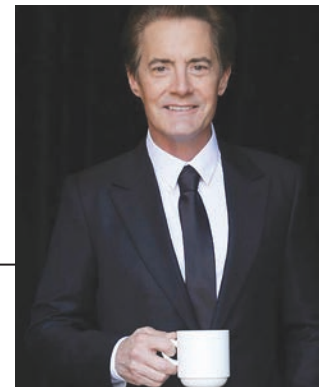


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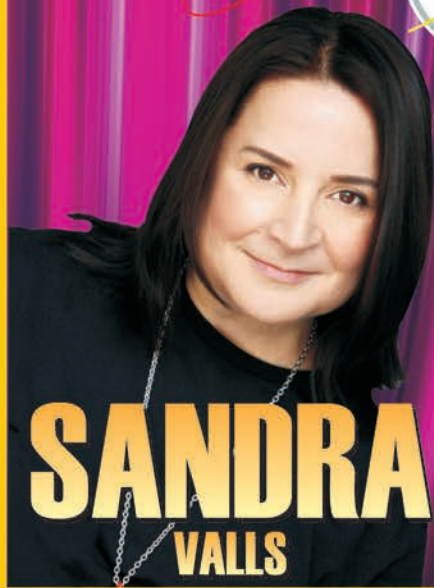
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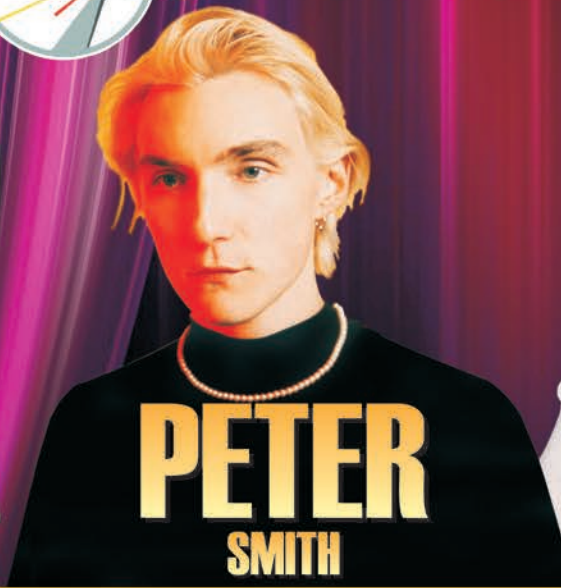
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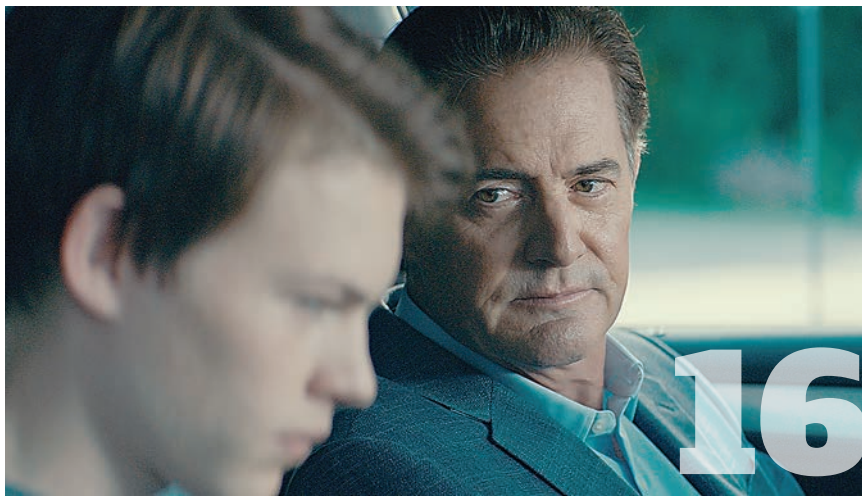
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PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP

20222 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone 734.293.7200

PUBLISHERS

Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief

Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 102
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

Entertainment Editor

Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200 x 106
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

Feature News Editor

Kate Opalewski, 734.293.7200 x 108
kate@pridesource.com

Editorial Assistant

Eve Kucharski, 734.293.7200 x 105
eve@pridesource.com

News & Feature Writers

Emell Derra Adolphus, Michelle Brown,
Ellen Knoppow, Jason Michael, Drew Howard,
Jonathan Thurston

CREATIVE

Webmaster & MIS Director

Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

Columnists

Charles Alexander, Michelle E. Brown,
Mikey Rox, D'Anne Witkowski,
Gwendolyn Ann Smith

Cartoonists

Paul Berg

Contributing Photographers

Andrew Potter, Andrew Cohen

ADVERTISING & SALES

Director of Sales

Jan Stevenson, 734.293.7200 x 101
jan@pridesource.com

Sales Representatives

Ann Cox, 734.293.7200 x 103
anncox@pridesource.com

National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

MEMBER OF

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THE '00S - 2004

February - Detroit Public Schools CEO Creates Task Force, Looks at LGBT Student Issues: In response to a community town hall, Detroit Public Schools CEO Dr. Kenneth Burnley announced that he would create a task force to examine issues and craft policies to rectify the many problems plaguing gay students. Several serious homophobia-related crises had erupted in Detroit's schools, including assaults and violence directed toward gay students, so-called lesbian "gangs" that had forcefully emerged, and what had been described as a rampant and growing HIV/AIDS epidemic.



July - MSU Announces Scholarship for LGBT Students of Color: Michigan State University undergraduate student LaJoya Johnson was motivated to create a scholarship for LGBT students of color following the 2003 murder of Sakia Gunn, a 15-year-old African-American lesbian in Newark, New Jersey. The murder had a profound impact on Johnson's commitment to being an activist at MSU.



August - Largest Demonstration in Traverse City History Says 'No' to Bush:

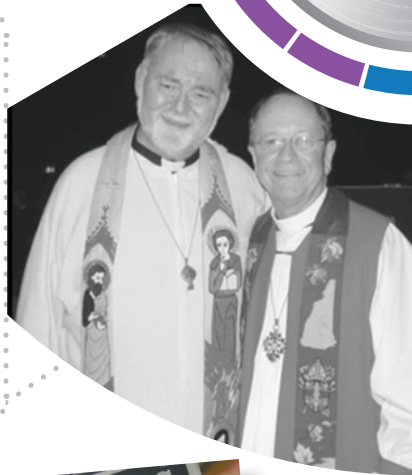
In what local historian Larry Wakefield termed the largest demonstration in the city's history, over 1,000 people gathered to protest a campaign appearance by George W. Bush. The crowd of demonstrators was between 1,000 and 1,500. For hours before Bush was scheduled to speak, community members carried signs and spoke out about the war, job losses, environmental degradation, reproductive freedom and marriage equality.

FLASHING BACK TO THE PAST:



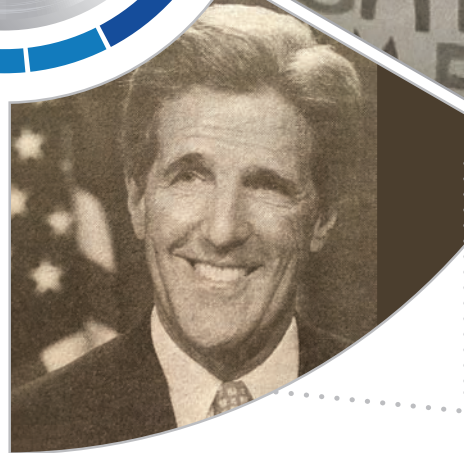
December - People Who Care Service a 'High Church' Affair:

The Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson, IX Bishop of New Hampshire, the first openly-gay bishop in the history of the Episcopal church gave a sermon at the 20th annual People Who Care About People With AIDS service on Dec. 10 at St. John's in Royal Oak. Organizers planned a high church service to honor the visiting bishop. "[And] one of the great gifts that people with HIV and AIDS have given me is to be able to look at my own death and live in spite of it," said Robinson, who spoke not only of the AIDS epidemic in the country, but also of the global crisis.



September - Kerry Grants Interview to BTL:

Marking the first time a major party presidential nominee has ever granted the gay media an interview, Sen. John Kerry spoke to Lisa Keen on Sept. 9, which appeared in BTL and was later distributed widely to the national gay press. Kerry said securing equal protections for gays would be a process, and one that he was committed to keeping forward bound.



DARK DAYS FOR GAYS IN 2004



April: A group calling itself Citizens for the Protection of Marriage began circulating petitions to get the anti-gay marriage amendment proposal on the Nov. 2004 ballot. In response, the Coalition for a Fair Michigan

pushed its Decline To Sign campaign, a grassroots effort to encourage people in Michigan to refrain from signing the petitions.



September: The Michigan Court of Appeals ruled against the Board of Canvassers Sept. 3, assuring the anti-gay marriage amendment a place on the ballot in November.



October: Newspapers across Michigan overwhelmingly came out against Proposal 2 in their editorial pages.

November: Michigan's Governor Jennifer Granholm spoke out during her "Ask the Governor" radio program on WJR AM 760 against Proposal 2 calling it unnecessary and saying it goes too far.

February: On Feb. 24, a hearing was held in the House Family and Children Services Committee regarding House Joint Resolution U, the marriage amendment, to ban marriage rights, civil unions, and domestic partnership benefits for same-sex couples in Michigan. After one hour of debate, the committee elected to vote on the issue, moving it forward by a vote of 6-0. All six Republicans on the committee voted yes, while the three Democrats declined to vote. There were no votes against the resolution.

March: Supporters of the anti-gay marriage amendment to the Michigan Constitution failed to get the 73 votes in the House of Representatives necessary to pass the resolution. The vote was 65 in favor of and 38 against the resolution which was eight votes shy of the two-thirds majority needed to pass HJR U before going to the Michigan Senate for a vote.

July: Citizens for the Protection of Marriage turned in over 482,000 signatures to the Secretary of State's office on July 5.

August: In a 2-2 vote along party lines Aug. 23, the State Board of Canvassers denied the proposed constitutional marriage amendment. The measure's proponents had vowed to appeal the Board's decision in court.

October: The Michigan State AFL-CIO announced its formal opposition to Proposal 2. It was the largest union, with over 600,000 members in its 59 affiliate unions, urged to vote "NO" on 2.

November: Proposal 2, which sought to define marriage as the union of one man and one woman in the state's constitution, won by a margin of 59-41 percent. Nationally, Michigan's loss was part of a much larger trend. Ten additional states had similar measures on the ballot, and the measures passed in all of them.

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Michigan Psychoanalytic Society Presents 44th Annual Symposium on 'Queer Theory'

To be held on Saturday, March 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. at Livonia's Schoolcraft College, the Michigan Psychoanalytic Society will hold its 44th annual symposium titled "Queer Theory Meets Psychoanalysis: Productive Synergies and Clinical Implications."

