastwood's 'Real Love' Defies Religious Homophobia

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

A recurring theme in Jax Anderson's life has been religion. Specifically, it's been the church. And from a very young age, it was where she found solace, hope, family and discovered her musical ability. Today, Anderson is better known as Flint Eastwood and perhaps because of a push from the divine, she even writes her music at Assemble Sound – a former Corktown church repurposed as a creative hub for musicians. However, her latest song, "Real Love" which dropped on Friday, June 22, addresses the homophobia present in Christianity. Namely, the actions of her former Metro City Church Pastor Jeremy Schossau, who earned widespread criticism last winter when he began providing classes for young girls that many called "conversion therapy." Anderson, who is openly gay, said she wrote the song because "no kid should."

"To them, it's coming from a place of love," Anderson said. "I understand that there are certain sects of religion that have a differing opinion from me, but I think at a certain point you have to ask yourself, 'Is my opinion hurting more than it's helping?' I think with the LGBTQ community the church has really, really hurt a lot of people. It's something that they need to start owning up to instead of trying to change (others) all the time."

But as much hurt as Anderson herself endured while being closeted in a heavily religious community, she is firm that her song is not meant as an attack on Metro City Church or Schossau. Rather, it's her way of putting out "the whole story" and emphasizing a perspective that people who aren't part of the LGBTQ community might not see: that love can and does exist outside of heterosexual boundaries.

"He was my pastor all throughout high school. My whole purpose in writing this is to tell the story of the people (the church is) affecting and to give those people a light and a hope. But I don't think anybody deserves death threats or as crazy as the internet can get," Anderson said, referring to the heavy online pushback that both Schossau and Metro City Church received.



Photo courtesy of the artist.

Religious Roots

But not by accident, "Real Love" shows off a prominently religious sound with its church-esque choral pulses and broad, gospel feel – all with a unique, Flint Eastwood pop twist. This is a sound that comes naturally to Anderson, as her formative years were spent learning how to write religious music in church.

"I learned how to play and write music in that context. I would say that the positive of that is that as a pop musician I need to write something that stays in people's minds," Anderson said. "And with modern church music you have to be able to sing the song by the end of it, so it definitely taught me how to write in a way of catchy melodies and certain cadences and simplicity."

A style that's perfect for relaying a clear message. Perhaps the most powerful part of "Real Love" is a re-recorded quote from Schossau himself, "Because love without truth

is not love, right? And truth without love is not truth." He uttered those words to applause when he received an award from Watchmen on the Wall, a national religious group that gave Schossau an award for providing his classes and standing up to public pushback. Anderson said she included that statement within the song because it perfectly summed up the duality of love in this situation.

"That line especially is something that runs so true to both sides," Anderson said. "And it's interesting that the intention behind the words can be the difference between someone feeling (great or) awful and going down a rabbit hole of depression that people deal with by not feeling accepted."

Anderson can comment on that feeling better than most, as she herself experienced it when she was growing up.

"I mean, I knew I was gay from the time I was a little kid. I had crushes when I was in preschool. I am, through and through, a very gay human," she said with a laugh. "I

kind of denied it until I was in high school because I would always have in my mind, like, 'Whenever I get to high school I'll pray a lot and God is going to change me and I'm not going to be gay.' Then I got to high school and I realized that it wasn't going away."

Fracturing Relationships

It was at that point that Anderson began to admit to herself that her sexual orientation wasn't a phase, but an integral part of her identity. Church members did not see it that way.

"I told a church member when I was a freshman or in eighth grade and it was just like, 'The devil is lying to you, I'm going to pray for you, that you are shown the right way,' and it just immediately sunk me even deeper into the closet," Anderson said. "It wasn't until I was 19, around that time, that I came out to everyone."

And though most in her immediate circle didn't treat her differently, Anderson's relationship with Metro City Church became strained.

"I actually worked with Metro doing video for them after I had come out and it was a weird situation. They 1099'd me. They made me a contract worker so that if anybody asked if I was on the staff they could say no and cut ties really quick because I was openly gay," she said. "They knew I was gay. They asked me in the interview if I was dating anybody and I said no and they were like, 'OK, just let us know when you start dating somebody.' I started dating somebody very quickly after that and did not tell them."

The rest of Anderson's time at the church was short-lived, but not the lasting effects of her quiet, but firm exclusion. She was devastated by the loss of a community that she had viewed as extended family.

"Truth be told, I was very bitter toward the church for a long time. I was very angry. I was very upset and I was very hurt," Anderson said. "Over time I just realized that they're people too, and sometimes people let you down and sometimes they have a different opinion. It's taken a very long time for me to forgive the church and I feel like I'm finally at a place where I'm OK with it."

Gradual Reconciliation

However, regular churchgoers can still count on seeing Anderson in the pews on occasion.

"I go to church every other Sunday because my older brother is a pastor and I want to be able to support him," she said. "But as far as me being a Christian or being spiritual, I would say no, I'm not anything right now."

When asked how she was successful at reconciling her difficult relationship with organized religion she said that the first step was letting go of internalized anger and bitterness. She made an effort to foster understanding.

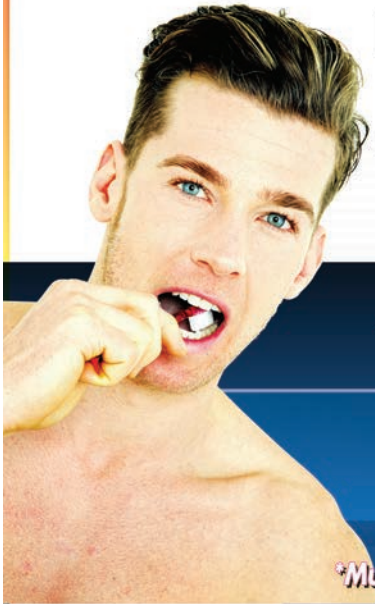
"I think in an aspect where you have different opinions – especially where there's hurt involved – it's very easy to lose respect very quickly. And, for me, I think I've always tried to be very intentional with retaining respect even if I don't agree with somebody," Anderson said. "That goes so across the board. It's so easy to point a finger, it's so easy to yell out hate. All I want to do as a person is to spread love and to spread hope to people and how am I going to do that if I'm pissed off at people?"

Her advice to young people, especially young girls, who are involved in a conservative religious environment is simple: know that hope and happiness is possible.

"You are is beautiful and there's nothing wrong with you and you're not flawed, you're not a mistake, you're not broken," Anderson said. "I would definitely tell myself to find that community that accepts me for who I am a lot quicker. It's so much easier when you learn to accept yourself and love yourself. That's the whole purpose of this song, to show people that that is possible even though with my perspective the church had told me for so long that it wasn't."

Flint Eastwood's "Real Love" is available on all digital platforms. More information about Flint Eastwood can be found online at flinteastwoodmusic.com and about Assemble Sound at assemblesound.com.

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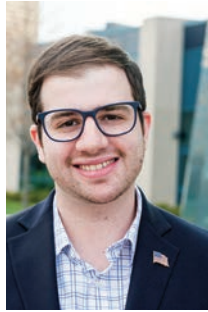
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Congresswoman Lawrence, 14th District Democrats Endorse Jeremy Moss

Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence announced her endorsement of State Rep. Jeremy Moss in his bid for the Michigan State Senate.

Moss, a Southfield Democrat, is currently serving his second term in the State House and is running for the open 11th District State Senate seat.

“Jeremy and I enjoyed a strong partnership when I was Mayor and he was a City Councilman in Southfield, working together on proposals to fix our local roads, make our neighborhoods safer and grow our local economy. Now we share the unfortunate



State Rep. Jeremy Moss

experience of serving in legislative bodies under do-nothing Republican leadership. Jeremy and I are ready to help elect Democratic majorities in Michigan so we can push the progressive agenda that worked for the people in our community when we were local officials,” Lawrence said. “I’m excited to cast my vote for him on August 7th to serve as my State Senator so our partnership can continue.”

Lawrence’s 14th Congressional District and the 11th State Senate District overlap in the cities of Farmington Hills, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Southfield and the Charter Township of Royal Oak.

The 14th Congressional District Democratic Party also voted on Saturday to endorse Moss for State Senate.

“I’m honored that Congresswoman Lawrence and 14th District Democrats place their trust in me to continue to serve at the State Capitol,” Moss said. “My Democratic colleagues and I have put forward legislation to boost wages, repair our infrastructure and support public education but we continue to face Republican obstruction. That’s why I’m organizing with Rep. Lawrence to engage and organize the Democrats in our district so we can change the direction of Michigan government.”

More information can be found out about Rep. Moss at housedems.com/moss and about about Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence at lawrence.house.gov.



Nii-Quartelai Quartey, AARP's national LGBT liaison, speaks to the crowd at the Sage Metro Detroit LGBT Older Adult Summit. BTL photo: Jason A. Michael

AARP National LGBT Liaison Reports on LGBT Aging at Conference

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

One doesn’t always think of the acronyms AARP and LGBT as having anything in common. But, if AARP’s National LGBT Liaison Nii-Quartelai Quartey has his way, the public will come to know that they do. Speaking at Saturday’s LGBT Older Adult Summit, Quartey talked about his work.

“As somebody that was recruited to AARP two years ago to lead this work, to lead our LGBT affairs work among other things, I get pure delight out of the opportunity to change the conversation on aging by finding LGBTs to bring into it,” he said.

Quartey started out his keynote address by pointing out basic statistics that show the strength and power of seniors today. These include the facts that by 2030, over a fifth of the population will be over the age of 65, if you are 10 years old or younger today you have a 50-50 chance of living to 104 and that 51 cents of every dollar that circulates in the U.S. is from someone over 50.

“The way that people are aging is changing,” Quartey said. “What 50 looks like and feels like today might not look or feel like our grandparents’ 50, or our great-grandparents’ 50.”

Quartey spent much of his time talking about what he called AARP’s new landmark LGBT research, specifically their newly published work “Maintaining Dignity: A Survey of LGBT Adults Age 45 and Older.”

The report, which can be found online at

aarp.org/pride, features the results of nearly 1,800 respondents. AARP also worked with several national agencies on their research and “recruited to the table” such groups as the Center for Black Equity, the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance, the Victory Fund Institute, the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Gay and Lesbian Real Estate Professionals.

“You know why we [brought them in]?” Quartey asked attendees. “Because we’re serious. You know why we’re serious? Because we understand that not only are LGBT folks vulnerable but if you’re LGBT and a person of color you are even more vulnerable.”

SAGE-Metro Detroit Executive Director Angela Perone, lauded the findings of the report.

“AARP’s recent survey Maintaining Dignity underscored several areas that need more attention for LGBT older adults including training for healthcare providers, reducing social isolation and increasing LGBT-welcoming housing,” Perone said. “SAGE Metro Detroit is working on all of these areas — and on a very shoestring budget. We are proud of the partnerships we have already developed and excited to build more collaborations to tackle these critical issues.”

The SAGE conference, which drew a crowd of about 150, featured other keynote speakers such as Kofi Adoma, who spoke on “Living Long, Living Well,” Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow on “Bringing Spirituality Out of

the Closet,” Joe Kort on “Cracking the Erotic Code: How Your Sexuality Changes Over the Lifespan” and Jay Kaplan on “Recent Legal and Policy Developments for LGBT Older Adults.” SAGE Metro Detroit also presented a Lifetime Achievement award to Jim Toy and a Volunteer of the Year award to Albert Stumpmeir.

“This year marked one of our most successful Summits yet, with record-level attendance and community support, and a diverse group of dynamic speakers,” said Perone. “Our community sponsors and vendors allowed us to provide free breakfast, lunch and valet parking. We know that transportation issues can pose barriers for many older adults in attending programs, and we heard from several people that the free valet parking encouraged them to attend.”

Perone said the summit provides one of the few places LGBT older adults and allies can gather to focus on issues impacting LGBT older adults.

“This year’s day-long event focused on health and well-being,” she said. “While the statistics on health disparities and support for LGBT older adults are very discouraging, we also know that LGBT older adults are a resilient community and have a long history of supporting each other.”

More information about SAGE can be found online at sagemetrodetroit.org

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Beth K. Mutch, MSN, FNP-BC
Corinne Sakyi, MSN, CNM, WHNP-BC
(Not pictured: Hina Javaid, MD)

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Solidarity Rallies Across Michigan This Weekend

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Families Belong Together is a political activism organization that, “Opposes the cruel, inhumane and unjustified separation of children from their parents along the U.S. border with Mexico and at other ports of entry into the U.S.” This coming Saturday, June 30, organizers from this group and allies of their cause will join together across Michigan and U.S. to protest the ongoing separation done by the U.S. government. More information about upcoming events like this can be found online at act.moveon.org.

Here is a list of five such gatherings across Michigan happening on June 30:

Michigan State Capitol

11 a.m.
100 N Capitol Ave, Lansing

Port Huron ICE Protest

Noon
St. Clair County Jail
1170 Michigan Road Port Huron

Hart Plaza ICE Protest Detroit

Noon
Hart Plaza
1 Hart Plaza, Detroit

Clark Park ICE Protest

1 p.m.
Clark Park
1130 Clark Ave., Detroit

Pontiac ICE Protest

10 a.m.
Pontiac Public Library
2225, 60 E. Pike St., Pontiac

Ann Arbor ICE Protest

11 a.m.
The Diag
913 S. University Ave., Ann Arbor



Protestors converged on Bagley Pedestrian Bridge on Friday, June 22 for an Immigrant Solidarity Rally. Holding signs are Adele Hawkins and Tora Brumalis. BTL Photos: Jem Zero

Protestors Brave Bad Weather to Rally for Immigrant Solidarity

BY JEM ZERO

Friday, June 22, was a bit miserable because of a persistent, freezing cold rain, but that wasn't enough to keep a few dogged protesters away from an Immigrant Solidarity Rally. The event took place on the Bagley Pedestrian Bridge.

Brianna Dee Kingsley, organizer of the event and activist working with Metro Detroit Political Action Network, explained why she felt moved to make this gesture.

“It was just time to make a stand,” she said. “I know people who are directly affected by the horrific tactics of the devious administration we are stuck with. They are scared to speak.”

In addition to her work as an organizer, Kingsley is an executive with 10 years of experience in business as well as the founder of Great Lakes Equity, LLC. An organization that is dedicated to “educate, advocate and influence and foster understanding and community.” Kingsley, who read a poem written by an anonymous refugee, has dedicated her experience with privilege to lending her voice to those who are afraid to raise their own.

Among the protesters who showed up were Larry and Geri Biggs, both of whom are retired social workers. The two are no strangers to the activist scene and they said they have invested much of their time in protesting the actions of the Trump Administration. “Primarily we’re just looking to support anything that is

equality and justice for all people, regardless of where they are from and who they love,” said Larry Biggs.

“Things we took for granted before ... we can't do it anymore,” explained Geri Biggs. “Things we thought were moving in the right direction are going backwards.”

A young woman in a hijab also attended the rally. Her name is Rezwana Ahmed and was invited by Kingsley. She said she believes strongly in supporting refugees and immigrants.

“I don't know anyone personally [who has been deported], but a lot of people in my neighborhood have been affected,” Ahmed said. “Even students on visa have had that taken away.”

New efforts by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency under Trump have caused significant peril for refugees and immigrants, including those who have entered the country legally and broken no laws. Even immigrants who already have citizenship could be in danger of deportation. And, according to organizers, this is particularly concerning for Metro Detroit and its surrounding areas which are heavily populated by immigrants from many origins.

For example, nearly 7 percent of Michigan residents are immigrants according to the American Immigration Council, and nearly one in 12 residents are the children of at least one immigrant parent. According to the last census in 2010, 6.2 percent of the population



in Metro Detroit are Latino, which makes the rally's location near Mexicantown in Detroit particularly impactful, considering the disproportionate amount of Latino citizens and immigrants who are targeted by ICE.

Bearing statistics like that in mind, Kingsley emphasized another reason why she is encouraging others to stand up in support of immigrants.

“A basic principle of Islam that is widely propagated by respected scholars and imams is that once you become aware, you cannot become unaware,” said Kingsley, who has attended lessons and services at local mosques.

Kingsley is using this principle as a fueling factor in her advocacy work, and is working with multiple organizations to maintain momentum to these rallies. Currently, she is working with Equality Michigan, Equality MI Pride PAC and Great Lakes Equity to continue fighting for the rights of not only LGBTQ people, but other marginalized communities as well. There are plans for another such rally on the first Sunday of July, at 2 p.m.



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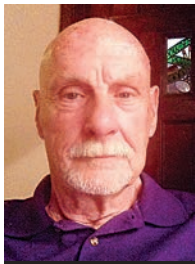
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Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Diary of Theocratic Days Ahead

June 28, 2025 [Editor's Note: Translated Cursive English] Dear Diary: Another same-sex couple has been "relocated" – my neighbors two doors down, the boys who did a wonderful job of gentrifying that old house on Wells Street.

Didn't really get to know them, but they always waved, said hello. Just gone! Last week, two others. Tom and Martin. Belonged to my block club – gadabouts but great gardeners – just disappeared. Very strange.

Within days their condopex – furniture and all – was 'appropriated' by America First party members. Last night there was a burning in the parking lot of their books and antique CD collection (rare 78-rpm albums of Garland, Streisand, Sinatra – whoever he was).

Come to think of it, as much as I didn't like them – too secretive, if you ask me – Margo and her longtime partner Ella who were in their mid-70s seem also to have vanished.

A nosy neighbor at Ye Olde Coffee Cup whispered to me they were taken away in a black van about 3 a.m. and screaming.

I mind my own business – or, at least I try to, dear Diary – but something's going on, not only in this small town but our capitol as well.

Any one with half a brain could see it coming. 2021: all same-sex marriages voided, constitutionally made illegal. 2022: gays and lesbians must declare themselves homosexuals and register for one-year of free – but mandatory – church/state sponsored reparative therapy (if caught afterward in the slightest compromising behavior – say holding hands – they're subject to further RT for as long as it takes, and at their own expense).

2023: all homosexuals must get listed with photo, fingerprints, sex contacts, on the America First Homosexual Watch List.

Ditto 2023: homosexuals are barred from teaching, practicing law, medicine, acting on stage or hologram touch-and-feel, wide-screen movies (New Hollywood's in a panic!) And:

"All known, avowed, militant 'homos' (America First Party derogatory term for non-curable sexual deviants) "must wear a rainbow armband, and observe a weekly 8 p.m. body Wi-Fi monitoring curfew."

(July 4, 2023): Dear Diary: Today I learn at an AF-sponsored church picnic that recalcitrant homos are being relocated to canyon-center West. My friend Martha, who (sworn secret to these diary pages) had several suspect acquaintances – received a smuggled-out postcard:

"Having a trying time. Overcrowded. Bad-ass place. Health concerns. Miss family. Prayers. D. L. 'Bro' Jones.

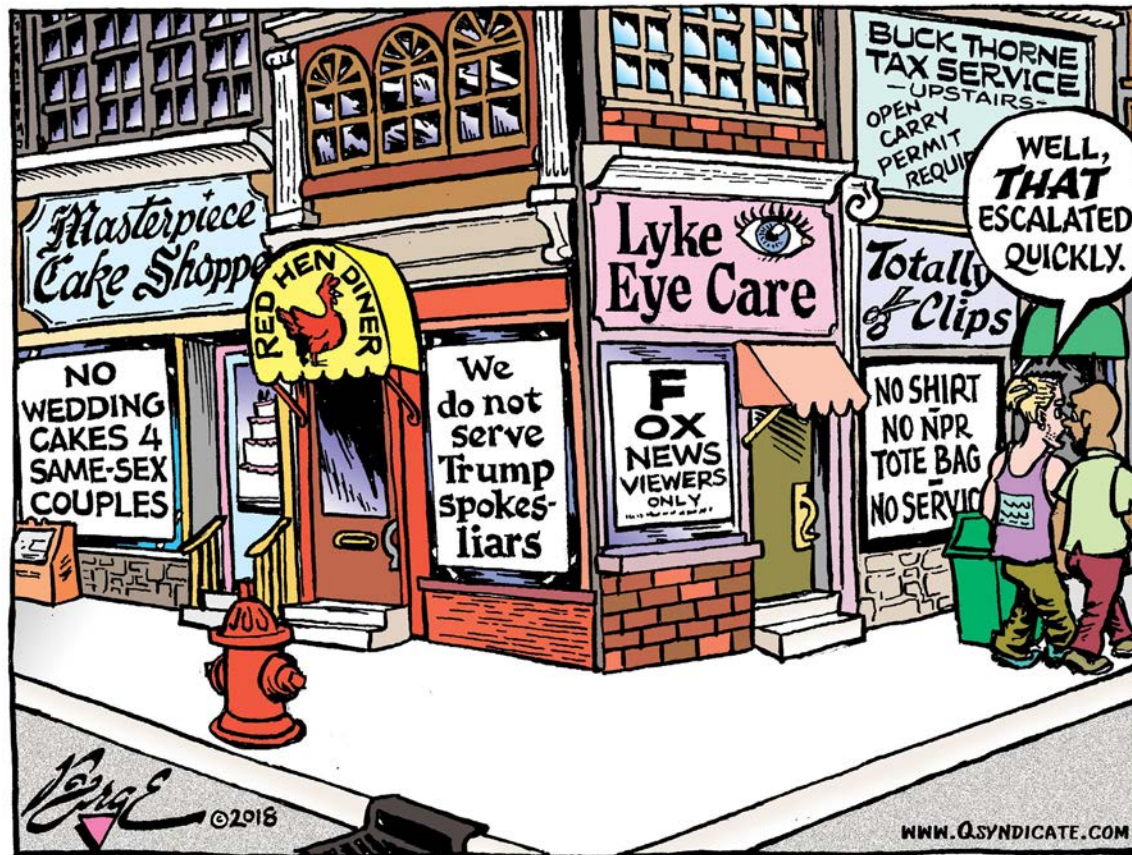
(Sept. 15, Trump Memorial Sunday): America First Party President Hal Harkinback spoke on all TV channels about the concessions we have to make during the 10 Year Plan.

Asked for a "unity of vision," a need to "be vigilant for any behavior or opinion, covert or otherwise, that's unpatriotic, anti-state, going against political and/or theocratic good.

"It's the duty of every thinking citizen to report any abomination of loyalty."

(Oct. 31, Halloween): Picked up Banner of Victory, unfortunately our only news source. A fifth-page item caught my eye.

See next page



BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

Transmissions

Pride is More Than Performance

It's pride month, and this means a whole lot of people will take or have taken to the streets across the world, festooned in their best rainbow gear. We'll march, party and do all those things we'll do at pride. It will be crazy and chaotic, and we will be the big messy community we are, in all our glory.

Increasingly, too, this means that corporations will hop on the bandwagon, ready to support us for a handful of days, hoping to lure our dollars into their coffers. Over the years, I've had the dubious pleasure to see the involvement of corporations grow from the days of a handful of internet startups hocking free logo-emblazoned cups and Frisbees to the big players of today rolling our pride fashion lines and glitzy ads.

Now I don't feel that corporations don't deserve a place at the table, though a lot of it feels incredibly ham-fisted and more than a little sleazy. Then again, that's how I feel most times a company tries to shoehorn their products into holidays and such.

For example, once again Target has set up a pride selection at their stores. They even have some trans-specific goods. I'm actually glad for that, considering

that maybe some young LGBTQ person might see this stuff and feel like they can be accepted in this culture at large, even in these challenging times. That's a really good thing.

At the same time, I can question why Target can't get the idea that red comes first when they set up their rainbow flag-style packaging.

Nevertheless, I'm not going to get too hot under the collar over such things. If a company wants to create something with the LGBTQ community in mind, or spread a message of love and acceptance for all of us, then who am I to criticize that?

Yet it isn't so simple.

Recently, users of Instagram discovered that they were getting "shadowbanned." That is, their content was looking to be just as it should be, but none of their photos or videos were showing up when searched.

As it turned out, Instagram had opted to shadowban certain specific hashtags from search, flagging them as

See next page

► Transmissions

Continued from p. 12

being possibly pornographic. Unfortunately, this included a lot of LGBTQ-specific hashtags.

The irony, of course, is that while this is going on, Instagram also rolled out rainbow-colored hashtags for certain terms for pride month. So you could have #LGBT in rainbow tones, but #gay could result in a shadowban.

Things, of course, get more complicated on Instagram when one talks about trans bodies. Instagram, for example, doesn't allow the baring of what they refer to as "female nipples." A user by the name of Rain Dove – who doesn't identify as female or male – had their topless photo playing basketball with a friend removed for violating this guideline.

This, of course, is often an issue in online spaces, as so many choose to let algorithms do the work, without those same algorithms understanding nuance and liminal spaces.

A similar issue has cropped up with YouTube, which has been caught demonetizing and otherwise penalizing transgender users of the platform – all the while releasing their own #ProudToCreate hashtag and accompanying video.

Trans YouTube user Chase Ross recently came forth, showing that his videos have been demonetized, age restricted and such because of the trans content of his work. He went so far as to film his upload process, showing that the video was marked as "not available for most advertisers" when he added the word "transgender" to the clip's title.

Even more insidious, some YouTube content creators have even seen anti-LGBTQ ads show up before their content.

Once again, YouTube blames the algorithms, saying via spokesman that, "Sometimes our systems get it wrong."