"Psychotherapists and psychoanalysts are often unaware of Queer Theory and its relationship to thinking analytically about non-normative and normative genders and sexualities," write event organizers. "They are unfamiliar with the theoretical constructs of 'sexual life and sexual death drives' proposed to be related to polymorphous sexuality. Understanding Queer Theory propositions will give new perspectives on how perverse sexual practices provide acceptable expression of self configurations."

The event will feature two guest speakers: Ann Pellegrini, Ph.D., a professor of Performance Studies and Social and Cultural Analysis at New York University; and Avgi Saketopoulou, Psy.D. who is studying at NYS's postdoctoral program. Her work focuses on the areas of trauma and its psychic representation, psychosexuality and more.

Featured panelists will be David M. Halperin, Ph.D.; Sally Rosenberg, D.O.; Michael Shulman, Ph.D.; Don Spivak, M.D.; and moderator Susan Flinders, Ph.D.

The Symposium has six clear objectives:

- 1.) Participants will gain an understanding of major queer theory concepts.
- 2.) Participants will be able to explain the relevance of queer theory.
- 3.) Participants will be able to describe key themes for both queer theory and clinical psychoanalysis.
- 4.) Participants will be able to describe how rigid adherence to normativity can be restrictive.
- 5.) Participants will be able to discuss concepts of the sexual life drive and death drive relating to the sexual and to polymorphous perversity.
- 6.) Participants will be able to explain how perverse sexual practices may open up space for new configurations of the self.

Though the event registration starts at 8:30 a.m. with program introductions starting at 9 a.m., a continental breakfast will feature be provided until 10 a.m. Programming for the morning session will last from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., with the afternoon session beginning after lunch at 1:45 p.m. The event will come to a close with the panel discussion that ends at 4:15. *To find out more information about the event, reach out to Monica at monicasimmons@ix.netcom.com or call 248-851-3380.*



Ruth Ellis Center Board Member Frank Love, Executive Director Jerry Peterson, U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib, Peer Leader Blair Key and Metropolitan Community Church - Detroit Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow pose for a photo during her visit to the center Feb. 21 BTL photo: Jason A. Michael

U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib Visits REC to Hear From LGBTQ Faith Leaders, Youth

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib visited the Ruth Ellis Center Feb. 21 for the second time, to hear from faith leaders and LGBTQ youth about the importance of LGBTQ nondiscrimination protections. The visit, which drew an invited crowd of about 20, was sponsored by Inclusive Justice, a statewide Michigan faith organization dedicated to addressing LGBTQ inclusion issues within the faith community. Tlaib received a warm welcome.

"We celebrate your victory," said Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow, senior pastor of Metropolitan Community Church - Detroit and a board member of Inclusive Justice. "We are so grateful to have a champion for human rights representing us. We wanted to share some of our stories with you so as you continue to be that champion, you have some real-life examples."

The afternoon's first speaker, Frank Love, who first started attending REC activities as a youth some 10 years ago and now sits on the Ruth Ellis Center board, recounted a story of discrimination and the impact it had upon him.

"I was walking to school and there were a group of football players," he said. "We were right in front of the school and they robbed me. The school said they couldn't do anything because technically, we were not on school property. [We had a] feeling of that's just not right [and] nothing ever happened. That's

the kind of discrimination that we still face in high school now."

Blair Keys spoke, too. He now works at the center as a peer leader, but said that when he first came to the center he was in a lot of pain.

"I used to be ashamed for being gay," Keys recalled. "I used to hate myself for it. But once I found Ruth Ellis though, I learned to accept myself for who I am."

REC Executive Director Jerry Peterson shared thoughts, too, about the current political climate and its perceived impact on the Ruth Ellis Center's work. He said that people have approached him recently, mistakenly thinking that the youth attending REC's programming have been especially affected negatively by the nation's current political discourse.

"The reality is, what I think it's important to realize, is that many of the gains that have been made by the LGBT community in general have largely affected white, middle class, mainstream people. The truth is, things are bad for the people here and it's worse because people feel more emboldened," Peterson said. "But they have never improved in the ways that the general populace thinks that they have improved for people who are oppressed in so many aspects of their identity."

During Tlaib's address, she emphasized that she's looking for ways to answer, "How do I bring your voices to D.C. with me? Because that seems to be the disconnect sometimes. I repeat a lot of your stories."

She then elaborated on that thought with a written statement.

"I'm so grateful to have had the opportunity to meet with young people and members of the clergy to discuss the discrimination that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people face all too often here in Michigan and across the country," the statement read. "Today, I heard from my constituents loud and clear: Discrimination or fear of discrimination from a lack of protections disadvantages LGBT Michiganders every day and impacts their lives in so many areas."

Faith leaders in attendance included Rabbi Alana Alpert of Detroit Jews for Justice, who spoke briefly; Pastor Lindsey Anderson, Detroit Cooperative Church; Pastor Matthew Bode, Zion Lutheran Church of Ferndale; Rev. Michael V. Johnson; Linda and Tom Karle Nelson, from Fortunate Families Detroit; and Pastor Jeffrey Ognowski, from Iroquois Avenue Lutheran Church in Detroit.

"This conversation was part of a broader, year-long effort across Michigan and the United States to raise awareness about anti-LGBT discrimination and demand urgent action," Stringfellow said. "For far too long LGBT Michiganders have endured discrimination without the guarantee of explicit federal and state protections, and that needs to change. We're thankful for lawmakers like Rep. Rashida Tlaib and are hopeful that LGBT people nationwide will share their stories and ask for action from other policy-makers."

Report: Michigan Had 31 Hate Groups in 2018

MDCR Director Agustin V. Arbulu and Attorney General Dana Nessel Respond

BY BTL STAFF

There were 31 hate and extremist organizations operating in Michigan in 2018, according to a new report from the Southern Poverty Law Center, a civil rights organization located in Alabama.

The SPLC released a 73-page report, titled "Rage Against Change," on Wednesday, Feb. 20, which documents an increase in active extremist and hate organizations in Michigan.

between Flint and Ann Arbor."

Of the 31 active hate groups listed in Michigan, eight are based in Detroit: Great Millstone, Israel United in Christ, Israelite School of Universal Practical Knowledge, Nation of Islam, National Socialist Movement, Northern Hammerskins, NSM88 Records and the United Nuwaupians Worldwide/All Eyes on Egypt.

Attorney General Dana Nessel said she would stand up to hate in Michigan.

"Hate cannot continue to flourish in our state," said Nessel, who found the Fair Michigan Justice Project with Wayne County Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy to investigate and prosecute hate crimes. "I have seen the appalling, often fatal results of hate when it is acted upon."

That is why Nessel has established a hate crimes unit in her office lead by former Macomb and Wayne County Prosecutor Sunita Doddamani.

"To fight against hate crimes and the many hate groups which have been allowed to proliferate in our state," she said.

In addition to Nessel's hate crime unit initiative, MDCR is developing a process to document hate and bias incidents in the state.

Hate and bias incidents are those instances where an action does not rise to the level of a crime or a civil infraction. For instance, Lansing's Old Town experienced a spat of flyering by the white nationalist group Patriot Front over President's Day weekend. Flyers were removed by residents and visitors, but were posted on social media, showing the group was targeting immigrants as well as Jews with the flyers. The flyers are protected under the First Amendment and do

not rise to a crime.

"Hate and bias incidents serve to create a chilling effect in diverse communities, such as Old Town," said Arbulu.

This is not the first time Lansing has been affected by a hate and bias group.

Michigan State University's Young Americans for Freedom, a key group with a history dating back to 2006, was listed as the first university recognized hate group in SPCL Hate Map history. Until last year, the white nationalist group was led by Kyle Bristow as well as Richard Spencer. Bristow withdrew from public white nationalist activism over alleged threats. He also ran the Foundation for the Marketplace of Ideas until his break from public white nationalism.

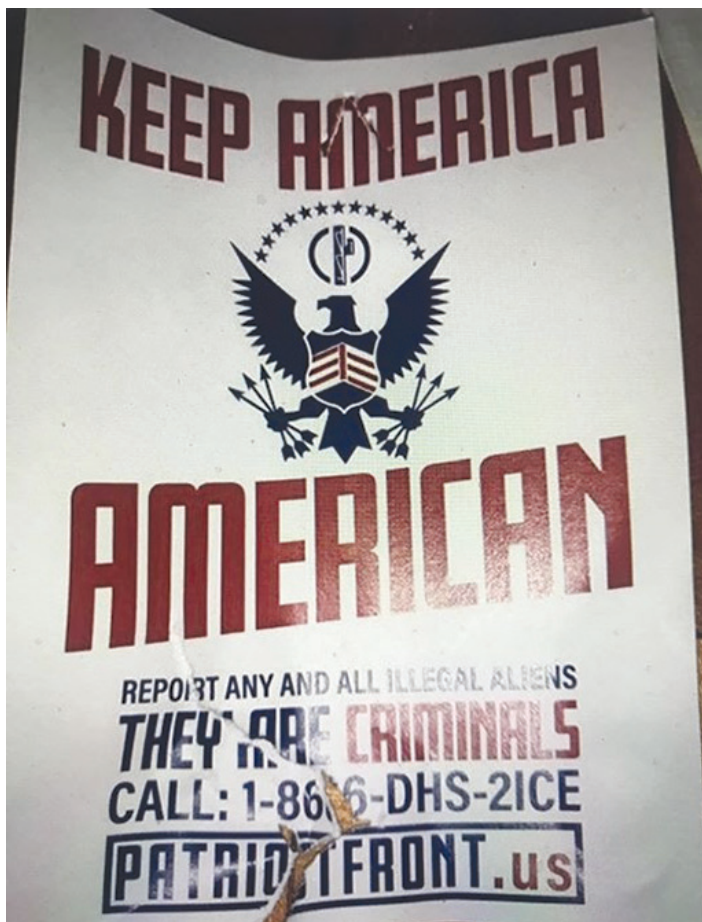
FMI had several high profile white nationalists on the board, including Spencer and Jason Van Dyke.

Van Dyke, a former Michigan resident now living in Texas, served as the legal advisor to Bristow's MSU YAF in 2006 to 2007 while it was on the Hate Map. Van Dyke most recently served a brief stint as the interim executive director of Proud Boys. Van Dyke is currently

facing felony charges for filing a false police report in Texas over an alleged complaint of his gun and camera gear being stolen from his vehicle. He sued an activist in Texas for revealing his white nationalist history to a prosecutor's office in Texas which rescinded his job offer as a result.

Moving forward, by documenting such incidents in a database, MDCR, working with community partners, will be able to create targeted awareness and education programs to address and combat such incidents in general.

"Identifying and calling out hate and bias incidents is an important tool in our toolbox to educate Michiganders about the undertone of hatred in our communities," Arbulu continued. "But they also serve as a first step in developing community dialogs to strengthen our collective resolve to reject hate, bias and division. The Department looks forward to helping all of our community partners in fostering these important, powerful and ultimately life-changing discussions as we become more diversified."