Beyond these sites, we've seen issues with online T-shirt stores recently, both selling anti-transgender content, while simultaneously

delisting content created by trans creators for "hate speech" for using the term TERF, an acronym for "Transgender-Exclusionary Radical Feminist."

The worst example this year, however, would have to go towards cosmetics creator Ipsy.

They were attempting to release a video with a message of hope for LGBTQ people, only to start the video with one of their models touting her attraction to women, and speaking of a "spectrum" between transgender women and "authentic cisgender women" – as if to say that transgender women are not, themselves, authentic.

Ipsy, perhaps knowing that they could not blame this on an algorithm apologized and removed the video. The model herself also apologized.

Like I said before, I'm glad that so many companies are stepping up and trying to show their support. I appreciate it even more when they specifically go out of their way to include transgender people.

At the same time, their tone-deafness towards LGBTQ people in general and transgender issues specifically rankles me. It feels a bit like, oh, bars offering specials on "Irish Car Bombs" and "Black and Tans" for St. Patrick's Day, or perhaps people running around in sombreros and fake mustaches for Cinco de Mayo.

More than this, claiming to support us by festooning your business or website with rainbows, while actively harming us in other ways – such as YouTube's demonetizing as well as offering anti-LGBTQ ads to viewers – does little to prove you are the ally you claim to be.

What it really comes down to, for me, is an issue of actions over words. It's great to claim to be supportive, but unless you back it up with concrete actions of support, the words are simply words: they hold no meaning.

Gwen Smith wishes her readers a safe and happy pride. You'll find her on the web at gwen.smith.com.

Harkinback, "no government tax monies have been used to support or enhance any aberrant lifestyle housing or needs. Many may perish. Sadly, that's their choice. God and country come first! Homos come last. If at all."

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

Creep of the Week

Sarah Huckabee Sanders

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI



Sarah Huckabee Sanders, White House press secretary, speaks during a press conference at the White House briefing room in Washington, D.C., U.S., on June 14, 2018. Photo by Olivier Douliery/Abaca Press(Sipa via AP Images)

There's been a lot of talk about "civility" lately which was triggered by the owner of a restaurant asking a woman who is known worldwide for lying on the behalf of a white supremacist administration headed by a man who is trying to, and succeeding in, turning America into a dictatorship.

So, if the story about Sarah Huckabee Sanders being refused service at the Red Hen in Virginia has you more worried about Sanders getting her feelings hurt than about the fact that the government Sanders works for is putting babies in cages, then you don't deserve civility. In other words, fuck you.

Now, I know that some people will read my "fuck you" as "sinking to their level," but fuck that. Americans have normalized this descent into fascism from day one, and I'm not having it.

And when I say "Americans," I'm talking about white people, primarily cisgender heterosexual men. And, wouldn't you know it, this particular demographic happens to also be the one that is either: 1) Totes that they are OK with Trump and that they are not worried or 2) tells the rest of us that we need to fight fascism with civility.

That is not how it works, folks. Being nice doesn't save lives. It doesn't change hearts and minds. And it sure as hell isn't going to save our democracy.

According to an interview with the owner in the Washington Post, some of the employees at the Red Hen were gay. I've heard the argument that throwing Sanders out of a restaurant was a missed opportunity for gays to show Sanders, and the world I guess, how they "are capable and people worthy of respect."

Um, no. It is not the job of the oppressed to prove their humanity to the oppressors.

Racists aren't racist just because they haven't encountered enough nice black and brown people. Homophobes don't hate gays because they just haven't had the right one wait on them in a restaurant. Misogynists don't hate women just because they haven't met the right one yet.

This stuff comes from deeply rooted hate and fear. Ain't no amount of nice gonna cure that.

I've heard white people saying that Sarah Huckabee Sanders and her father Mike Huckabee used to be good Christian

people with values and whatever happened to them?

Not surprisingly, the people who I've heard say this are straight white guys. Of course they can look back on Mike Huckabee's long career in the public eye and see a nice guy who plays bass guitar and tells corny jokes but who is maybe a little too conservative for their tastes.

As a woman married to a woman, I have no fond memories of Mike Huckabee. His entire career he has sought to deny me the right to be married and the right to make the most basic decisions about my reproductive health. Now he's posting openly racist stuff on Twitter in defense of Trump's take-your-baby-at-the-border policy and people are surprised? It's all part of the same package, folks.

So, yeah, I don't owe him or his daughter any kindness. They have shown none to the most vulnerable populations in this country. They have used their power to perpetuate hate.

So yeah, fuck them.

Of course, incivility is not the answer. We can't "go-fuck-yourself" out of this mess. Yes, we must keep speaking out against the hate and evil we are seeing. We must never stop that. But words only go so far.

Two of the most powerful words are "I voted." The people leading our country are evil. They have no moral compass. And, yes, there are valid complaints to make about the Democratic Party. But they are not the party cool with snatching brown babies from asylum seekers and putting them in cages. Let's make this blue wave happen. And then hold them Democrats fucking accountable like our lives depend on it, because they do.

► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 13

"Washington, D.C. has become the first zone to be fully free of 'homos.' This thorough 'cleansing' is the result of thousands of undercover reports, well-coordinated psychological efforts, low-visibility roundup strategies," it read.

"Reparative Therapy accounts for much of this outcome, so much so that, as approved therapy for brain rewiring, it will be used – along with mind altering religious ministrations – for other anti-America First asocial tendencies," it continued. "Those 'homos' not responding to RT have been relocated to Spartan camps in an off-limits Arizona Desert reservation.

"Rest assured," stresses President Donald

Supreme Court Sends Back 'Religious Freedom' Case From Anti-Gay Florist

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday announced that it has sent back for review to Washington State a lawsuit filed by an anti-gay florist seeking a First Amendment right to refuse service to same-sex weddings.

The court announced the decision in an orders list on Monday, which reflected decisions made on many petitions for certiorari considered at its conference last Thursday.

Although the Supreme Court granted certiorari and vacated the decision against her by the Washington Supreme Court, justices also remanded the case back to that body for reconsideration in light of the U.S. Supreme Court's narrow decision for Colorado baker Jack Phillips in the Masterpiece Cakeshop lawsuit.

That means the U.S. Supreme Court won't consider the judgment Barronelle Stutzman, the owner of Arlene's Flowers, was seeking: A sweeping right under the First Amendment based on freedom of religion and freedom of speech to refuse to provide floral services for same-sex weddings.

Alliance Defending Freedom, the anti-LGBT legal group representing Arlene's Flowers, nonetheless praised the action from the U.S. Supreme Court as a win.

Kristen Waggoner, the senior vice president of ADF's U.S. legal division, said in a statement the U.S. Supreme Court "rightfully asked the Washington Supreme Court to reconsider Barronelle's case in light of the Masterpiece Cakeshop decision."

"In that ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court denounced government hostility toward the religious beliefs about marriage held by creative professionals like Jack and Barronelle," Waggoner said. "The state of Washington, acting through its attorney general, has shown similar hostility here."

The Washington Supreme Court ruled against Stutzman last year as a result of legal action brought against her by Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson, who contended she violated the Washington Law Against Discrimination by declining to provide floral services for the same-sex wedding of Curt Freed and Robert Ingersoll. The decision upheld the ruling of the Benton County Superior Court, which found Stutzman violated the law and fined her \$1,000.

Waggoner, who argued on Stutzman's behalf before the Washington Supreme Court in 2016, insisted Stutzman "serves all customers," but won't create "custom art that expresses messages or

See next page

US Withdraws from UN Human Rights Council

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS

The U.S. on June 19 announced it has withdrawn from the U.N. Human Rights Council.

U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley told reporters during a press conference at the State Department that Cuba, Venezuela, China, the Democratic Republic of Congo and other countries "with unambiguous and abhorrent human rights records" are members of the council. She also accused the council of having a "chronic bias against" Israel.

"America has a proud legacy as a champion of human rights, a proud legacy as the world's largest provider of humanitarian aid, and a proud legacy of liberating oppressed people and defeating tyranny throughout the world," said Haley. "While we do not seek to impose the American system on anyone else, we do support the rights of all people to have freedoms bestowed on them by their creator. That is why we are withdrawing from the U.N. Human Rights Council, an organization that is not worthy of its name."

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo also spoke to reporters.

"We have no doubt that there was once a noble vision for this council," he said. "But today, we need to be honest – the Human Rights Council is a poor defender of human rights."

Pompeo added the council "has become an exercise in shameless hypocrisy – with many of the world's worst human rights abuses going ignored, and some of the world's most serious offenders sitting on the council itself."

The U.N. created the council in 2006.

The U.S. joined the council in 2009 after former President Obama took office. The council over the last decade has become an increasingly vocal champion of LGBTI rights.

The council in 2011 narrowly approved an LGBTI rights resolution. It adopted a resolution against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in 2014.

The council in 2016 approved the creation of the U.N.'s first-ever position to combat anti-LGBTI violence and discrimination. Cuba and Venezuela are among the countries that voted for the resolution.

The U.S. last September voted against a council resolution that includes a provision condemning the death penalty for those found guilty of committing consensual same-sex sexual acts. An American official told the Washington Blade the U.S. backed



The Trump administration on June 19, 2018, announced the U.S. has withdrawn from the U.N. Human Rights Council. Photo by sanjibakshi; courtesy Flickr

language in the resolution "against the discriminatory use of the death penalty based on an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity, while also requesting changes to make the larger resolution in accordance with U.S. law" that says the death penalty is legal.

The Human Rights Campaign and the Council for Global Equality are among the organizations that told Pompeo in a letter they are "deeply disappointed" with the Trump administration's decision to withdraw the U.S. from the council.

"This decision is counterproductive to American national security and foreign policy interests and will make it more difficult to advance human rights priorities and aid victims of abuse around the world," they said.

Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Ron Dermer on Tuesday applauded the decision when he spoke at his embassy's annual Pride reception in D.C. U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.) – who was born in Havana before the 1959 Cuban revolution brought Fidel Castro to power – also praised Haley and Pompeo.

Tuesday's announcement coincides with growing global outrage over the Trump administration's policy of separating immigrant children from their parents when they enter the U.S. from Mexico.

U.N. experts have sharply criticized the U.S. over its response to Hurricane Maria that devastated Puerto Rico last September.

The Trump administration's overall LGBTI rights record also continues to spark outrage among activists.

"Without a history of progress on LGBTIQ human rights at the Human Rights Council we would have no progress to speak of within the U.N. system today," said OutRight Action International, a global LGBTI advocacy group, in a statement. "Withdrawing from the council sends a message to other countries that its acceptable to walk away from the system when it doesn't suit you to be there."

"Imagine, what would happen if all countries walked away from the U.N. because of disagreements," asked the organization.

Haley at the State Department press conference stressed the administration has "used America's voice and vote to defend human rights at the U.N. every day, and we will continue to do so."

"Even as we end our membership in the Human Rights Council, we will keep trying to strengthen the entire framework of the U.N. engagement on human rights issues, and we will continue to strongly advocate for reform of the Human Rights Council," she said. "Should it become reformed, we would be happy to rejoin it."

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

► Supreme Court

Continued from p. 14

celebrates events in conflict with her deeply held religious beliefs.”

“The Washington attorney general’s efforts to punish her because he dislikes her beliefs about marriage are as impermissible as Colorado’s attempt to punish Jack,” Waggoner said.

Waggoner said Ferguson didn’t prosecute a business that berated and discriminated against Christian customers with anti-abortion, anti-LGBT views, but in contrast pursued measures to punish Stutzman for refusing to provide floral services for a same-sex wedding.

Ferguson said in a statement “we expected this procedural step” from the U.S. Supreme Court in the aftermath of the Masterpiece Cakeshop decision.

“The Washington State Supreme Court now has the job of determining whether the U.S. Supreme Court ruling affects this case,” Ferguson said. “I am confident they will come to the same conclusion they did in their previous, unanimous ruling upholding the civil rights of same-sex couples in our state.”

Much like the Masterpiece Cakeshop decision, LGBT groups are split on the action from the U.S. Supreme Court in the Arlene’s Flowers case.

Praising the decision was Masen Davis, CEO of Freedom for All Americans, who pointed out the Supreme Court has now on two separate occasions declined to issue a sweeping ruling allowing anti-LGBT discrimination in the name of “religious freedom.”

“Opponents of LGBTQ equality have asked the Supreme Court for a constitutional right to discriminate against LGBTQ people, and the Court has refused to do so on two separate occasions – first in Masterpiece, and now in Arlene’s Flowers,” Davis said. “Earlier this month, the Supreme Court reaffirmed our nation’s longstanding promise of equal opportunity for all, making clear that all business owners and all customers should be treated with respect.”

Jennifer Pizer, senior counsel and law and policy director at Lambda Legal, had

a different take and called the Supreme Court’s decision “immensely frustrating and disappointing.”

“Just as in the Masterpiece Cakeshop case decided three weeks ago, the Supreme Court should simply have reaffirmed longstanding constitutional principles that freedom of religion is not a license to discriminate,” Pizer said. “Laws requiring businesses to be open to all do not conflict with the Constitution. It is past time to put to rest these proliferating attempts to undermine the civil rights of LGBT people in the name of religion.”

Technically, the Washington Supreme Court could rule in Stutzman’s favor upon reconsideration, but the Supreme Court directed reconsideration in light of the Masterpiece Cakeshop decision, which was a narrow ruling for Phillips on the grounds the Colorado Civil Rights Commission didn’t respect his religious views when considering his case.

Based on that, it’s hard to see how the Washington Supreme Court could issue a sweeping decision enabling anti-LGBT discrimination in the name of “religious freedom” under those instructions. In fact, an Arizona state court in the aftermath of the Masterpiece Cakeshop recently drew on the decision to uphold an LGBT non-discrimination law in Phoenix, rather than undercut it.

Representing the same-sex couple in the case was the American Civil Liberties Union, which asserted there’s no expectation the Washington Supreme Court would issue any sweeping decision for Arlene’s Flowers.

James Esseks, director of ACLU’s LGBT and HIV Project, said in a statement he doesn’t expect any new outcome from the Washington Supreme Court undermining LGBT rights.

“To be clear, the court made no indication the lower courts ruled incorrectly and made no decision on the case’s merits,” Esseks said. “We are confident that the Washington State Supreme Court will rule once again in favor of the same-sex couple, and reaffirm its decision that no business has a right to discriminate.”

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



ACLU plaintiffs Curt and Robert Ingersoll.
Photo courtesy of ACLU.

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Three LGBTI Activists Killed in Mexico

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS

Three well-known LGBTI rights advocates in the Mexican state of Guerrero were killed over the weekend.

Authorities on Sunday found the bodies of Rubén Estrada, Roberto Vega and Carlos Uriel López in Taxco, a city between the state capital of Chilpancingo and Mexico City that is popular with tourists.

Estrada, 35, was the main organizer of Taxco's annual Pride march and a local gay beauty contest. Vega and López, who was his partner, were also activists.

Gaby Soberanis, president of Diversidad Guerrero, an LGBTI advocacy group that is based in the resort city of Acapulco, on Monday told the Washington Blade during a telephone interview that Estrada, Vega and López were at a local nightclub early Sunday morning when a group of men tried to extort money from them.

Soberanis said Estrada, Vega and López refused to give them any money. She told the Blade the men returned, forcibly removed them from the nightclub and placed them into a van.

Authorities found their bodies a few hours later on a dirt road near the main highway between Mexico City and Acapulco.

A local newspaper published a picture of

one of the murdered activists who appeared to have been shot in the back of the head. Another local media report indicates Estrada, Vega and López had been tortured before they were killed.

"We are sad, depressed," Soberanis told the Blade. "They were young. They had a future ahead of them. The entire state's LGBTI rights movement is sad, is in mourning."

Other activists across Mexico also mourned their deaths.

"The loss is for a society that demands equality, freedom and an end to violence," said Lol Kin Castañeda, a lesbian activist who is a member of the Mexico City Constituent Assembly in a tweet that tagged Guerrero Gov. Héctor Astudillo. "We demand justice."

Local media reports say the manner in which Estrada, Vega and López were killed indicates they were victims of criminal gangs that operate throughout Guerrero.

"I don't know if it was a hate crime based on homophobia," Soberanis told the Blade.

The Blade has reached out to the Guerrero Ministry of Public Safety for comment.

Violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity remains commonplace throughout Mexico.

Drug cartels and criminal gangs that operate throughout Guerrero have made it one of the most violent states in the country. An advisory



From left: Rubén Estrada, Roberto Vega and Carlos Uriel López were murdered in Taxco, Mexico, on June 17, 2018. An activist in the state of Guerrero with whom the Washington Blade spoke said Estrada, Vega and López were killed after a group of men tried to extort money from them at a local nightclub. (Photo courtesy of Gaby

the State Department issued on March 16 urges U.S. citizens not to travel to Guerrero and the states of Colima, Michoacán, Sinaloa and Tamaulipas "due to crime."

A group of 43 college students known as "normalistas" disappeared in Iguala, a city that is roughly an hour south of Taxco in Guerrero, on Sept. 26, 2014.

Mexican authorities have accused former Iguala Mayor José Luis Abarca and his wife, María de los Ángeles Pineda, of masterminding

the kidnapping. The Associated Press reports Abarca allegedly ordered local police officers to turn the students over to members of a local criminal group who killed them.

The election to choose the successor to President Enrique Peña Nieto, who cannot run for a second term under the Mexican constitution, will take place on July 1. Violence and corruption are among the top issues for Mexican voters.

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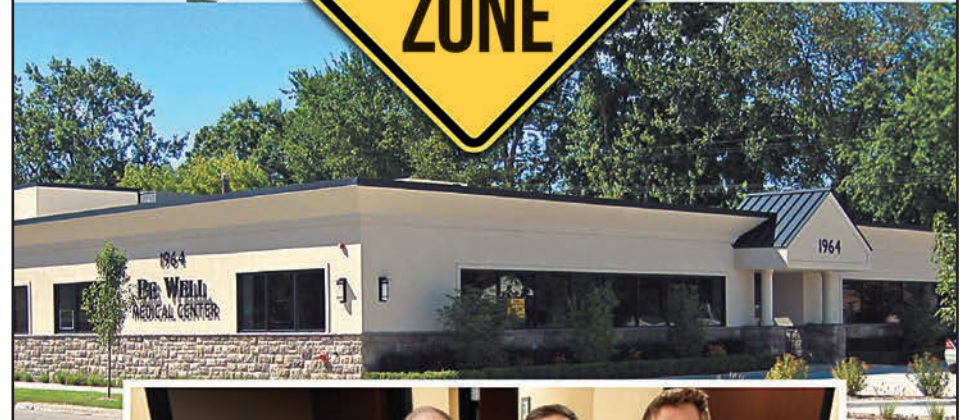


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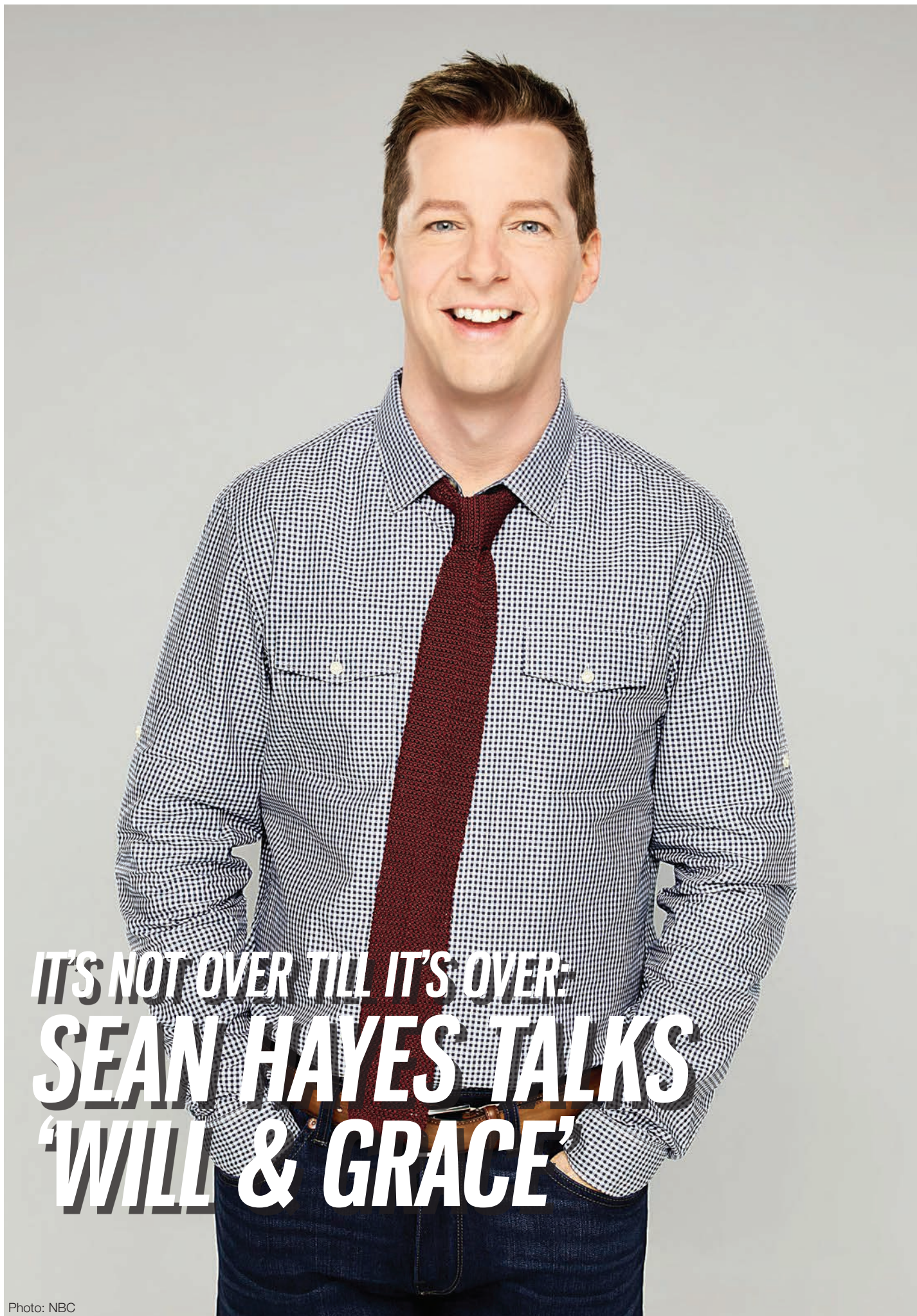
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IT'S NOT OVER TILL IT'S OVER:
**SEAN HAYES TALKS
'WILL & GRACE'**

Photo: NBC

After Changing TV for LGBTQ People in 1998, the Actor Is At It Again, As 'Part of the Chorus of the Movement'

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Where would our queer world be without "Will & Grace"? That's where my head was just before Sean Hayes phoned, recalling my lonely teen years, when gay white men on TV alone – here's to evolved representation! – was unprecedented and life-changing for people like 15-year-old, closeted me.

It's not enough to say Hayes portrays Jack McFarland on the NBC sitcom, then, because some roles become legend, upstaging even the actor giving him life. Jack is one such character. And so a call from Hayes is like being a kid and spotting your fifth grade teacher at the grocery store: It doesn't quite feel real, and yet Hayes is a real man with a real life and even a real husband, music producer Scott Icenogle. But to the late-'90s TV landscape, it was the actor's half-fiction as Jack and his exploding-rainbow persona that cut through heteronormative programming with gay jokes even your grandma could get down with.

And then, there's Karen. You obviously don't need me to needlessly ramble on about Jack's best socialite friend (played by Megan Mullally), who never met a martini she didn't like. You know her, you love her. And together they truly make all of our friends out to be absolute fucking bores. The sitcom's recent revival reinstated #friendshipgoals when the snarky pals, along with titular housemates Will (Eric McCormack) and Grace (Debra Messing), came swishing back to NBC in September 2017 for a ninth season after ending its initial 1998-2006 run.

Hayes isn't Jack, exactly, but you could be fooled if he called you, too, his usually-unflashy voice sometimes picking up wind and taking on the kind of rapid-fire cadence his famous Cher-worshipping alter ego is known for. With season 10 premiering Oct. 4, and nine now available on DVD and digital, I caught up with Hayes, 47, to talk about those who've long criticized Jack for being "stereotypically" gay, the history of the legendary Karen-Jack slap fights, and who helped *him* be OK with being gay.

It's hard to put into words exactly what it feels like to talk to the man who gave me such an iconic out-and-proud gay character when I needed it most.

Oh my god. That's so sweet. I really appreciate that. And you just answered the reason why when people ask me what's the best part about playing it – that's the best part.

Is it?

One-hundred percent.

When did you first know that "Will & Grace" had impacted the LGBTQ community the way it has?

Just a couple of weeks ago! (Laughs) No, I'm joking. You know what's so funny – first of all, you have no idea how much that means to me. You saying how much I mean to you, it means equally as much to me, so thank you. So when did I know I had an impact? I think when I was young and doing the show I was so wrapped up in myself, in acting, in getting the part: "Am I going to get fired? Am I gonna learn my lines?" I was just happy to have a job.