One of 25 white nationalist group flyers removed from Old Town in Lansing over President's Day weekend. The flyer was found on a tree outside Esquire, one of Lansing's two gay bars. Photo courtesy of Danielle Pendergrass

The organization's Hate Map report found Michigan experienced a 6.5 percent increase in active hate and extremist groups.

"This is a troubling trend," said Michigan Department of Civil Rights Director Agustin V. Arbulu. "These groups range in the ideological extremes from anti-Muslim, to anti-LGBT to black nationalist and white nationalists. Particularly of concern, over one half of the identified groups are located east of US-23

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Pastor in Murder of Transgender Woman Accused of Regularly Paying for Sex Work

BY DREW HOWARD

New testimony in the case of Albert Weathers, a Sterling Heights pastor charged with the murder of transgender woman Kelly Stough last December, alleges the pastor has a history of interacting with sex workers in the Palmer Park neighborhood over the past decade.

A preliminary hearing held at the 36th District Court before Judge Michael Wagner on Monday, Feb. 24, brought forth new testimony from Kyra Butts, a self-identified transgender sex worker who was close friends with Stough. Butts, who was interviewed by Fair Michigan Justice Project Special Prosecutor Jaimie Powell Horowitz, testified she's seen Weathers frequent the area around Six Mile and Woodward – an area known for its high population of sex workers – as far back as 2008.

Butts alleges she's been on several “dates” with Weathers in which he'd pick her up in his car, though the exact number she couldn't remember.

“He was one of the guys that I hooked up with,” she told the court. “He would drive around a lot before he would pick someone up.”

Butts stopped going on dates due to Weathers' “intimidating” and “aggressive” attitude, she said, as well as his repeated behavior of changing their agreed-upon transaction price. She told the court she saw Weathers again in the area just a week before the murder.

The court also heard testimony from Eddie Neal-Price, a passerby who said he witnessed a woman – believed to be Stough – shoved out of a car on Dec. 7, 2018, in the area of Six Mile and Brush. Neal-Price called 911 to report the incident before driving off. Stough had been shot to death as a result of a dispute over payment for sex services, according to authorities.

More testimony will be heard at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, March 11, before Wagner.

Ingham County Services Committee Passes Gender-Neutral Bathroom Resolution

BY BTL STAFF

In a Feb. 19 Ingham County Services Committee meeting, a resolution unanimously passed to improve the accessibility of gender-segregated restroom facilities on Ingham County's property.

“Therefore be it resolved, that all restrooms and gender-segregated facilities on property operated by Ingham County shall be accessible to individuals consistent with their gender identity or gender expression and that all single-occupancy restroom facilities shall use gender-neutral signage,” read the resolution.

Commissioner Ryan Sebolt, a member of the LGBTQ community himself, emphasized why it was important that the resolution be passed.

“We updated some of our nondiscrimination policies last year to include this language, gender identity and expression. We've seen a movement both in the federal courts and with the new governor to be more inclusive,” Sebolt said. “I thought

this made sense with consistency in terms of our existing policies, as well as treating people with basic dignity and respect, that we move this policy forward so there is no ambiguity on where Ingham County stands on this issue. It's about access to our residents and fair and equal treatment.”

The issue was added to the committee's agenda via a letter sent by Michigan's ACLU LGBT Project. During the public comment portion of the meeting preceding the decision, Chair of the Ingham Community Health Center Board of Directors Todd Heywood and Vice Chair Jennifer Hanna commented on the efficacy of existing gender-neutral bathrooms within the Center.

“We want to let you know that in the Ingham Community Health Center, our freestanding facilities all have gender neutral facilities and we follow this policy already,” Heywood said. “This is how we operate and how we have operated, and we have done that for years without really much discussion about it because it's the right thing to do.”

Heywood also cited that the

implementation of bathrooms like these could contribute positively to the Human Rights Campaign's Healthcare Equality Index rating. Something that he said is “important to bring in more patients.”

“It's important to bring in more revenue,” Heywood said. “And, most importantly, it's important in the service of our patients and clients in saying, ‘You're welcome here. This is a safe space.’”

Hanna echoed his sentiments, adding that not only is it a benefit to the LGBTQ community, but also to families.

“I appreciate the gender-neutral bathrooms. Especially as a mother, you can go in with older kids, plus I have never had an issue with it.”

Lansing Chapter Leader of Transgender Michigan Nicole Hope emphasized the importance of the resolution, too.

“I am also, myself, transgender,” Hope said. “The short of this is, ‘Do you want to affirm that people like me can exist in public or not?’”

‘Don't Say Trans’ Bill Dies in South Dakota Legislature

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

Legislation that would have barred K-7 teachers from teaching about gender dysphoria, often the experience of being transgender, died in the South Dakota legislature on Friday.

The bill, House Bill 1108, was approved in South Dakota House last week by a vote of 39-30. On Friday, however, a Senate committee voted to table legislation by a 7-2 vote.

The South Dakota “Don't Say Trans” bill was one of 78 anti-LGBT bills and 18 bills that were specifically anti-transgender pending in state legislatures throughout the country this legislative session, according to the Equality Federation.

“No instruction in gender dysphoria may be provided to any student in kindergarten through grade seven in any public school in the state,” the bill stated.

HB1108 was the third anti-transgender bill to fail in the South Dakota legislature, according to the National Center for Transgender Equality.

Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, said in a statement the failure of “Don't Say Trans” bill should serve as a wake-up call.

“After the failure of two previous bills targeting transgender people, this bill's

death should serve as third strike for the state legislature,” Keisling said. “Throughout this process, it's become clear these bills have nothing to do with safety or concern for children and far more to do with fear based on ignorance. South Dakota better off discarding by some in the state legislature to target transgender youth, and families across the state are surely celebrating this win.”

Another anti-trans bill, House Bill 1225, remains pending before the state legislature. The legislation would prohibit transgender kids from competing in high school sports consistent with their gender identity. A House committee favorably reported out the bill this week.

Keisling said even though HB1225 is

pending, the failure of the “Don't Say Trans” bill is a victory.

“While we are still watching a fourth bill that would severely limit transgender students from playing sports, we send our congratulations to transgender South Dakotans, their families, and allies who testified against this bill and worked tirelessly to replace such prejudice with their acceptance and love,” Keisling said.

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



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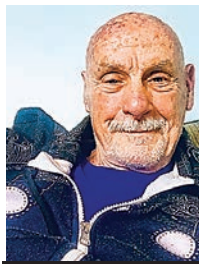
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Black, Gay, Detroit Friends (Pt. 4)

Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

For decades, a seeming legitimate requirement asked for admission to Detroit gay bars was three pieces of ID, including one with photo selfie (in or out of drag optional). The request was intended to keep white bars whites only and, in some cases, men only.

(A touch of irony these days is that one of Detroit's oldest bars has done an about-face in the past couple of decades, and is now almost exclusively a black gay bar. There was a time in the mid-'60s when the drinking glass of an intruder was audibly broken as the offending patron was leaving its premises. Tonight's the night when your presence is not welcome, Mary!)

I was 19 when I borrowed a friend's ID to go with some of my lesbian friends to the Silver Slipper, a dyke bar on Grand River, not too far from downtown Detroit. Straight tourists and gay men sat downstairs. Lesbians sat in a restricted balcony area. Segregation of another kind.

For my 21st birthday celebration I went with three of my Cass Tech gay art grads – Edward Flourney, Eddie Gonda and Gordon Bernard (aka Rita Hayworth). We celebrated that historic evening in my young life at the Flame Show Bar, located at 4264 John R at Canfield, near Wayne University.

The Famous Flame roster included such giants as Billie Holiday, Della Reese, Etta James, Dinah Washington, B. B. King and Big Joe Turner.

The Flame Show Bar, opened in 1949, six years after Detroit's infamous race riot of 1943 – for which I was sent home for safety from Burton Elementary School – and was what was then called a “black and tan” club.

The nickname meant that whites were permitted and actually welcome to drink, listen and sway to the best of African-American jazz musicians, vocalists and soloists.

The Flame had ample space for larger groups, including my Night of Legal Adulthood, a very special, daring now-historic LGBT drag group. The Jewel Box Review.

The Jewel Box, started by gay drag devotees and one butch, power-punch lesbian, was kicked into its long-lasting show biz high heels in 1939.

Star of the Jewel Box Review was Storme DeLarverie, who was 19 when they joined what many have called America's first gay community. Storme certainly was nice to look at and a first-class male drag persona. (“I think I could go straight for Storme!” quipped Ms. Rita. “Make that two of us,” added Eddie Gonda.)

As for Storme, they were more than just a storm. Storme was an LGBTQ hurricane! Her now-legendary tussle with the police – “Hey, copheads! I'm not taking any of your cuffs or your friggin' bullhorns! Period! You got another think a-coming!” – ignited the Stonewall riots in 1969. She was 40.

Storme was born in New Orleans to an African-American mother and a white father. She's now remembered as an LGBTQ activist, gay civil rights icon and entertainer whose career included the Apollo Theater, Radio City Music Hall and many LGBTQ venues worldwide.

She worked for much of her long life as an emcee, singer, bouncer, bodyguard and volunteer street patrol worker, and, as she liked to ID her remaining years and status (died May

See **Parting Glances**, continued on p. 11



BY BRAYDEN A. MISIOLEK

Let's Continue the Conversation: Suicide

It is vital that we continue the discussion on suicide with the recent loss of a member of the trans/gender-nonconforming community. Our community shared this advice in Transcend The Binary's recent study, “Finding Our Strength.” Transcend the Binary is an organization dedicated to aiding the TGNC community through resources, education, research and affirming care, and this work aided that goal in exploring the daily lives of over 300 individuals in our TGNC community, with support from the University of Michigan.

Nearly everyone included in the report worried about discrimination in everyday life, and Transcend's research shows that we internalize discrimination, too – the majority responded accepting this as a ‘fact of life’ and one third believed they were responsible for this mistreatment. Additionally, anxiety rates were found to be very high – our research shows 80 percent reported anxiety and 20 percent were at risk for depression. National also data shows that 40 percent of our community attempts suicide.

Consulting with our licensed clinical social worker, Caitlin Tupper, she said guilt, shame and stigma can prevent people from disclosing depressive symptoms and suicidal ideations. Because of this, at Transcend, we work to destigmatize and normalize mental health concerns and this is a large reason why our model of care centers on peer advocates providing support services; they can draw on their own personal experiences as appropriate.

There are also barriers to accessing services. This may

include past negative experiences with therapists as well as unfamiliarity with, or lack of trust in the therapy process. We work to overcome these roadblocks by personally vetting therapists for a strong background in TGNC-care. Transcend offers continued advocacy support for our clients, as requested. We problem-solve sliding scale and transportation barriers. We work one-on-one with our clients to build their ‘support team’ – connecting them with a suite of services, referrals, support groups and peer counseling.