It's such a fascinating thing to discuss, and I'm so glad you asked: I felt normal growing up, so when I got a job, playing a gay character on a television sitcom I just thought, "Oh, I just have to be me, kind of, a heightened version of myself." I didn't think it would have that much of an impact because of the bubble I grew up in. I surround myself with people who are accepting of me, so naively I was like, "The rest of the world must be OK with it." I mean, I knew the stories out there. I grew up and knew it wasn't accepted, but I just didn't think on any big level it was any big deal, so that gave me the confidence to play him as outrageously as I could because, again, I'm surrounded by writers and actors – everybody else – who embrace this, so I felt loved, I felt supported and I felt confidence. So, I wasn't going to work thinking about how this is going to affect anybody.

It was a wonderful byproduct later, and I was like, "Oh, ohh!" And once it started and all the press and blah blah blah, and we never got any backlash for being political in that sense, meaning how they politicized gay people, which is wrong. That's *another* interview.

Over the years, people have criticized Jack for being "flamboyant." How aware were you of that concern when the show returned for its revival season?

Oh, I never heard that. This is the first time hearing it. So you're saying people were worried, but I was playing him – I call it outrageous because "flamboyant" means a certain type of gay person, I think, and that's another conversation to have. I was playing him as outrageously as I was before. So people were concerned that I was playing him a certain way?

People wondered if Jack was too stereotypical for TV in 2018 and expressed some concern over what the straight community might think of us.

I think that's insider homophobia. Because I

know people like Jack, because one part of me is like Jack, and so if you're saying people in the gay community were concerned that I was playing Jack a certain way and people would "worry" that gay people act like that, they *do* act like that. And there's people who act like Will. There are people on all spectrums of human behavior in the gay community, just like there are people on all spectrums of human behavior in the straight community, so I nix that and I say "bye" to that – I say, "bye, Felicia!" – because that doesn't make any sense to me.

Similarly, Cam of "Modern Family" was criticized for being an over-the-top and exaggerated version of what a gay person is, and I'm like, what exactly is a gay person supposed to be in 1998 or 2018?

Yeah, exactly. What are they supposed to be? And by the way, they are exaggerated, some of them. And so are straight people. Look at Jim Carrey, look at Robin Williams. There are lots of straight people who are exaggerated as well. I hate that argument – no, I'm glad you brought it up. I'm just saying I love talking about it, because it's ridiculous.

As a kid coming to terms with being gay, who was your person?

If you're talking about a famous person, Andy Bell (of Erasure). Because I was in college and I was 17, 18, and I was shocked that somebody was out and proud, making a living in the arts or in pop culture by being who they are and not apologizing for it. I thought that was mind-blowing because "A Little Respect" was the No. 1 song on the radio and I was like, "Wait, the guy is gay and everybody is OK with that?" The truth is not a lot of people knew because we didn't have the internet, but I knew and all my gay friends knew. And I was like, "That's amazing." So that was inspiring to me, that you could be gay and make a living by singing, acting, whatever. But as far as actors go, Marty Short and Steve Martin were my inspirations in comedy, and Marty's a good friend now and I love him. He is the funniest person, I think, in the business.

What has it been like to be a part of a show that has existed during two very different times, culturally and politically, for the LGBTQ community?

First of all, I feel very fortunate and lucky to be part of the chorus of the movement. I may not be a single voice, but I'm enjoying being a part of the chorus. And I think that we're lucky to have the voice and the representation for people to talk about it again, because I don't think it should ever stop being talked about because everything is *not* OK. There are still gay kids being bullied. And look at that (gay) couple (who was assaulted) in Florida in the bathroom during Pride. It just doesn't end. The hate doesn't end overnight.

So we have to keep doing things, and again, my contribution may not be as an

See Sean Hayes, page 20

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Eric McCormack (Will), Debra Messing (Grace) and Sean Hayes (Jack) during last year's "Will & Grace" revival. Photo: NBC

► Sean Hayes

Continued from p. 19

activist, because I just don't feel comfortable doing that, it's just not who I am. It's not in my blood, it's not in my DNA to stand at a podium and speak in sound bites about how we need to prevail over the government and the system. I leave that to people who are good at it – I'm not good at it. What I'm good at is being comfortable in my own skin and showing people that I have a husband and we make stupid Facebook videos and try to show people that we're as normal as any other human, so I try to do my best at that. So I'm happy the show is back because there's still tons of work to do. The power of comedy is so incredible; that's why we broke so many boundaries the first time. And hopefully we can continue to do that.

Megan Mullally has said that you're her "second husband," after her real husband, Nick Offerman. How does your chemistry with Megan after all these years compare to the first time that you stepped onto set and shot the pilot?

It's so funny that she calls me her second husband because Nick and I were born on the exact same day, same year, about 30 miles apart from each other. Isn't that hilarious? But it's like working with your sister. There's a shorthand that nobody else would understand, so it's like, "I'm gonna do this," and she's like, "I'm gonna do that," and then we just do it together and there it is. So, we now know how to cut through all the stuff that you need to in order to get to a comedic moment in a scene, and that's what's great about all this time that's passed. I understand her, she understands me, we understand each other, so the chemistry has only gotten hotter.

Tell me the history of the slap fights between Karen and Jack.

There's an episode called "Coffee and Commitment" where Jack is trying to get

off of coffee and Karen's trying to quit alcohol, so that episode was the first time we slapped each other. It just, on paper, was "Karen slaps Jack, Jack slaps Karen," but of course Jimmy Burrows, who is incredible at physical comedy and directing, of course, said, "Let's make a dance out of this." So, we rehearsed the rhythm of it, because I think that's what makes you laugh – that's what makes *me* laugh: the pauses and then the slapping again and then the pause and the slap-slap. It's music, so you have to rehearse the beats and the rhythms in order to get that. (Laughs) It makes me laugh even thinking about it.

What do you envision for Jack's future?

Well, I don't want him to change too much because our friends are our friends from high school because they never change, right? Maybe get married, but still remain Jack somehow, or find a long-term relationship. Or maybe – *maybe!* – there's someone close in his own life that might be a suitable partner for life. Who knows.

Will?

I have no idea.

Could you see them together?

Could I see Will and Jack together? Maybe!

You've said you want to see him with Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson. Just so you know, I'm here for it.

I think that would be a hilarious episode, and I hope Dwayne comes to his senses and comes to the "Will & Grace" stage to play and have a good time.

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



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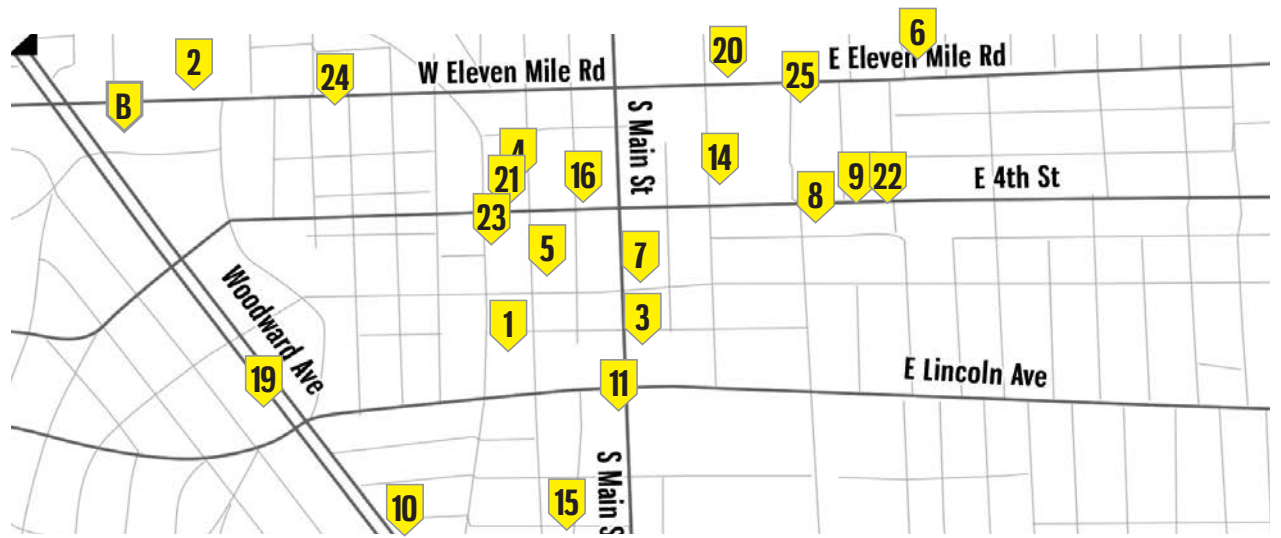
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The concerts will result in the closure of Center Street from the corner of 4th Street to 3rd. Interested show-goers can visit romi.gov for more information on the event or call 248-246-3204.

The schedule below includes all the upcoming performances:

July 5

6 p.m. - Pre-Show with The Detroit School of Rock and Pop Music
7 p.m. - Popsicle Plus (Kids Music)
8 p.m. - The Satellites (Soul meets Latin)
8 p.m.

July 12

6 p.m. - Pre-Show with The Detroit School of Rock and Pop Music
7 p.m. - Dave Hamilton Band (Funky Prog. Rock)
8 p.m. - The Orbitsuns (Low Down Outlaw Country)



July 19

6 p.m. - Pre-Show with The Detroit School of Rock and Pop Music
7 p.m. - Detroit Soul Rhythm (Detroit Soul)
8 p.m. - The Corktown Popes (Irish-American Rock)

July 26

6 p.m. - Pre-Show with The Detroit School of Rock and Pop Music
7 p.m. - Detroit Soul Rhythm (Detroit Soul)
8 p.m. - Devin Scillian (Americana)

Aug. 2

5 p.m. - Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce "After Hours" (Business Networking Event)
6 p.m. - Pre-Show with The Detroit School of Rock and Pop Music
7 p.m. - Killer Flamingos (Covers)

Aug. 9

6 p.m. - Pre-Show with The Detroit School of Rock and Pop Music
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8 p.m. - The Reefermen (Rock and Soul)



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Regular WIG Drag Shows Take Midtown

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Thomas McCarter knows how to throw a party. In fact, he's become something of a local legend when it comes to his gatherings and it's not unusual to see his home filled with dozens of party-goers. But, don't expect to go looking for McCarter while out and about near his Midtown residence, a meeting with his drag alter ego, Kellie Killjoy, is more likely. She's the host of the most famous of McCarter's parties: WIG. These monthly shows display a variety of local drag talent right in McCarter's living room. He said that the idea for regular WIGs came about when he started doing drag a year ago.

"Pretty much the show 'RuPaul's Drag Race' got me into it and I'm sure a lot of people can say it's blowing up the drag universe right now. I've been watching it for a while, but it wasn't until season nine that there was one particular contestant that inspired me to do drag myself. So, I had a drag queen friend of mine get me to the stage for the first time last June," McCarter said. "I was a total busted mess, but I had the most fun of my life and I knew it was something I was going to keep doing for a long time."

But as enthusiastic as he was about slipping into Killjoy's outfits more and more often, McCarter had a problem: Accessibility.

"The only easy way to do it was in Ann Arbor – which is great that there's even that, I mean, I could have nothing at all and that would be unfortunate," he said. "But there's kind of nothing worse than getting in drag and sitting in a car for 45 minutes with your waist cinched, everything tucked; it's incredibly uncomfortable."

That's when the Wayne State University dance major decided that he'd bring an audience to him, rather than make the drive each time he had a gig.

"My roommate and I – she's a supporter of drag but doesn't do drag herself yet – we were very much into the idea. So, the second I said, 'Let's just do something here at home,' she was, of course, right on board. That was the beginning of the semester," McCarter said. "We're both a Wayne State and it wasn't until springtime until we both had the motivation and the support to do it."

The first show happened in April and focused on a "standard" drag show.

"The one that we've had was everyone just lip synched, a standard drag performance, however we're open to any other type of performative expression," McCarter said. "The first one was sort of like, we weren't fully ready for it. We kept pushing it back because we kept thinking we weren't ready, but eventually, we said, 'We're going to do it this date, whether we're ready or not, and it's just going to have to happen that day.'"

Fortunately for McCarter, the audience reception was excellent. He estimated that his first gig drew almost 100 to his literally home-grown show.

"That's what's so exciting about WIGs. These are just people out in Midtown looking for a party and they aren't even drag fans," he said. "Some people are like, 'I've never seen anything like this, but it's the most fun I've ever had.'"

When asked why he didn't start hosting his events in existing Detroit LGBTQ bars and venues, he said that forming partnerships is his goal. But, he said that he wants to create something centrally located in Detroit, to expand on the LGBTQ staples that already exist around Detroit and its



Metro area.

"I've essentially grown up in Detroit and I've lived here in Midtown for six years now. And, as a very actively gay person and a fan of drag, I didn't really know of any opportunities or shows or parties or bars or anything. The only one I could think of was Gigi's, which is a great bar and they do this cabaret show which I've been to, but even that it's sort of on the outskirts of the city and the people that go aren't really the drag fans that are generating the energy behind drag today," McCarter said. "Other than that, I know there's Royal Oak, but that's really all I knew about."

However, McCarter made clear that he is aware he's not bringing Detroit something that it hasn't seen before, he's simply hoping to attract a larger group of new-to-the-scene queens and an audience that might not know much about drag period.

"And if there are more opportunities then shame on me for not doing more research and getting involved in those. Except, I feel like these things should be in your face, you shouldn't have to go digging for them," he said.

And Detroit's Midtown community certainly seems receptive. McCarter said that the only way to maintain WIG shows will be to expand, because with only a few shows under his belt at this point, his apartment space is quickly being outgrown. Especially since word of mouth and Facebook event pages were the only means of communicating the events to the public. And, after all, "it's also my home and you don't want it becoming a dive bar people can just stop in," McCarter said.

So, for now, McCarter is busy asking around for local venues that might be interested in hosting a regular WIG night. And, in keeping with the show's innovative flair, McCarter said that he and his roommate, "Wanted to also look at some unconventional spaces like open, warehouse-y venues."

Because ultimately, WIGs is McCarter's way of sharing his passion with more of Detroit's community, while adding his own Kellie Killjoy-brand flair. McCarter said that interested attendees should keep a close eye on the Midtown party scene and venues and hopefully soon, there will be a regular spot for WIG events outside of his home.

Support Affirmations in July!

BIKRAM YOGA
FERNDALE

Bikram Yoga Ferndale will be hosting a Hot Yoga Fundraiser Class for Affirmations on **Saturday, July 14**, from 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Stop in, get your yoga on, and support your Community Center.



It's time for our Annual Summer *Zeke's Rock And Roll BBQ* Fundraiser! All day on **Thursday, July 26**, our neighbors will be donating 20% of your total bill to your LGBTQ+ Community Center. Be sure to inform your server that you are in to support Affirmations.



Help the residents of Flint by donating water on **Thursday, July 26**, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Staff from Affirmations will then transport donations to **Wellness Services Inc.**, an HIV serving agency in Flint. Wellness actively works with the LGBTQ+ Community and has a dedicated safe space at their Center. They also created and run Flint Pride in the Park.

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Wednesday, 7/11, 8 pm

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Photo courtesy of Artist

Logic Headlines at DTE Energy Music Theatre

On Saturday, June 30, Clarkston's DTE Energy Music Theatre will host the Logic Presents: Bobby Tarantino vs. Everybody Tour with NF and Kyle. The Maryland-born rapper is best known for songs like "1-800-273-8255" and "Everyday," and has been nominated for both a Grammy Award and iHeartRadio Music Award. Tickets for the show start at \$34. More information can be found online at ticketmaster.com. The show starts at 8 p.m. and tickets start at \$28.50. More information can be found online at royaloakmusictheatre.com.

OUTINGS

Thursday, June 28

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Farmington Hills – Oakland County 7 p.m. Oakland United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington. 248-626-3620 www.oaklandumc.org <http://www.standwithtrans.org>

Friday, June 29

Satori Circus presents "Stroke" 8 p.m. SATORI CIRCUS will perform a new original performance art piece titled, "Stroke" at the Tangent Gallery / Hastings Street Ballroom. Also performing will be the theatrical rock performance group, The Haberdasher from Port Huron, MI. Tangent Gallery, 715 East Milwaukee Avenue, Detroit. 2484451277 <https://www.facebook.com/events/252206855341425/>

Saturday, June 30

Great Lakes Bay Pride Festival 12 p.m. The Great Lakes Bay Pride Festival aims to build a community that inspires engagement, equality, and respect for all throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region and beyond. Wenonah Park, 800 N Water St, Bay City. <http://www.greatlakesbaypride.org>

Sunday, July 1

Stand with Trans Wyandotte Support Group for Trans Youth and Parents of Trans Individuals 4 p.m. St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 2803 1st Street, Wyandotte. 734-747-4363 <http://www.standwithtrans.org>

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Adrian-Lenawee County 6:30 p.m. Hilltop Counseling, 115 W. Maumee Street, Adrian. 313-909-5408

www.standwithtrans.org <http://www.hilltopcounseling.org>

Tuesday, July 3

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Lake Orion / Oakland County 7 p.m. St. Mary's In The Hills Episcopal Church, 2512 Joslyn Court, Lake Orion. 248-391-0663 www.stmarysinthehills.org <http://www.standwithtrans.org>

Monday, July 9

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Macomb County 6:30 p.m. Dakota High School, 21051 21 Mile Road, Macomb. 586-723-2700 <http://www.chippewavalleyhighschools.org/schools/high-schools/dhs/>

Wednesday, July 11

Stand with Trans Youth Support Group – Flint – Genesee 6:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint, 2474 S. Ballenger Hwy, Flint. 810-232-4023 <http://uufliint.org> <http://www.standwithtrans.org>

Thursday, July 12

Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce Merge & Mixer 6:30 p.m. Michigan Employee Resource Groups for Equality (MERGE) Monthly Networking Event. Soho, 205 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-542-7646 info@detroitlgbtchamber.com <http://www.ferndalesoho.com> <http://www.detroitlgbtchamber.com>

Saturday, July 14

Detroit: You're So Unusual Bus Tour (Part Un) 1 p.m. This fun, quirky motor coach tour goes beyond the familiar Detroit landmarks and showcases the cool, curious, unfamiliar, and forgotten sites of interest located within the

city's vast 139 square miles. 2934 Russell Street, 2934 Russell St, Detroit. 313.757.1283 marionchristiansen@comcast.net <https://citytourdetroit.com/detroit-youre-so-unusual-bus-tours/>

Summer Osborne in Concert 7 p.m. Summer Osborne is one of the hottest new voices in the Women's Music Scene. An award winning singer-songwriter from St. Louis, Missouri, her powerful vocals and artful storytelling illuminate the power of spirituality, truth, love. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint, 2474 S. Ballenger Hwy, Flint. 810-232-4023 uufliint.org <http://office@uufliint.org>

MUSIC & MORE

Ann Arbor Summer Festival 2018 Main Stage Lineup Continues! June 28, 8 p.m. After winning the coveted top honor at the Thelonious Monk and Sarah Vaughan jazz vocal competitions, the 26-year-old breakout jazz singer, Jazzmeia Horn, is a talent ready to take her place alongside the best headlining Power Center, 121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor. (734) 647-3327 info@a2sf.org http://smt.d.umich.edu/about/facilities/central_campus/power/index.htm <http://a2sf.org/events/jazzmeia-horn/>

Satori Circus presents "Stroke" June 29, 8 p.m. SATORI CIRCUS will perform a new original performance art piece titled, "Stroke" at the Tangent Gallery / Hastings Street Ballroom. Also performing will be the theatrical rock performance group, The Haberdasher from Port Huron, MI. Tangent Gallery, 715 East Milwaukee Avenue, Detroit. 2484451277 <https://www.facebook.com/events/252206855341425/>

Laugh It Off Comedy Show!! June

29, 8 p.m. Featuring comedians Sean Isbell, Jason Gilleran, David Sutherland, Jeffrey Ford, Nicholas Milanowski, Joe Morgan and Bobo Lamb. Reserve your tickets e-mail actorswill215@gmail.com. Hosted by Jane Dab. Holiday Inn, 32769 Northwestern Hwy., Farmington Hills. 248-538-9100 actorswill215@gmail.com

Great Lakes Bay Pride Festival June 30, 12 p.m. The Great Lakes Bay Pride Festival aims to build a community that inspires engagement, equality, and respect for all throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region and beyond. Wenonah Park, 800 N Water St, Bay City. <http://www.greatlakesbaypride.org>

Ann Arbor Summer Festival 2018 Mainstage Lineup Continues! July 4, 4 p.m. In their annual 4th of July appearance, America's foremost political satirists, The Capitol Steps, are here with this year's biggest stars—Mike Pence, Hillary Clinton, Vladimir Putin, Bernie Sanders, and those who were gone too soon—Sean Power Center, 121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor. (734) 647-3327 info@a2sf.org http://smt.d.umich.edu/about/facilities/central_campus/power/index.htm <http://a2sf.org/events/the-capitol-steps/>

Kubat, Finlay & Rose in Concert! July 6, 8 p.m. The Detroit singer-songwriter trio Kubat, Finlay and Rose will mark their Ann Arbor debut performance at Michigan's historical folk venue, The Ark. Celebrate a night of harmony and story through song wit <https://www.facebook.com/events/1507965139333102/> The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 734-763-TKTS www.theark.org <https://www.facebook.com/events/1507965139333102/>

Matrix School of Theatre Summer Creativity Camps July 9, 9 a.m.



Editor's Pick

Salute to America Performed by DSO

As beautiful as they are, paring fireworks with fitting music can make the experience event better. That's why the Detroit Symphony Orchestra is hosting a three-day "Salute to America" concert series on Saturday, June 30, Sunday, July 1 and playing through the evening of Tuesday, July 3 in to Wednesday, July 4. More information about the experience can be found online at thehenryford.org.



Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley St., Detroit. 313-967-0599 info@matrixtheatre.org <https://www.matrixtheatre.org> <https://www.matrixtheatre.org/summer-creativity-camps>

Janelle Monae at The Fox Theatre July 9, 7:30 p.m. Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter, producer, actress and activist Janelle Monae has announced her return to touring with her upcoming North American "Dirty Computer Tour". Fellow Wondaland artists Alexe Belle and Isis Valentino, known together as the soulful Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 3134716611 <http://www.313presents.com/events/detail/janelle-monae>

Detroit: You're So Unusual Bus Tour (Part Un) July 14, 1 p.m. This fun, quirky motor coach tour goes beyond the familiar Detroit landmarks and showcases the cool, curious, unfamiliar, and forgotten sites of interest located within the city's vast 139 square miles. Join us for an 2934 Russell Street, 2934 Russell St, Detroit. 313.757.1283 marionchristiansen@comcast.net <https://citytourdetroit.com/detroit-youre-so-unusual-bus-tours/>

Summer Osborne in Concert July 9, 7 p.m. Summer Osborne is one of the hottest new voices in the Women's Music Scene. An award winning singer-songwriter from St. Louis, Missouri, her powerful vocals and artful storytelling illuminate the power of spirituality, truth, love Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint, 2474 S. Ballenger Hwy, Flint. 810-232-4023 uufliint.org office@uufliint.org

In The Heights @ New Center Park July 18, 8 p.m. Music and Lyrics by

Lin-Manuel Miranda; Book by Quiara Alegria Hudes. Performed by The Detroit Actors Theatre Company (The DATC), 'In the Heights' explores three days in the characters' lives in the New York City. New Center Park, 2998 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-420-6000 www.newcenterpark.com <http://www.thedatc.org>

ART 'N' AROUND

Star Wars and the Power of Costume June 22-September 28, 9 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™. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-833-7900 <https://www.dia.org/starwarsattheDIA>

Fairy Tale Festival 2018 at Edsel & Eleanor Ford House June 23, 10 a.m. Adventurers from far and wide are invited to explore the daring tale of Robin Hood on the grounds of Ford House. Little lords, ladies, jolly outlaws and fairy folk will enjoy games, crafts, performances and Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Rd, Grosse Pointe Shores. 3138844222 info@fordhouse.org <https://www.fordhouse.org>

The Residence: Contemporary Visual Art Exhibition June 29, 6 p.m. Come celebrate local emerging artists who not only create really cool pieces inspired by the city, but teach and mentor children in Detroit Public Libraries! Join us for Opening Night Friday and Panel Discussion Saturday. Holding House, 3546 Michigan Avenue, Detroit. jessica@projectart.org <http://www.holdinghousedetroit.com/>

Satori Circus presents "Stroke" June 29, 8 p.m. SATORI CIRCUS will perform a new original performance art piece titled, 'Stroke' at the Tangent Gallery / Hastings Street Ballroom. Also performing will be the theatrical rock performance group, The Haberdasher from Port Huron, MI. Tangent Gallery, 715 East Milwaukee Avenue, Detroit. 2484451277 <https://www.facebook.com/events/252206855341425/>

16th Annual Hotworks Orchard Lake Fine Art Show July 28, 10 a.m. Join us July 28 and 29 for the 16th annual Hot Works Orchard Lake Fine Art Show located in the heart of West Bloomfield. This juried fine art and fine craft show showcases top-notch quality One event on July 29 at 10:00am West Bloomfield High School, 4925 Orchard Lake Rd, West Bloomfield Township. 2486842613 social@hotworks.org <https://www.hotworks.org/>

[orchardlakefineartshow/](https://www.hotworks.org/orchardlakefineartshow/)