You are part of this support team, too. In Finding Our Strength, 88 percent of respondents reported reaching out to others to talk. We have compiled lists below to empower you in supporting loved ones who may be experiencing depression or suicidal ideation.

Warning Signs & What to Watch For:

- Giving away belongings or saying goodbyes
- Isolating self from others
- Impulsive or reckless behaviors uncharacteristic of the person
- Recent major life stressors and/or losses
- Irritability and anger
- Making “jokes” or vague statements about suicide
- Lost interest in activities and passions they once had

See **Viewpoint**, continued on p. 11

► Viepoint

Continued from p. 10

- History of suicide attempts
- A stark change: suddenly seemingly improved / having more energy after a period of depression

How to Provide Support:

- **Listen and be present.** This in itself can be a great gift to them, by sharing an outlet to express themselves without judgement.
- **Let them know they are not alone.** Identify the support that they do have.
- **You don't need to 'have the answers.'** Let go of the pressure to find 'the right' solution. Believe in them, and if anything, explore different options with them by asking questions.
- **Ask them how they would like to be supported.** Maybe it's just talking, or being there.
- **Identify what has helped them cope so far.** This may be music, movies, video games, journaling, creating.
- **Instill a sense of hope.** Identify aspects of life that they still enjoy. Discuss future goals they are looking forward to. Make future plans with them.
- **Assure them that they won't always feel** the way they are feeling right now. Acknowledge that this is hard. Acknowledge that they are strong. Assure them that there is more in store for them.
- **Highlight what motivates them, or makes them unique.** Encourage them to recognize their strengths. I may be very powerful for people to hear a perspective of what makes them special and what you admire about them.
- **Encourage them to seek professional help.** Normalizing and destigmatizing therapy is very helpful. Telling them that they deserve the space to work through this, and they

► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 10

24, 2014 at 93), "Guardian of Lesbians of the Village."

(By the way, one of the lesbians of the Village at Stonewall Riots time was BTL co-publisher, Susan Horowitz).

The New York Times commented in Storme's obituary, "Tall, androgynous and armed – she held a state gun permit – Ms. DeLarverie roamed lower Seventh and Eight Avenues, patrolling the sidewalks and checking in at lesbian bars for what she called 'ugliness:' any form of intolerance, bullying or abuse of her 'baby girls.'"

An unexpected birthday gift for me that memorable coming-of-age celebration was

deserve the tools and support to navigate this.

- **Ensure them you are able to take care of yourself.** Seek your own support, and be active in your own self-care.

If you or someone you know is experiencing crisis, remember the advice from our community. You have survived 100 percent of your worst days. There is a whole community ready to hold you close.

In-the-moment support:

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Suicide Prevention Hotline

1.800.273.TALK

Trans Lifeline

1.877.565.8860

Crisis Text Line - Text 'START' to 741741

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Transcend the Binary

248.533.0797

consults@transcendthebinary.org

If you or someone you know is seeking support as a survivor of suicide and coping with grief, we can share supportive resources as well. Email info@transcendthebinary.org.

Brayden A. Misiolik is Transcend the Binary's executive director. Transcend the Binary is a TGNC-led team of peer advocates, pharmacists, physician, social workers, creative and communications professionals with the goal of empowering and promoting well-being for the TGNC community. Transcend works one-on-one with the community through free support services, goal-setting, peer counseling, referral navigation and free health education. Transcend also conducts community-led research to better inform these programs as well as create more global change through awareness and education of those who support our community.

– compliments of fellow CT artist Edward Flourney – a well-lit birthday cake, which gentleman that I was even back then, I declined to blow in public – especially in such a famous and decorous black-and-tan night club.

Best gift of all – still so very long-lasting in my memory – Storme later dropped by our integrated table and wished me a happy birthday and good luck to my round of friends! And a long gay life!

"May all your jewel boxes be filled with glitter and be-proud good times."

Charles Alexander is prolific both as a BTL columnist (700-plus columns) and as a well-known LGBT community artist (1000 Facebook 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

Pat Robertson



You know those online ads that promise, "One weird trick to lose belly fat" next to an image of, say, a crudely drawn banana? Even if you don't know what exactly those ads are trying to communicate, you

know not to click them.

But not Grandpa Robertson. And he didn't even need to click to know it was trying to trick him into recognizing the "weird way" gays "do sex."

On the Feb. 25 episode of "The 700 Club," racist/homophobic-grandpa-for-hire Pat Robertson discussed the City of Philadelphia's legal dispute with Catholic Social Services, an agency that handles foster placements for children but will not do so for same-sex couples. As that's against Philadelphia's non-discrimination policy, Philadelphia didn't renew the agency's contract.

Robertson thinks this is appalling and that it violates the God-given right of Catholic Social Services to discriminate against lesbians and gays. And the very fact that lesbians, gays and their allies have the audacity to complain is proof that they're out for blood. Weird sex blood. Or something.

"The incredible thing about the homosexuals is they are willing to destroy lives and destroy the whole fabric of society so long as they and their weird way of doing sex is legitimized," Robertson said. "They're willing to tear down the entire edifice in order to have the majority of people recognize the way they do sex, that's what it amounts to."

Is it, though? Is "weird sex" really what this all amounts to? Well, of course it is if you don't think that gays and lesbians are actually human and capable of forming long-term loving relationships and creating safe and nurturing home environments for children. I mean, if when you see a gay man all you see is an anthropomorphic demon penis or when you see a lesbian you just see a vagina monster, then I guess I can see why you'd be afraid to let them take care of kids.

But, of course, there's one weird trick to getting over your irrational fear of lesbians and gays: visualize them as fully human. When you meet a gay man, say to yourself, "He's more than just a penis, he's more than just a penis. ..." Then ask yourself why you're so obsessed with gay penises and how maybe, just maybe, that says a lot more about you than him.

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Is "weird sex" really what this all amounts to? Well, of course it is if you don't think that gays and lesbians are actually human and capable of forming long-term loving relationships and creating safe and nurturing home environments for children.

You could also try engaging someone you believe to be gay or lesbian in conversation. You could say something like, "Hello. How are you?" or "Gee, it sure is cold/hot today!" You can then ask, "Does your life amount to more than doing weird sex?" And they'll likely say, "Yes," or possibly stop talking to you altogether because, seriously, what is wrong with you?

One of the most fascinating parts of Robertson's philosophy is that he argues that gays are destroying all that's good and holy, while at the same time arguing that there are hardly any gays at all.

"One percent, ladies and gentleman, get it? One percent of the country, from what we understand, are lesbian, two percent are homosexual. And that is all, and yet that two percent and one percent are taking charge of the rest of us because they're so vocal and so authoritative and they apparently dominate these legislative bodies."

Got that? Hardly any homos to speak of, but who run the world? Gays. Lesbians and gays are just so darn powerful that they run the whole country, which is why Trump is ... wait a minute.

OK, either the gays are doing a very bad job dominating the government, or, and hear me out, maybe Robertson is just making shit up because he's a harmful old man?

Robertson continued, "I think if Christians begin to speak out and insist that if some politician goes along with the gay agenda, that they're going to be voted out of office [politicians will] start saying, 'We want to listen to the majority of the people in our society.' Until they do, that small minority is going to be dominating everything we do and every aspect of our lives."

If only Christians had a voice in this country! If only there was some way Christians could meet in, like, groups. Maybe in special buildings. And they could establish specific days for, like, nationwide celebration. And maybe the whole thing could be tax exempt. I'm not sure what you'd call that or if we'll ever see such a thing realized in America. Perhaps someday Christians will be able to withstand the LGBTQ tyranny that forces everyone to say, "merry penis" and "vagina bless America."

LGBT Democrats Play Visible Role at DNC Winter Meeting



DNC Chair Tom Perez is among those who spoke at the Democratic National Committee's 2019 Annual Winter Meeting that took place in D.C. from Feb. 14-16, 2019. (Washington Blade photo by Michael Key)

DNC Chair Tom Perez told LGBT Caucus members he is confident LGBT people and the other diverse communities and working people that make up the Democratic Party's electoral coalition will succeed in helping a Democratic presidential candidate defeat President Trump in the 2020 presidential election.

up. You were the first responders," he told about 85 people attending the LGBT Caucus meeting, including many of the 42 LGBT DNC members who make up the caucus.

"One of the things we learned is candidate quality matters," said Perez in reference to the Democratic candidates who won their races on the local, state and congressional level in the 2018 midterm election.

"And when they had the likes of Danica Roem running for state legislative seats those things matter," he said. "And that's been a huge formula for our success over this cycle."

He was referring to Danica Roem, the transgender Virginia lawmaker who beat an entrenched anti-LGBT GOP incumbent for a seat in the Virginia House of Delegates, becoming the nation's first openly trans person to be seated in a state legislature.

In his remarks before the LGBT Caucus and in his speech at the closing session of the meeting, Perez also hailed the election last year of openly gay U.S. Rep. Jared Polis (D-Colo.) as governor of Colorado. He called Polis' election as the nation's first openly gay governor "truly historic."

Perez served as an assistant attorney general and Secretary of Labor in the Obama administration. He told LGBT Caucus members he is confident LGBT people and the other diverse communities and working people that make up the Democratic Party's electoral coalition will succeed in helping a Democratic presidential candidate defeat President Trump in the 2020 presidential election.

"You've been leading the charge to make sure that we are calling out these efforts to turn the clock back," he said. "It's painful to me as someone who spent a heck of a lot of time in the Obama administration fighting for equality to see what the Education Department is doing, to see what the Labor Department is doing, to see what the military is doing to turn the clock back for so many communities, including the LGBTQ community," he said.

Gay Democratic activist Earl Fowlkes, immediate past president of D.C.'s Gertrude Stein Democratic Club, an LGBT group, serves as chair of the DNC's LGBT Caucus. He outlined the caucus's plans for working with the DNC to help elect more LGBT delegates to the 2020 Democratic National Convention than any previous convention.

"This is one of the first caucus meetings of the whole weekend," he told the Washington

Blade after the LGBT Caucus meeting on Feb. 14. "And it was very positive. We are still in an afterglow from the rainbow wave that came across the country as part of the blue wave of 2018," he said.

"There are new faces here," he continued. "A lot of people are coming as vice chairs and party officials in their own states. So, we can see the movement growing visibly just by the people in this room."