THEATER

Stage Management: Build a Prompt Book and Call a Scene June 30, 1 p.m. This hands-on workshop will explore various styles of stage management, including how to prepare and use a prompt book, call a show, and build your own stage manager kit. Learn theatrical terminology, tricks of the A2CT Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. 734-971-2228 <http://www.a2ct.org/classes-and-workshops>

A2CT Auditions for Antigone July 3, 7:30 p.m. A2CT announces auditions for its second stage production of Antigone. Translated by Barbara Bray, directed by Michelle Weiss. Auditions will take place

Tuesday, July 3, Thursday, July 5, and Friday, July 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the Children's Creative Center, 1600 Pauline Blvd, Ann Arbor. 734-971-2228 <http://www.a2ct.org/audition>

Ann Arbor Summer Festival 2018 Mainstage Lineup Continues! July 4, 4 p.m. In their annual 4th of July appearance, America's foremost political satirists, The Capitol Steps, are here with this year's biggest stars—Mike Pence, Hillary Clinton, Vladimir Putin, Bernie Sanders, and those who were gone too soon—Sean Power Center, 121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor. (734) 647-3327 info@a2sf.org http://smt.d.umich.edu/about/facilities/central_campus/power/index.htm <http://a2sf.org/events/the-capitol-steps/>

Matrix School of Theatre Summer Creativity Camps July 9, 9 a.m. Get ready for a great experience at Matrix School of Theatre's Summer Creativity Camps! Sign up today and work with a professional artist to write your own play and perform it in a safe, supportive, An event every week that begins at 9:00am on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, repeating until July 27 Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley St., Detroit. 313-967-0599 info@matrixtheatre.org <https://www.matrixtheatre.org/> <https://www.matrixtheatre.org/summer-creativity-camps>

Disney's The Lion King at The Wharton Center July 11, 7:30 p.m. Giraffes strut. Birds swoop. Gazelles leap. The entire Serengeti comes to life as never before. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-353-1982 wharton@msu.edu <http://www.whartoncenter.com> <http://www.whartoncenter.com/events>

A2CT Workshop: Improv for Actors July 14, 1 p.m. Come strengthen your acting chops without the pressure of scripts or blocking! This workshop will introduce basic improv tools and use improvised scene work to develop physicality, heightened emotion, and honest reactions onstage. A2CT Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. 734-971-2228 <http://www.a2ct.org/classes-and-workshops>

In The Heights @ New Center Park July 18, 8 p.m. Music and Lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda; Book by Quiara Alegria Hudes. Performed by The Detroit Actors Theatre Company (The DATC), 'In the Heights' explores three days in the characters' lives in the New York City One event on July 19 at 8:00pm One event on July 20 at 8:00pm One event on July 21 at 8:00pm One event on July 22 at 8:00pm New Center Park, 2998 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-420-6000 <http://www.newcenterpark.com> <http://www.thedatc.org>

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Affirmations Youth Programming Presents Theatre Week

BY BTL STAFF

On Saturday, June 30, LGBTQ youth and allies can attend Affirmations' Theatre Week Premiere, to enjoy the completed performances of those enrolled in the community center's Theatre Week intensive. From 2:30 to 4 p.m. youth will be debuting shows that they have worked on over the course of an entire week with the help of theater instructor and professional, Reg Flowers.

The event will be held at the Go Comedy! Improv Theatre and though

the event is free, there is a suggested donation of \$5 to help the community center maintain its LGBTQ-friendly community services. For questions about the performance or information about how to join in future Theatre Weeks contact Ian Unger at iunger@goaffirmations.org or call 248-398-7105.

The Go Comedy! Improv Theater is located at 261 E. Nine Mile Road in Ferndale. More information about the venue and future performances can be found at gocomedy.net or by calling 248-327-0575.

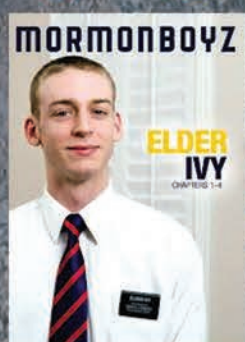


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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

'It' girl Sophia Lillis cast as Ellen's 'Nancy Drew'

Franchise alert! Ellen Degeneres' A Very Good Production and Warner Bros. are teaming up to produce something that sounds very much like the template for a series of films reviving the character Nancy Drew. "Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase," which all but says, "We, too, can be like Harry Potter, and why not?" has begun principal photography, with "It" breakout star Sophia Lillis as the young lady sleuth. The character was the resourceful protagonist of a long, long, looonnng series of mystery novels for young readers throughout a good chunk of the 20th century, and the time just feels right for a well-made revival of the once very popular and charmingly vintage take on girl power. Adapted by "The Handmaid's Tale" scribe Nina Fiore and directed by Katt Shea (the legendary '90s Drew Barrymore cult fave "Poison Ivy"), the film also stars Linda Lavin and a slew of young, up and coming faces. Now, if we can make one small request, let's not clutter up the scenery with a bunch of boring Hardy Boys, OK? Thanks.

Simply Barbra, Barbra and more Barbra coming to Netflix

What becomes a legend most? A Netflix content package deal, of course, and that's what's coming soon from Barbra Streisand and the streaming platform. For the diva's superfans, this means a bounty of musical riches, including TV specials dating back to the beginning of her career. Netflix will stream "My Name Is Barbra" (1965), "Color Me Barbra" (1966), "Barbra Streisand: A Happening in Central Park" (1968), "Barbra Streisand and Other Musical Instruments" (1973), "Barbra Streisand: The Concert" (1994), and "Barbra Streisand: Timeless" (2001). But it's the extended version of her 1976 remake of "A Star Is Born," tinkered with and re-worked by Streisand herself, that will probably draw the most fascinated attention (and maybe some funny Twitter commentary, too, if we're being honest). It'll have new footage, an alternate ending, and who knows what else. No drop dates yet, but we're hoping it happens this summer while we're on staycation and perhaps doing some day-drinking. We deserve this.

Billy Eichner is a 'Time Travelin' Jerk'

His TV series "Billy on the Street" scaled new heights of ironic celebrity obsession and public screaming, but you can't run around the streets of New York City shouting at strangers forever without someone eventually punching you, so Billy Eichner's next project will find him safely in the production office and the voice-over booth. Along with co-producers Anna Wenger and



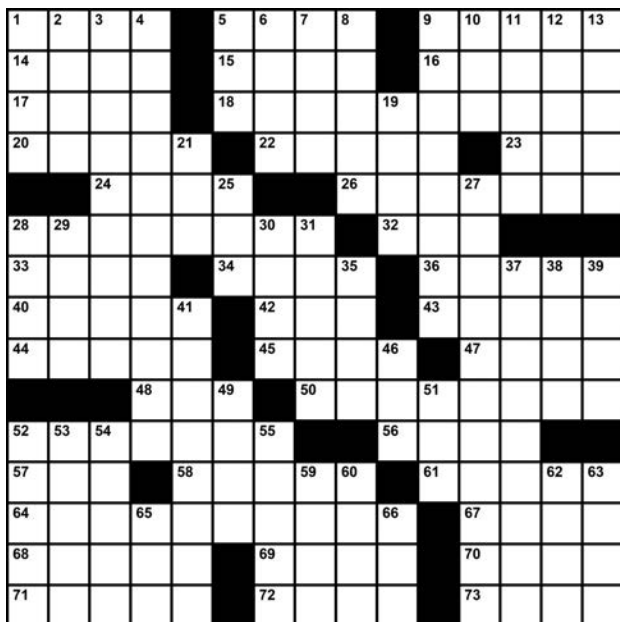
Barbra Streisand. Photo: Debby Wong

Doug Brady, Eichner will bring the animated series "Time Travelin' Jerk" to the small screen. Created by Brady and written by Brady, Wenger and Eichner, the series is described as "Back to the Future" meets "Groundhog Day," telling the story of a young girl stuck traveling in time with an accountant (voiced by Eichner) as her main sidekick. We're hopeful for this, if for no other reason than we're still deeply upset by Hulu canceling "Difficult People" and we want Eichner to soothe our pain by any means necessary. We also want cartoons made for adults to be inadvertently watched by unsuspecting children and their families, followed by awkward conversations.

Once Tab Hunter and Tony Perkins had a secret love

Back in the bad old days, most ordinary queer people stayed quietly in the closet. The pressure to do so was especially strong among actors and actresses, especially among those considered A-listers. Take Tab Hunter and Tony Perkins, two leading men of their era, both gay, and also very much a very private item. The now 87-year-old Hunter's first-person account of this moment in his memoir "Tab Hunter Confidential: The Making of A Movie Star" will form the basis of "Tab & Tony," a Paramount project in the works from producers Zachary Quinto and J.J. Abrams. It will tell the story of their affair and their highly manufactured public images in an era when being exposed as gay meant the end of a career. A screenplay is in the works from Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winner Doug Wright ("I Am My Own Wife"), and directors and cast are still TBA. We vote yes to more historical drama of this sort, the kind that eradicate secret histories and remind hetero culture that we've been here the entire time.

Romeo San Vicente keeps it loud and proud.



Pronoun-Appropriate Love Songs

Q Puzzle

Across

- 1 Sports bra "model" Mia
- 5 Melissa Etheridge's "___ It Heavy"
- 9 Climax, e.g.
- 14 Midvoyage
- 15 Visitor at gay.com
- 16 The Lone Ranger's male companion

- 17 Story teller
- 18 "She's Crushing My Mind" singer
- 20 Emma Stone's beard movie
- 22 Kind of light for Joel Schumacher
- 23 Fraternal Order member
- 24 Bone by the humerus
- 26 Hot stuff in Frida's land
- 28 "Madame Butterfly" props
- 32 Went lickety-split


- 33 Banana stalk
- 34 With 45-Across, "I Think She Knows" singer
- 36 Q, and others, in Scrabble
- 40 Caribbean vacation spot
- 42 Character for Keanu
- 43 Hersey's "A Bell For ___"
- 44 Like a mouth, in BDSM
- 45 See 34-Across
- 47 TV singing competition, for short
- 48 Peri's _Frasier_ role
- 50 Drag queen's digital tool
- 52 Kevin of _Dances with Wolves_
- 56 Literary contemporary of Truman
- 57 Gardner of Hollywood
- 58 Loaded for bear
- 61 Opera villain, usually
- 64 "I Kissed a Girl" singer
- 67 Ariz. neighbor
- 68 Release from bondage
- 69 Makes tats
- 70 Exited the closet, with "out"
- 71 Egg holders
- 72 Bottomless
- 73 "What's going ___ there?"

Down

- 1 In the pink
- 2 Tibet's setting
- 3 Be competitive with stats
- 4 "She Keeps Me Warm" singer
- 5 Diving bird
- 6 Writer Dinesen
- 7 "Chicago" producer Meron
- 8 Sexual orientation, e.g.

- 9 Wounds of Mary's son
- 10 VIP of DC, e.g.
- 11 Photographer Adams
- 12 Got to second base, perhaps
- 13 Men who don't sleep with women
- 19 Rupert Everett's "Ready to ___"
- 21 T or F, on exams
- 25 NASA "thumbs-up"
- 27 "She Says" singer
- 28 Exam for jrs.
- 29 Blade name
- 30 Like young Abe Lincoln
- 31 Flying flock of geese
- 35 New York college
- 37 Friend of fag hags?
- 38 Carbon compound
- 39 Foot bottom
- 41 Guys in underwear ads, e.g.
- 46 Band's one-night stand
- 49 Mostel of "The Producers"
- 51 High tennis shot from Mauresmo
- 52 Bourbon Street cuisine
- 53 Like Mary's little follower
- 54 Men in the navy
- 55 Foaming at the mouth
- 59 The sound of music
- 60 Sommer of film
- 62 Interstate rumbler
- 63 Alternatives to asses
- 65 Eng. class about Virginia Woolf
- 66 Gaydar, perhaps


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AIDS/HIV

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

AIDS Walk Detroit

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

Macomb County STD Clinic

27690 Van Dyke
Warren, MI 48093
586-465-9217
<http://health.macombgov.org/Health-Programs-HPDC-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](https://www.facebook.com/SAGEMetroDetroit)

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/stonewall4revolution

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](https://www.facebook.com/RuthEllisCenter)
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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Find a digital version of PrideSource Magazine online under Our LGBT Yellow Pages

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- Anti-Violence
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- Legal Organizations
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- Youth Services

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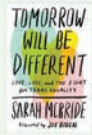
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Eunice Alexander answers a question while Renee Peters and Lady T Tempest listen. BTL photo: Jason A. Michael

Drag Queens Spill About Their History in Panel Discussion

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

A crowd of about 50 came out on Friday, June 22, to the latest edition of Menjo's History in the D panel discussions. This one, which took place in the Menjo's Entertainment Complex's Olympus Theater, focused on female impersonators and featured a prestigious panel that included five drag queens who are all past Miss Gigi's award recipients. On the panel were Lady "T" Tempest (Miss Gigi's 1983), Renee Peters (Miss Gigi's 1984), Eunice Alexander (Miss Gigi's 1987), Fantaysa (Miss Gigi's 1988) and Nicki Stevens (Miss Gigi's 1992).