Among those in attendance were The LGBT & Allies Caucus Vice Chair Mark LaChey, who was elected first vice chair of the Michigan Democratic Party and would become the first openly gay Michigander to serve on the Democratic National Committee; Ray Buckley, the openly gay chair of the New Hampshire Democratic Party; and Terje Anderson, the openly gay chair of the Vermont Democratic Party. Also attending were gay Wisconsin DNC member Jason Rae, who serves as the DNC's National Secretary; LGBT Caucus Vice Chair Evangeline Beechler, who serves as Vice Chair of the Idaho Democratic Party; and LGBT Caucus Secretary Laurence Zakson, who holds positions with the California and L.A. County Democratic Party committees.

Also speaking at the LGBT Caucus meeting were leaders of three national LGBT political groups who briefed caucus members and others attending the meeting on the status of LGBT rights initiatives, including the Equality Act, an LGBT civil rights bill pending in Congress.

Among them were former Houston Mayor Annise Parker, who is the executive director of the LGBTQ Victory Fund, which helps elect LGBT people to public office. The others who spoke were JoDee Winterhof, senior vice president for policy and political affairs for the Human Rights Campaign; and Stacey Long Simmons, director of advocacy and action for the National LGBTQ Task Force.

Polis greeted LGBT Caucus members on a video recording projected on a large screen at the caucus meeting. He mentioned some of the initiatives he and his new administration were working on in his first year in office.

"I'm busy being the governor of the great state of Colorado," he said. "Come visit us some time."

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

Michigan Connection



Mark LaChey was elected to serve on the Democratic National Committee representing Michigan on Feb. 2. After winning his election, LaChey said he was "very excited and honored to be the first LGBT Michigander to serve" on the DNC. LaChey is celebrating with Roland Leggett who is now the chair of the LGBTQ & Allied Caucus of the MDP.

BY LOU CHIBBARO JR.

The Democratic Party's support for LGBT rights and the election of a record number of LGBT people – nearly all Democrats – to public office in the 2018 midterm elections were widely discussed at the Democratic National Committee's 2019 Annual Winter Meeting held Feb. 1 through 16 in D.C.

Among those hailing the election of LGBT Democrats to local, state and congressional offices in what is being called the 2018 "rainbow wave" was DNC Chair Tom Perez.

Perez mentioned what he called the importance of LGBT Democratic candidates in a keynote speech at the closing session of the annual DNC Winter Meeting on Feb. 16. The meeting was held at D.C.'s Marriott Marquis Hotel.

Perez also elaborated on what he said was the importance of LGBT Democrats running for public office at a meeting of the DNC's LGBT Caucus held on the opening day of the DNC winter gathering on Feb. 14. Among other things, Perez praised the LGBT community and LGBT Democrats for emerging as a strong force in opposition to the Trump administration's rollback of LGBT rights policies as well as other issues.

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Children's Book 'Made by Raffi' Shares Anti-Bullying Message, Promotes Acceptance

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Whether it's being picked last for kickball in grade school, feeling intimidated in a college lecture hall or enduring a rocky adjustment period to a new job's work culture, feeling different among one's peers is possible at any stage in life. And, for those in the LGBTQ community, the role as an "outsider" in certain circles can be lifelong. Though long past his own elementary school days, Craig Pomranz said all those feelings came rushing back to him when his godson came home one day and asked him, "Is there such a thing as a tomgirl?"

"He was feeling awkward. He doesn't like noise and he's not so into sports and he was feeling out of sorts with the other kids. I had tried to help him by giving him knitting needles," Pomranz said.

His godson took to knitting immediately, and soon, his outlet made his issues at school more manageable. Inspired by the experience, Pomranz was compelled to share it.

"Initially, I actually was hoping he'd take dance lessons because I'm a dancer as well," Pomranz said with a laugh. "But it was an important issue [him not fitting in], and I literally came home and wrote it in two hours to tell his story in my way."

Since publishing the story in a book called "Made by Raffi" in 2014, it has been issued across 11 countries and in eight languages. And, though the book is not an LGBTQ-specific one, Pomranz said that its message of acceptance is one that resonates across all communities — particularly regarding bullying and growing initiatives to end its influence. Here's BTL's conversation with Pomranz on the topic and on the lessons he's learned since publishing his godson's story.

Why did you choose to write a children's book on the subject, and were you surprised by how quickly it took off?

Completely. I think that part of it — it's a number of things. First of all, I think that as we get older I think we forget how powerful a children's book can be, how impressionable it is for us as youngsters because we sort of move on. But, if you think about it you go back, you start to realize that all the things you read when you were a kid were important and imposing as well. Because it was so quickly bought, it really tells you that it is a universal story and that everyone struggles with identity and fitting in to

some sort of conventional norm. And we have to wonder, 'Who sets these standards and why do they happen?'

Since it's become so popular, you've received many letters from parents and children's organizations praising the story and its impact. Is there one instance that stands out to you?

I heard from this man in Turkey who bought the book for his cousin and because his cousin's son was different than the other kids and he thinks that, particularly in Turkey in this time, they needed to open their eyes to other ideas, and it was difficult for them. It crosses a lot of different issues.

What are some of those issues?

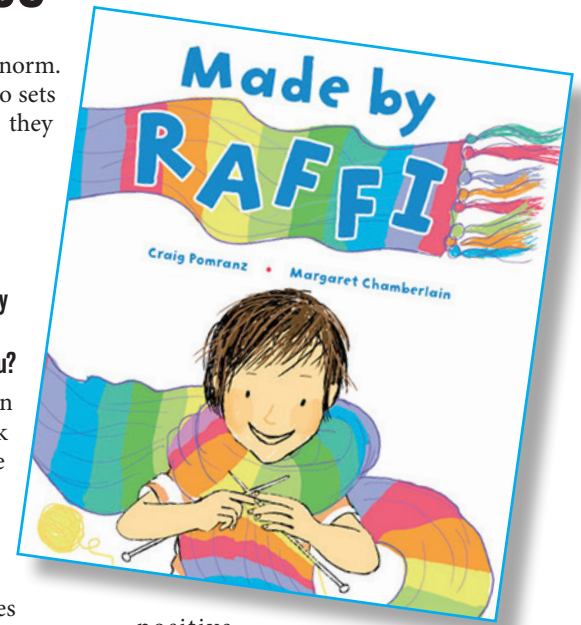
Some parents were writing me and saying that in the book they recognized that their child was, in fact, the bully. That was great. That's a good thing to know that you can see that and then, how can you help that child change their behavior?

Stopping bullying in recent years has become a strong focus. Do you have any thoughts on stopping it?

I think one of the problems with the whole bullying thing is people try and have this whole concept of stopping bullying. You'll never be able to stop bullying, so that's not really the answer. The answer is to find becoming a whole person so you won't become a victim of bullying, in my opinion. So, obviously, when I was a kid, I was already a professional singer when I was 11, so people thought that was a little odd, but then again I was also raised in a very orthodox community so there were other people that thought that was odd. Everyone has different aspects to them that other people don't quite see. Mostly because they're ignorant about it, they don't understand it, and, once they do, they learn to respect you for who you are and where you are.

You originally wrote the story after your godson asked if he was a "tomgirl." Why did that pull you to write?

He literally, he was maybe 9 years old when he said that, "Is there such a thing as a tomgirl?" And I immediately thought to myself that tomboy is now a



positive thing. [People say], "Really? Oh, she's assertive!" But if you say "tomgirl" people immediately think, "Oh, tomgirl?" It's negative. It comes down to, "Why is that? Why should that be?" I'm always taken back to what Gloria Steinem had said once, "We have learned to raise our daughters more like sons but few have the courage to raise our sons more like daughters." And it resonates so much with me because it's so true when you think about using the word "girly," why is that negative? And what does that say to girls? "Oh, you're girly. That's bad?" (laughs). It affects me a lot when I see the negativity that goes on around us and the misogynist behavior that goes on around in our world.

What do you hope that the LGBTQ community can take from this story?

I want people to also understand that it is our society and ourselves that put these limitations on people and that it's very hard for all of us to sort of let go of those limitations. In this case, because I'm talking to your group, I would say every boy who likes to knit or doesn't like sports isn't necessarily gay, and every kid who likes sports isn't necessarily straight. I really hope we can expand our mind to be accepting of everyone and I really, really, hope, especially in the world that we live in now, that we can find kindness. That's what I hope.

To purchase or find out more information on "Made By Raffi," go online to amazon.com. To find information about author, Craig Pomranz, go online to craigpomranz.com.



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Actor on His New Gay Dad Role, Reaching LGBTQ Youth & His Bear-Loved Rosé

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

In “Giant Little Ones,” actor Kyle MacLachlan plays a gay divorced dad named Ray Winter parenting a distant teenage son, Franky (Josh Wiggins), who’s grappling with his own sexual identity. I repeat: Kyle MacLachlan, a gay dad. The 60-year-old actor’s range knows absolutely no bounds, inhabiting diversified worlds and traversing genre, from comedy to drama, from soapy to supernatural.

MacLachlan’s first major role was in David Lynch’s 1984 adaptation of “Dune” (soon, “Call Me By Your Name” actor Timothée Chalamet will be slipping into MacLachlan’s stillsuit for the forthcoming remake) and two years later, in 1986, he collaborated with the screen auteur again on “Blue Velvet,” starring alongside Isabella Rossellini. But it was Lynch’s early-’90s cult TV series “Twin Peaks” that arguably made MacLachlan a marquee name (in 2017, he reprised his role as Agent Cooper in “Twin Peaks: The Return”).

In his three decades in TV and film and on stage, MacLachlan has played a city official based on first big-city openly gay Mayor Sam Adams, Fred Flintstone’s boss, the guy who fucks Nomi Malone in a swimming pool, Riley’s dad in “Inside Out,” Charlotte’s husband on “Sex and the City,” Bree Van de Kamp’s husband on “Desperate Housewives,” and because why the hell not: Cary Grant’s ghost. Starring in writer-director Keith Behrman’s “Giant Little Ones” as Helpful Gay Dad was really just an inevitably, but for MacLachlan, Ray is a warm hug of a role he deeply feels is important. One that, as a parent himself, even hits close to home.

Here, the actor talks about raising his son, Callum, much like Ray Winter does, gay fans who slip into his DMs and bears who love his rosé.

You’ve played dads before. But what about Ray spoke to you differently?

He had a journey in this as well, which I liked. It was really about the connection with his son, and at that age it’s very difficult and made even more challenging by the fact that the parents are separated. Under the circumstances, Franky just doesn’t know what to think or what to say, and I like that (Ray) really hung in there. I think in the original draft he was maybe a little more demanding,



**Kyle
MacLachlan
Is Like a
Fine Wine**

Photo: Vertical Entertainment

and so we kind of softened that a little bit. There are still those issues, but it was really important to me to feel like Ray was there and he wasn't gonna go anywhere and to remain as non-judgmental as possible.

His presence is always felt, but he's able to give his kid space at the same time. I appreciated that he tells his son to focus on who you're drawn to and not what to call it, essentially letting him know that sexuality is a spectrum. How did that resonate with you?

That was a really nice piece of writing on Keith's part, I thought. Again, trying not to judge. Especially at that age, I remember for myself just kind of trying to find where you fit in, what you're good at, what you're not good at, who's your group. There's lots and lots of questions and insecurities that are masked by a false sense of identity or control or "I don't want to hear what you say, I've got it figured out myself." The idea of just being present, it's the way I approach the relationship with my son, the not judging. I'm not going at it trying to make him into something he doesn't want to be.

You were the stepfather of a gay son, Andrew Van de Kamp, on "Desperate Housewives." Who does the better job parenting a queer kid: Orson Hodge or Ray Winter?

(Laughs) Orson, bless his heart. You know, he had good intentions, and there was an understanding there at attempting to connect. I don't think Orson was ever comfortable in that role. I think Ray is more conscious and he's a champion, in some ways, for anyone who's being judged. In this particular case, it's "hang on a second." He's sort of about turning the page: "Let's look at this and what's really happening here." I liked that. And he does it with an inner strength and a firmness, but it's not without a wry sense of humor, and that I liked about him too.

When were your eyes first opened to having an LGBTQ following?

I think it was probably with "Blue Velvet," I guess. Thematically it expected so much of the audience and it told a story that was so unusual and so true. That sort of started it, but I think with the advent of social media, suddenly it's really obvious and present. And it's great.

How has it become obvious through social media?

Just through comments, and it's fun to read and great to feel the support. And then

because so much of it is built around David Lynch, there's a real shorthand just in terms of terminology and phrases, and because of David's visuals and his images and his dialogue, of course.

I have a friend who says "Blue Velvet" was responsible for his sexual awakening. Is that what gay fans tell you on Twitter?

(Laughs) Maybe not quite so personal! But you know, that's film. Film is all about experiencing something and having your eyes opened, and I think that film in particular was about that; the exploration of it and the themes of it were so interesting, and they hadn't really been dealt with that much.

What kind of attention did "Showgirls" get you from the LGBTQ community?

(Laughs) I don't think it found its camp niche until a little bit later. It had to go through the "Oh my god, this is perhaps one of the worst films ever made" reaction and then people sort of said, "I think it was, in a way, a guilty pleasure." Then that began to grow, and there's a true hardcore following of it and that's really fun. I've never said, "Oh yeah, in fact, actually, that was the intention," or, "Oh yeah, it's a great film" – it's not a great film. But it succeeds at a level that I think is still entertaining and fun. And why not? That's our business.

I was at a gay bar once and they were showing "Showgirls" on all the TVs. When you shot that film, did you expect for it to live on in the LGBTQ community like it has?

I think we all entered into the film – certainly, I did – looking at the creative side of it. So you had really talented people – (director) Paul Verhoeven, obviously – and I think his intention was to do something that was sort of hard and cutting-edge and exposé and I think it kind of got away from him a little bit and became something else that was unexpected. But at the same time, we've all embraced it and said, "This is where it went," and I gotta say, the film was probably gonna have a much longer life because of how it ended up than if it hadn't. If it was a film that we intended to make, it would've been great and fine and OK, but now, it will live on forever.

Particularly at gay bars.

At least there! And midnight showings!

For 2004's rom-com "Touch of Pink," what was special about portraying the ghost of Cary Grant

See **Kyle MacLachlan**, continued on p. 18


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► **Kyle MacLachlan**

Continued from p. 17

who gives advice to a gay Muslim man?

It was really fun. First of all, just the research alone was great. Getting to watch all the films, reading up about him, who he was as a person and the business side of things in Hollywood and how he really, really created this persona, which I think he tried to get away from but it was what he was known for. So I loved the research of it.

And the director, Ian (Iqbal Rashid), whose story this actually was, was so lovely and I see him occasionally when I'm in London. He's just a terrific person and a very, very talented director, and I was flattered. He had actually seen me on the stage doing a new play with Woody Harrelson and I don't quite know how he got there from that performance (laughs), but he thought I'd be perfect. So that's a pretty big mantle to try to take on, and so we sort of softened that a little bit and said he's more the spirit of Cary Grant – he's not exactly Cary Grant. But I enjoyed stepping in those shoes and trying out that language and that kind of attitude and that whole thing. And it's got a beautiful message, and just the ending when he has to let go, it's very touching, I think.

In 2018, you were honored with a Dorian acting award by GALECA, the Society of LGBTQ Entertainment Critics, for "Twin Peaks: The Return," and in 2009, "Desperate Housewives" received Outstanding Comedy Series from GLAAD. Is there something special or distinct about having your work acknowledged by LGBTQ audiences and organizations?

Yeah, those stories, if they can speak to a community and there's a resonance there, that's the goal of this. They should

be universal, but I think that if there's a relationship that can be created then we're doing a good job; something that's worthwhile that creates an emotional response and a connection, that's really what you want. I mean, that's what I want.

Your role as the mayor of Portland in "Portlandia": Do you think that character would make a good mayor of Twin Peaks or Wisteria Lane?

(Laughs) He wasn't a really good mayor – but he was incredibly enthusiastic! I think that was the fun of it: He always got things a little bit wrong but they kind of ultimately ended up OK, with the help of Fred (Armisen) and Carrie (Brownstein), certainly. But, oh god, at least it would be a lot of fun to have him as a mayor of any community, I think.

Why haven't we seen you in more openly gay roles?

(Laughs) It's a good question. You know, the work just kind of comes, and it's one of those things where once it sort of filters through a little bit of whatever it does in Hollywood it finds its way into my inbox and you take a look at it.

Have there been gay roles you've turned down?

It's always about the quality of the material, so if it there was, it just wasn't worth telling.

But then you read something like "Giant Little Ones."

And you know that it is a beautiful story. I had the reaction that everyone had: This is a story that needed to be told, and for any kids out there who are having this kind of "I don't know, I don't know" and they don't have anywhere to turn, it's like, well, we're not the answer, but we're at least an experience to say, "You're not alone."

And a reminder to your own son that his dad is OK with whomever he becomes or wants to be.

In fact, he attends a school in New York and it's all about that. It's all about the acceptance of everyone, and it's a wonderful thing to watch because that wasn't my experience growing up. Public schools, small town, very conservative. Not unlike the situation of Franky, there was a lot of "however tough you are" and "whatever sports you play," those are your identifiers. It's nice that he's having a completely different experience.

In your spare time, you are a winemaker. Are gay men some of your most loyal rosé buyers?

(Laughs) I should hope so, for god's sake! Rosé is one of those crazy things: It just keeps expanding and people love it and now it's not just for summer anymore, it's not just for the Hamptons anymore. It can be year-round and, yeah, it's been really fun. And yeah, very supportive.

In a queer context "bear" means a hairy, chubby gay man, so it can't hurt that "Pursued by Bear" is the name of your brand.

You know, I was really going after the Shakespeare play, obviously, but yeah, not unaware and I thought, that's kind of funny. There've been occasions where I've met a few guys – bears, you know – and they've said, "Oh yeah, I've got this in my cellar." And it cracks me up! I'm like, "Fantastic, I'm glad you like it." It's good wine and it should be enjoyed.

As editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBTQ wire service, Chris Azzopardi has interviewed a multitude of superstars, including Cher, Meryl Streep, Mariah Carey and Beyoncé. His work has also appeared in GQ, Vanity Fair and Billboard. Reach him via Twitter @chrisazzopardi.

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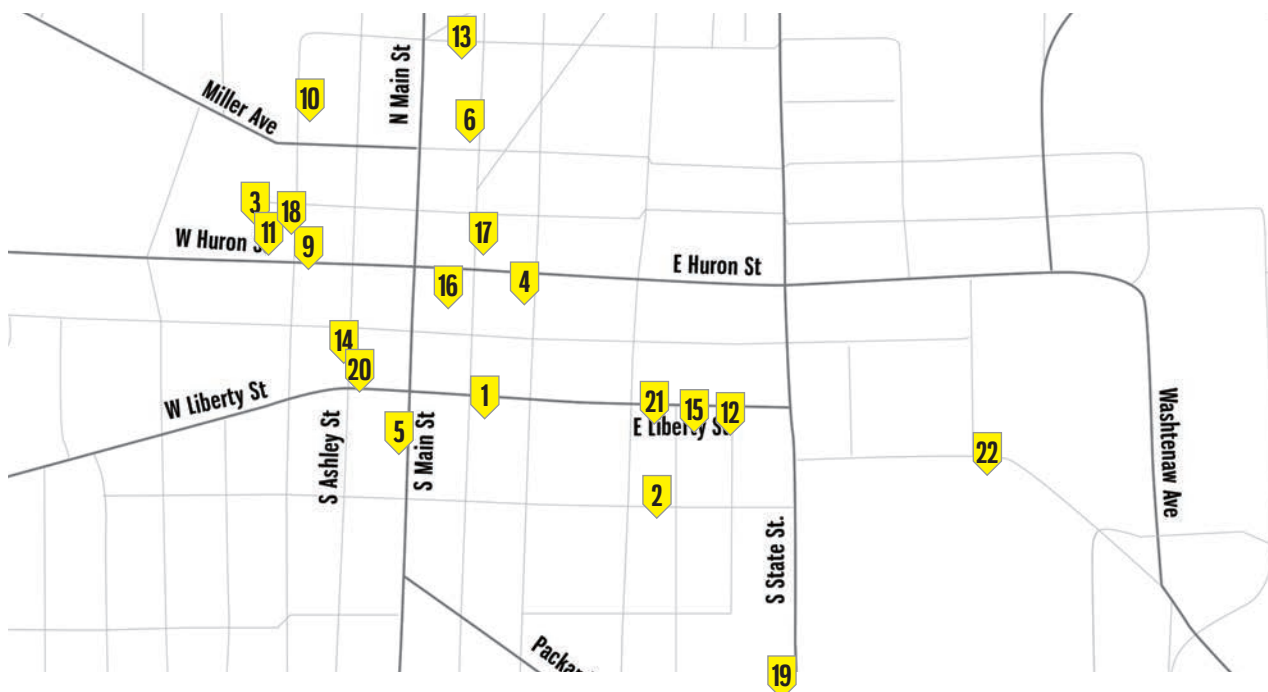
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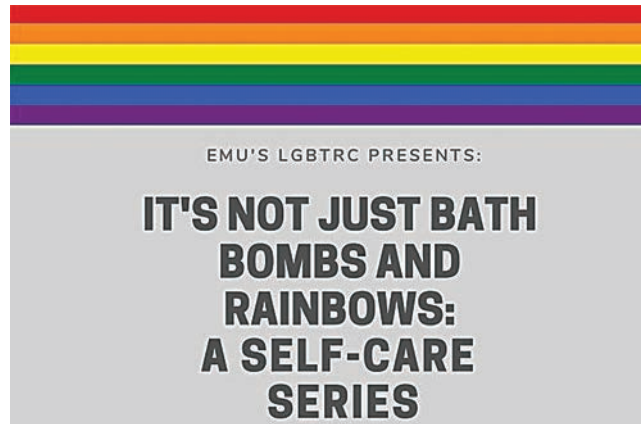
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It's Not Just Bath Bombs and Rainbows: A Self-Care Series

BY BTL STAFF

Self-care is defined as a self-initiated and motivated function intended to improve one's general health and well-being and it's taken off in recent years. In fact, it's more popular in modern U.S. history than ever before. A 2015 Pew Research Center study found that more millennials reported making self-care-related lifestyle improvements than the generation that came before them through workout regimens, diet plans, therapy and other changes. On Wednesday, March 6, Eastern Michigan University's LGBTQ Resource Center is hosting a self-care series intended to introduce these positive practices into the lives of Southeast Michigan LGBTQ people.