Moderator Tim Retzloff, historian and adjunct assistant professor of History and LGBT Studies at Michigan State University, started the evening off by asking each panelist how they got their start in drag. Saginaw native Peters said she was first introduced to the art of drag when she visited Jezebel's while still living in her hometown. It was seeing Diana Jackson perform that changed it all for her.

"I thought, how can a man transform himself into a person who looks like that?" recalled

Peters. "It was amazing."

Alexander, like others on the panel, was influenced early on by the late Elaine St. Jacques who she first saw perform at Bookie's.

"Elaine inspired me to think that I could do that," Alexander said. "[Because of her] I thought I could perform as a woman. Not a real pretty woman. But a woman."

Fantaysa said the first time she performed it was for free, but she ended up making \$15 in tips.

"I said, 'Oh, you can get paid doing this?' she said. 'I didn't know you could make money doing this.'"

But Fantaysa, who is African-American, quickly learned of the double standards most clubs

practiced back in the day.

"If there was one black girl on the show there was no more," she said. "It was a little rougher for individuals of color because they were the ones who were targeted the most when it came to the police."

For her part, Stevens, who has been performing for over 30 years and been the show director at Gigi's for the past 26, started going to the bars when she only 15 years old. That's when she started working in the dressing room at the Pink Flamingo.

"I told all the girls, 'Oh I want to do this,'" Stevens remembered. "They said, 'No, you don't.'"

But, soon enough, Stevens got her start doing shows of her own.

"I did every show that I could when I was 17 or 18 years old," she said. "I was still in high school. I'd call my mom and

say, 'I have a show tonight call me off of school tomorrow.'"

Then and Now

Today, drag, like the LGBT community in general, enjoys more acceptance.

"What I've noticed here of late is it's no longer a novelty," said Fantaysa. "It used to be where people would really, really clamor. But the girls now days don't appreciate the art," she said. "They think all you have to do is put on a Beyonce song, copy every move she made in the video and that's it — but that's not talent."

Alexander said that hair and makeup have changed dramatically since she first started out.

"I'm one of the old fashioned girls," she said. "It's hard to get me to change anything. Just looking at how these kids are painting today it's unbelievable. But that's not all it takes to get on a stage."

Peters agreed.

"The new generation, they do completely different stuff," Peters said. "But they have to realize that we were here first and we're still here and we're not leaving."

But it was Tempest who perhaps summed it up best.

"Without us, you wouldn't be here," she said. "I guarantee you."



LGBT Detroit's Hotter Than July 2018 Schedule

BY BTL STAFF

Starting on July 24, LGBT Detroit will be celebrating Hotter Than July, an annual event that helps provide people in the LGBTQ community with both entertaining and educational experiences in an inclusive space. This year will be the 23rd ever Hotter Than July event, lasting through July 29. Look below for a full schedule of this year's events:

Tuesday, July 24, from 6 to 8 p.m. — LGBT Community Chat and Candlelight Vigil

Offering program assistance, awareness, addressing concerns, and respecting those that have gone on before. Chairs: Lawrence Pennymon of LGBT Detroit and Detroit Police Department LGBT Liaison Corporal Dani Woods.

Admittance: Free

Palmer Park

17888 Pontchartrain Blvd., Detroit.

Wednesday, July 25, from 5 to 9 p.m. — Resource Fair and Opening Party

A community resource fair highlighting area service providers. Chairs: Nathan Strickland, Jr. of Community Health Awareness Group and Jeyence Poindexter of Equality Michigan.

Admittance: Free

Woodward Bar & Grill

6426 Woodward Ave., Detroit.

Friday, July 27, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. — The Hotter Than July Conference

LGBT Detroit and Community Health Awareness Group hosts The 23rd Annual Hotter Than July Conference. This annual gathering for LGBT issues addresses relevant and important concerns. The day consists of "The Candidates Forum" in the morning and the "My Voice My Vote" seminar in the afternoon. Free breakfast provided by The Counter Narrative Project.

Chairs: Alfredo Smith of Unified and Jamesion

King of LGBT Detroit.

Admittance: Free

Community Health Awareness Group

1300 W. Fort St., Detroit.

Friday, July 27, from 6 to 10 p.m. — Fine Arts Reception

Art featured by Detroit-based artists.

The Carr Center

1505 Woodward Ave., Detroit.

Saturday, July 28, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. — Palmer Park Picnic

Join LGBT Detroit for a day in the sun at the annual Palmer Park Picnic. Included will be artists: Ms. Honey Twista Sista, DJ Tone and DJ Tony Peoples host Hotter Than July House at Palmer Park Picnic. The event is free and open to all.

Palmer Park

17888 Pontchartrain Blvd., Detroit.

Sunday, July 29 from 11 a.m. to noon — Worship Service

The LGBTQ worship service hosted by Detroit's faith community. Chairs: Rev. Jeffery Seals of One Church Detroit and Detroit Police Department LGBT Liaison Corporal Dani Woods.

Tindal Recreation Center

10301 W. Seven Mile Road, Detroit.

Sunday, July 29 from noon to 3 p.m. — Sunday Brunch

A final brunch to end Hotter Than July 2018 with a party.

14505 Charlevoix St., Detroit.

More information can be found about Hotter Than July online at lgbtdetroit.org or on the Hotter Than July Facebook page.

PRIDE PARADE AND FESTIVAL

2018



Friday July 13 | 7:00 p.m.

PRIDE PARADE - Downtown Battle Creek

Join us for a phenomenal parade and don't miss the Talent Show at local Wave Park immediately following the parade. After the talent show, 910 and the Underground is hosting a White Party with drink specials and more entertainment.

Saturday July 14 | 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

PRIDE FESTIVAL - McCamly Park, Battle Creek

Join us for a family friendly drag show, a fabulous DJ collective from Madison, WI, and lots more awesome entertainment! There will be fun games available for kids and delicious local food trucks available for everyone! Following the festival, 910 and the Underground will be hosting a Pride Celebration Party with drink specials and more exciting entertainment!

Sunday July 15 | 9:00 p.m.

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL - Sojourner Truth Monument

The vigil will honor those in the LGBTQ Community that have lost their lives due to homicide or suicide.

Contact Us

www.battlecreekpride.org

info@battlecreekpride.org



A Major Milestone for Campaign to End Partisan Gerrymandering

BY BTL STAFF

LANSING – Voters Not Politicians celebrated the work of its all-volunteer grassroots army of petition circulators last week after the Board of State Canvassers placed on the Nov. 6 ballot the proposal to provide transparent, non-partisan process for redistricting. The process would include a commission of citizens drawing legislative and congressional lines.

“From day one, the heart and soul of our campaign has been our volunteers. We are truly a campaign for and by the people of our state,” said Katie Fahey, founder and executive director of Voters Not Politicians. “We owe all our success to their hard work collecting more than 425,000 signatures in just 110 days. We will win in November thanks to their passion and willingness to spread the word about the need for redistricting reform to make Michigan’s government work for its people, not its politicians.”

The Board of State Canvassers voted 3-0 to certify the Voters Not Politicians proposal in a brief meeting today. The board was following orders issued by the and Court of Appeals.

A three-judge panel of the Appeals Court ruled unanimously on June 7 that a complaint by pro-gerrymandering organization “Citizens Protecting Michigan’s Constitution” was “without merit” and ordered the Board of State Canvassers and Secretary of State to put the measure before voters. The pro-gerrymandering group then asked the Michigan Supreme Court for permission to block that order while it appealed the decision. The Supreme Court refused to do so.

“We fully expect the Supreme Court will concur with the Court of Appeals that the pro-gerrymandering campaign to keep the Voters Not Politicians proposal off the ballot is without merit,” said Fahey. “We look forward to being on the ballot in November, and giving voters a chance to change our current system, where politicians and lobbyists operate behind closed doors to draw district lines for partisan gain. Our polling and our volunteer signature collection and canvassing results show Michigan voters support our plan for a transparent, non-partisan, Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.”

Fahey went on to mention her thoughts on the importance of having district lines drawn by constituents.

“Voters know our state has some serious problems. Our roads are crumbling, our education system needs reform and in many communities, water isn’t safe to drink. This proposal is an important first step toward fixing our state so we can elect officials who are accountable to solve problems,” Fahey said. “Today is gratifying recognition of the amazing work by our volunteers. We salute them, and look forward to informing the people of Michigan about the need to vote yes for redistricting reform in November.”

Voters Not Politicians is a nonpartisan, volunteer-driven organization dedicated to passing a state constitutional amendment to end partisan gerrymandering by taking politicians and lobbyists out of the redistricting process and putting Michigan citizens in charge. Learn more at votersnotpoliticians.com.

Community Enjoys Free BBQ Courtesy of Wrigley’s Pharmacy

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Hundreds of community members came together at Glory Supermarket in Highland Park on Friday, June 22 for a neighborhood summer BBQ hosted by Wrigley’s Pharmacy. The afternoon family-friendly event included free food and drink, music, a raffle and a bounce house in the parking lot.

LGBTQ ally Nebill Abdulla, who manages Wrigley’s Pharmacy, is well-known in the community for helping with things like groceries, toiletries, hormone therapy and HIV medication.

For him, the annual gathering is about showing his customers what a pharmacy can do for the community it serves.

“It’s so amazing to be able to do this. I love it,” said Abdulla. Wrigley’s Pharmacy has hosted the BBQ for 10 years now. When asked why he continues to do it, Abdulla said, “I’ve seen nothing and we’ve had nothing and we’ve grown up with nothing. I want people to have what we have. I wish everybody in this neighborhood could open up a business and make money. I don’t believe in this is ours. This is everybody’s. Everybody that has a hand in this is part of my family.”



Julisa Abad, Wrigley’s Pharmacy director of LGBTQ Outreach and relations, with Highland Park Mayor Hubert Yopp



Volunteers from Wrigley’s Pharmacy with Lilianna Reyes, interim executive director at Affirmations

Services, Humana, UNIFIED HIV Health & Beyond, Pride Source Media Group, Fair Michigan and others.

Highland Park Mayor Hubert Yopp also stopped by to engage with city residents.

“Look at the seniors and the children from age 5 to 75. These are the people that need help, that need this kind of function because they don’t get out that much. I think it’s great for the community,” said Yopp. “This business is giving back and this is not just a one-time event. I’m proud of Wrigley’s Pharmacy, I really am.”

Wrigley’s Pharmacy is located at 14100 Woodward Ave. in Highland Park. Call 313-867-5000 or visit facebook.com/RX14100Woodward/ for more information.



Some local organizations were in attendance to offer the community access to valuable resources. They include Affirmations, All Well-Being

Adam Rippon to Keynote Equality Michigan Dinner Oct. 5

DETROIT – On Thursday, June 21, Equality Michigan (EQMI) announced that Olympic Bronze Medalist and outspoken voice of the LGBTQ community, Adam Rippon, will be joining the organization on Oct. 5, 2018, as the keynote speaker for their annual Fall Reception, Building Bridges.

“We all appreciate what having someone of Adam Rippon’s stature means for EQMI,” said Jim Murray, Equality Michigan’s Chairman. “We’re setting the table to change Elliot-Larsen and pleased that Adam will help us do that.”

Before he even stepped on the ice at the 2018 Winter Olympics, American figure skater Adam Rippon made history as the first openly gay United States male athlete to qualify for the Winter Games. An outspoken voice and inspiration for the LGBTQ community, he became the first openly gay athlete to medal at the Winter Olympics.

Adam has gained international



attention for his personality off the ice as well. Dubbed “one of the most entertaining athletes at the winter games,” by Billboard, Adam has built a massive following with his sharp on-air candor, insightful comments about LGBTQ issues, and quick-witted social media posts.

“In a movement that is full of fierceness, Adam Rippon is a force to be reckoned

with and we are thrilled to have his help here in Michigan,” said Stephanie White, Equality Michigan’s Executive Director. “His journey is much like that of our overall movement; learning to find our voice and asserting our right to be full members of this society. Our community can’t wait to welcome ‘America’s Sweetheart’ to Michigan.”

Named “Building Bridges,” Equality Michigan’s event is the annual gathering of Michigan’s LGBTQ community along with corporate and political leaders from across the political spectrum. Every year the organization presents awards to both long-time and up-and-coming leaders in the movement and the allies who are helping to bring about full equality under the law for lesbian, gay, bi and transgender Michiganders.

Adam Rippon will appear at the Oct. 5 event at the DTE Energy Headquarters in Downtown Detroit. Tickets and sponsorships may be purchased at equalitymi.org/reception.



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 BY APHRA BEHN

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