"Join members of the LGBT Resource Center and Campus Life guest, Caroline Horste, for a discussion on self-care and exercises to practice self-care in your own life with a focus on the



intricacies of LGBTQ+ mental health," wrote event organizers. "LGBTQ+ and questioning folk only."

The event will be co-hosted by Daisha Dominic of Queer Trans People of Color Conference, Lee Baker of TNQ and Horste.

The event will be held in the Halle Library located at 955 W. Circle Drive, Ypsilanti, in room 302. For more information on this event go online to gaybe.am/cD.

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Photographer and visual artist Robert Mapplethorpe died in 1989 at the age of 42, and 30 years later we still cannot turn away from the compelling emotional complexity of his influential body of work. Composed by the Grammy-winning Bryce Dessner of The National and featuring texts from poet Essex Hemphill and Mapplethorpe's longtime muse Patti Smith, *Triptych (Eyes of One on Another)* explores the eroticism of and inspiration for Mapplethorpe's images. The vocal ensemble Roomful of Teeth gives voice to these words as enormous projections of Mapplethorpe's iconic photographs — approved for use in such a setting for the very first time — move across the stage.

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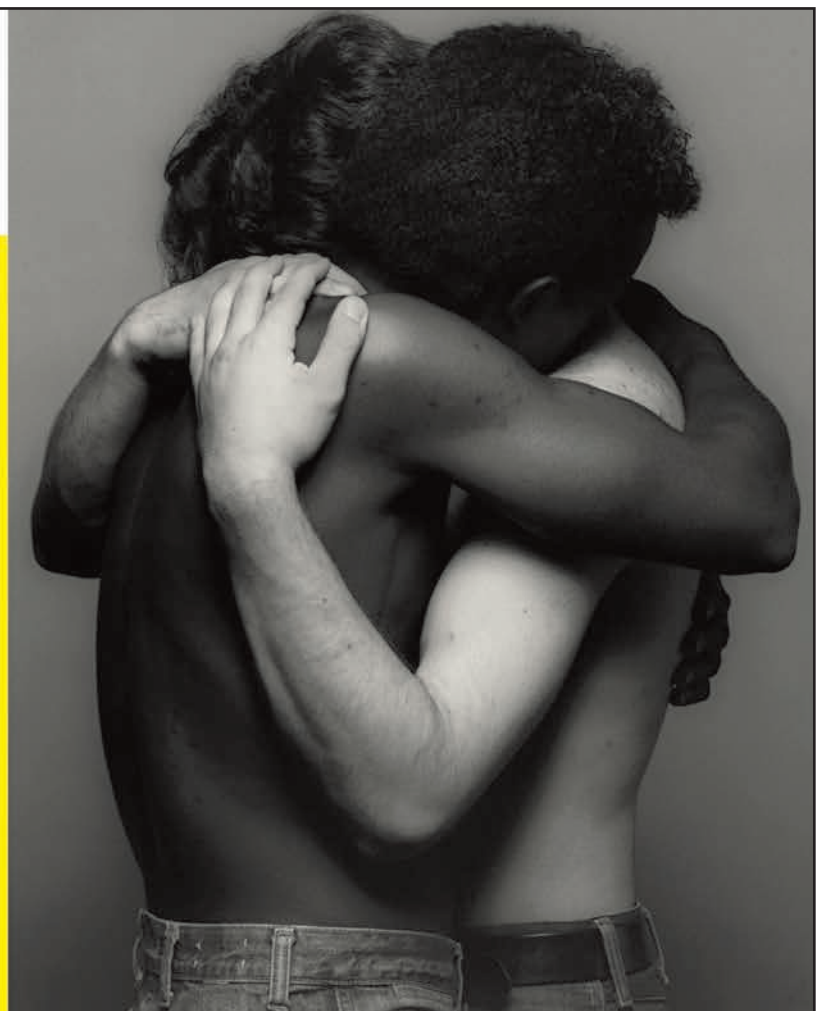
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Happenings



Mariah Carey at Fox Theatre

On March 8, multi-platinum and Grammy Award-winning artist Mariah Carey will make her way to Detroit's Fox Theatre for her Caution World Tour. This tour stop is part of a 22-city plan to promote "Caution," the singer's latest album. Tickets start at \$59.95. Find out more on ticketmaster.com.

OUTINGS

Saturday, March 2

LGBT Community Chat 11 a.m. Saturday LGBT Chat is an on going social discussion group meets every week to discuss issues LGBT people face. Java Hut Ferndale Michigan, 165 w 9 mile, Ferndale. 248-632-8274. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com.

Sunday, March 3

Stand with Trans Wyandotte Support Group for Trans Youth and Parents of Trans Individuals 4 p.m. This event is one of several around the Metro Detroit area. Free. For Parent Support Group

information, contact facilitator Kim Tooley, 734-747-4363. St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 2803 1st St, Wyandotte. 734-747-4363. standwithtrans.org.

Men's Swing/Latin/Ballroom Lessons 4 p.m. Same-sex men's touch dance lessons. Casual Attire This is touch dancing where you hold your partner close. Singles, couples, Beginners or Seasoned dancers. Jordan Mac Studio 444 W. Maple Suite E Troy, MI, 444 W. Maple Suite E, Troy. 248-288-7624. Calls only. meetup.com/Shall-We-Dance.

Monday, March 4

LGBT Game Night 7 p.m. LGBT Game Night is an opportunity

for all LGBT people and allies to come play a board game, drink coffee and socialize with other LGBT individuals. Java Hut, 165 W Nine Mile, Ferndale. 248-632-8274. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com.

Wednesday, March 6

Affirmations Senior Koffee Clatch! 1 p.m. A discussion and networking group for people 45 and older. Various discussion topics, social outings, and potlucks are held throughout the year. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org.

Rainbow League Bowling! 7 p.m. This is a fun bowling league and provides a great opportunity for anybody to become acquainted with bowling. The 2018 to 2019 season celebrates our 26th season. Lodge Lanes, 46255 S. I-94 Service Drive, Belleville. 734-697-9178. info@a2bowling.com. lodgeLANES.com. rainbowbowlingleague.com.

Thursday, March 7

Pride Night at Thunderbowl! 7 p.m. Meet & Greet First Thursday of every month, unlimited bowling, shoe rental, private room, private bar area, drink specials, billiard room, 250 foot video wall. Come as you are! Thunderbowl Arena, 4200 Allen Road, Allen Park. 313-928-4688. thunderbowl.org.

Monday, March 11

Harry Potter Trivia with Ferndale Pride and Tito's Handmade Vodka! 6 p.m. Quizzo is bringing us Harry Potter Trivia! This event is ticketed and benefits Ferndale Pride! Tito's will be there with some awesome prizes as well! Pop's for Italian, 280 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-268-4806 julia@ferndalepride.com.

Tuesday, March 12

Pride Month Opening Ceremony at OC Gold Room AB 12 p.m. Join us for our opening ceremony as we kick off Pride Month 2019! OC Gold Room AB.

Thursday, March 14

Mapplethorpe in Performance 5 p.m.

Thirty years after the death of Mapplethorpe, we still cannot turn away from what his photos reveal. Mapplethorpe's work both unites and divides viewers, provoking a consideration of perceived opposites: black/white, male/female, gay/straight, art/porn. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397.

Toastmasters International SpeakOUT! LGBTQ Meeting 7 p.m. Professional & personal communication skills development. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. lawrencemoeb@gmail.com. speakout.toastmastersclubs.org.

Thursday, March 28

Detroit Pistons Equality – Celebrating Pride Night at LCA! 7 p.m. The Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce has partnered with the Detroit Pistons to bring you Piston Equality-Celebrating Pride Night! Little Caesar's Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-349-5777. info@detroitlgbtchamber.com.

Saturday, March 30

Spring Bash at MGM Grand Detroit 6 p.m. Come celebrate Affirmations 30 years of service to the LGBTQ community! MGM Grand Detroit, 1777 3rd Ave., Detroit. 877-888-2121. mgmresorts.com.

Sunday, March 31

Lavender Graduation 1 p.m. Our 7th

annual Lavender Graduation Celebration will congratulate and honor the OU LGBTQIA+ graduates of 2019. OC Banquet Room A. hrc.org.

MUSIC & MORE

Shen Yun Performing Arts at the Detroit Opera House March 2, 2 p.m. Shen Yun invites you to travel back to the magical world of ancient China. Experience a lost culture through the incredible art of classical Chinese dance and see legends come to life. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. 313-237-SING. shenyun.com.

The House on Poe Street at The Detroit Repertory Theatre March 2, 3 p.m. Gothic ghosts encounter modern monstrosities when twin sisters inherit the house where Poe is reputed to have composed The Raven. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. 313-868-1347. DetRepTh@aol.com. detroitreptheatre.com.

90th Annual Spring Dance Concert at The Bonstelle March 2, 7:30 p.m. Join us as we highlight national and international works from top-performing artists. With only two performances, you don't want to miss. Bonstelle Theatre, 3424 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-577-2960. theatreanddanceatwayne.com.

Midwest RAD Fest March 6. The 10th Anniversary Midwest RAD Fest is a

Editor's Pick

Trans/GNA Day of Artivism: Revival

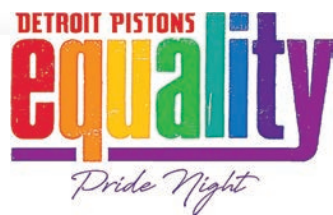
On March 23, Transcend the Binary will partner with the Gender-identity Network Alliance to announce an creative art-making day for #REVIVAL, a day that's important to the transgender and gender non-conforming communities and promotes "a community celebration and space for collective healing, resilience, art and radical self-care." Going from 3 to 7:30 p.m. attendees are welcome to attend the event. Find out more online at transcendthebinary.org.



Editor's Pick

Detroit Pistons Equality - Celebrating Pride Night

On March 28 at 7 p.m., the Detroit Pistons will partner with the city's Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce to put on a Pistons Equality night aimed at supporting the LGBTQ community while taking on the Orlando Magic. Find out more online at gaybe.am/9Z.



juried contemporary dance festival which will feature over 200 professional dance artists from all over the world. The Epic Center, 359 S. Kalamazoo Mall, Kalamazoo, MI. 269-342-4354. rachel@wellspringdance.org. midwestradfest.org.

Art A Thon for Ron Zakrin March 8, 8 p.m. Detroit artists are drawn together to help a fellow artist on his road to recovery. The local art and music community will join forces to raise money for living expenses Tangent Gallery, 715 East Milwaukee Ave., Detroit. 248-445-1277.

Franck, Fireflies and Fortissimos March 10, 2 p.m. Fortissimos thread together the playful spirit of fireflies and Mozart's Symphony No. 35 along with Franck's remarkable Symphony in D minor. Franck's dazzling Symphony in D Minor is "nothing but pure music." Throw in a beautiful First United Methodist Church, 42501 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth. 734-453-5280. michtix.com.

Black History Month Concert Series—Curtis Taylor March 10, 2 p.m. Grammy Award-winning trumpeter Curtis Taylor has played at the Kennedy Center and NPR's Jazzset—now he's here to entertain us at CADL Downtown Lansing! Capital Area District Libraries - Downtown Lansing Branch, 401 South Capitol Ave., Lansing. 517-367-6350. cadl.org.

David Adjaye March 18, 8 a.m. Sir David Adjaye is recognized as one of the leading architects of his generation. A British-based architect of Ghanaian descent, Adjaye garnered international acclaim for his globally-inspired designs, for his innovative use of materials and more. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397. stamps.umich.edu.

Does Addiction Treatment Work? March 19, 7:30 p.m. Dr Carl Christensen will review the recent criticisms of treatment for substance addiction including Twelve Step, residential and medication-assisted therapy, and the scientific studies that do and do not support their use. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. 734-485-8725. dawnfarm.org.

Peter Sellars March 21, 5 p.m. MacArthur Genius Fellow Peter Sellars is an American theater director, noted for his unique contemporary stagings of classical and

contemporary operas and plays. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397.

Cabaret 313 Presents "11 O'clock Numbers" March 23, 6:30 p.m. This brand new musical revue, when originally launched at Feinstein's/54 Below in New York City earlier this year, played to a sold-out audience and received a standing ovation, and now it's coming to Cabaret 313. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. 313-237-SING. cabaret313.org.

Flint Symphony Orchestra Presents "Ravel's Bolero" March 23, 7:30 p.m. FSO March Classical Concert featuring Enrique Diemecke, conductor and Baron Fenwick, pianist. Come and enjoy Ravel, Ginastera, Berlioz, Saint-Saens and Gershwin. The Whiting Auditorium, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 810-237-7333. thewhiting.com.

57th Ann Arbor Film Festival March 26, 5 p.m. The Ann Arbor Film Festival is the oldest avant-garde and experimental film festival in North America. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397. stamps.umich.edu.

Grief and Loss in Addiction and Recovery March 26, 7:30 p.m. Jerry Fouchey will explain theories of grief and grief recovery, describe losses experience throughout the addiction and recovery processes, and ways to cope with grief and loss. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. 734-485-8725. dawnfarm.org.

Sarah Vowell April 4, 5 p.m. By examining the connections between the American past and present, she offers personal, often humorous accounts of everything from presidents and their assassins to colonial religious fanatics, as well as thoughts on utopian dreamers, and Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397

THEATER

Fisher Theatre Presents 'The Lightning Thief' March 2, 2 p.m. The Greek gods are real, and they're ruining Percy Jackson's life. As a son of Poseidon, Percy has newly discovered powers he can't control, monsters on his trail, and is on an epic quest. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-872-1000.

broadwayindetroit.com.

The House on Poe Street at The Detroit Repertory Theatre March 2, 3 p.m. Gothic ghosts encounter modern monstrosities when twin sisters inherit the house where Poe is reputed to have composed The Raven. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. 313-868-1347 DetRepTh@aol.com DetRepTh@aol.com. detroitreptheatre.com.

Stagecrafter's Second Stage Presents 'Sondheim on Sondheim' March 2, 8 p.m. Part musical revue, part documentary, "Sondheim on Sondheim" gives us an intimate portrait of famed songwriter Stephen Sondheim in his own words and music. Featuring an array of songs from his storied career. Baldwin Theatre, 415 South Lafayette, Royal Oak. 248-541-8027. stagecrafters.org.

Wharton Center Presents 'Miss Saigon' March 12, 7:30 p.m. Experience the acclaimed new production of the legendary musical Miss Saigon, from the creators of Les Misérables. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-353-1982. wharton@msu.edu. whartoncenter.com.

A2CT Presents "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike" March 14, 7:30 p.m. In this Tony Award-winning play, Vanya and Sonia, middle-aged siblings sharing a house in Bucks County, have their routines interrupted by their movie star sister, Masha, when she descends on them with her new boy. Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. 734-764-2538. smd.umich.edu. a2ct.org.

Detroit Public Theatre Presents 'Girlfriend' March 21, 8 p.m. Romance unfolds in a new musical wound around the tender love songs of Matthew Sweet's. Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-576-5162. dso.org.

Williamston Theatre Presents 'The Gin Game' March 21, 8 p.m. Winner of the 1978 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, Weller Martin is playing solitaire on the porch of a seedy nursing home. Enter Fonsia Dorsey, a prim, self-righteous woman. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. 517-655-SHOW. info@williamstontheatre.org. williamstontheatre.org.

Stagecrafters Presents 'Boeing Boeing' March 22, 8 p.m. Meet Bernard, a Parisian

bachelor whose well-ordered life spins out of control when his three stewardess fiancées unexpectedly land in the same city at the same time. Baldwin Theatre, 415 South Lafayette, Royal Oak. 248-541-8027. stagecrafters.org.

Theatre and Dance at Wayne Presents 'Venus' March 22, 8 p.m. Traveling from her home in southern Africa for what she hoped would be a better life, Saartjie Baartman became an unfortunate star on the 19th Century London freak show circuit. Hilberry, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. theatreanddancewayne.com.

Detroit Repertory Theatre Presents "Aubrey" March 28, 8:30 p.m. Aubrey Gagnier, a heroin addict, haunted by her role in her lover's overdose death, seeks out the grave digger and coffin maker. They become each other's best hope to live. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. 313-868-1347 DetRepTh@aol.com detroitreptheatre.com.

Young Frankenstein March 29, 7:30 p.m. This monster musical comedy is an adaptation of Mel Brooks' legendary cult classic film. The Marlene Boll Theatre, 1401 Broadway, Detroit. tasiopeg@udmercy.edu. udmercy.edu.

Mamma Mia! Presented by Theatre and Dance at Wayne April 5, 8 p.m. A mother. A daughter. Three possible dads. Bonstelle Theatre, 3424 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-577-2960. theatreanddancewayne.com.

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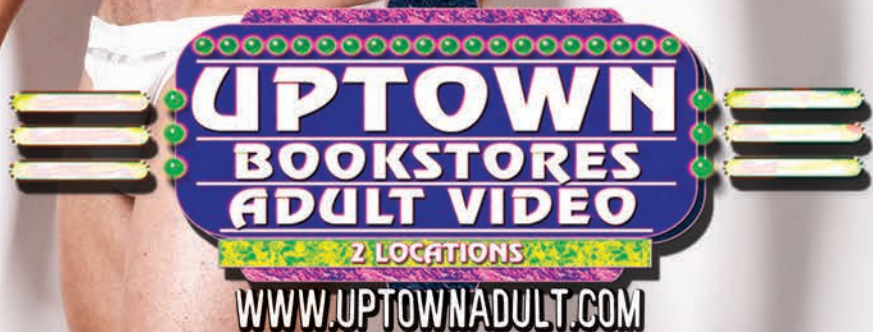


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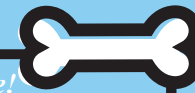
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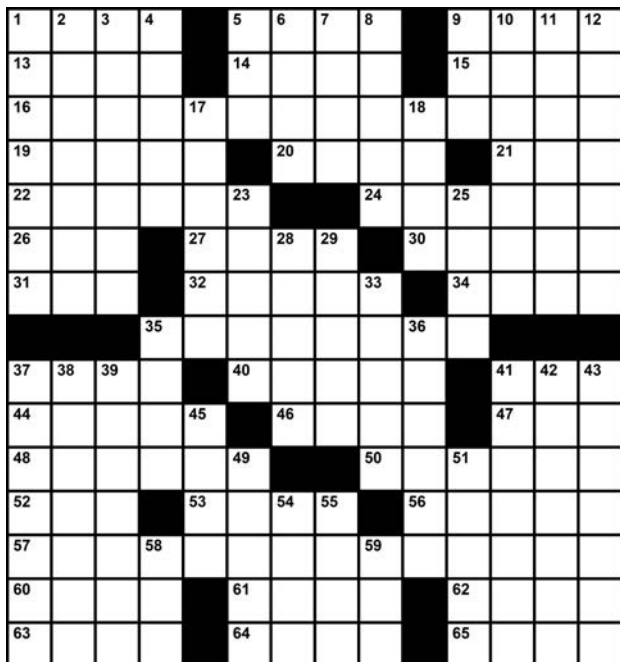
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- 30 "___ Is Nothing Like a Dame"
 31 JFK's predecessor
 32 Nathan and family
 34 Some nest eggs, for short
 35 End of the comment
 37 Brightly colored
 40 Dreamy fruit of Greek myth
 41 Navigation aid
 44 Bean of "Desperate Housewives"
 46 Apple invader
 47 "That was good, honey!"
 48 "___ and Delilah" (Saint-Saïns opera)
 50 Somewhat
 52 That, south of the border
 53 Use a trick towel
 56 Laura of "ER"
 57 "Empire" star who recently was viciously attacked
 60 Not a dup.
 61 Superman portrayer Dean
 62 Comedian Johnson
 63 Top
 64 Cock attachment
 65 Belgian river
- 7 Blade brand
 8 Lili Reinhart role in "Riverdale"
 9 Not in the pink
 10 Answer to "Male or female?" for some
 11 Nisha of "Chutney Popcorn"
 12 Nobleman in "Macbeth" with a cow?
 17 Like many pols, to gay causes
 18 Cops, in slang
 23 To no ___ (useless)
 25 Like a Marc Jacobs ensemble
 28 Give a large bosom, e.g.
 29 Care for
 33 Blue shirtless guy
 35 Mireille of "World War Z"
 36 Merchant of films
 37 Facial event
 38 Indication of a used rubber
 39 Gradual absorption
 41 James of "Victor/Victoria" and family
 42 Board for O'Keeffe
 43 Max or Leo in "The Producers"
 45 "___ lay me ..."
 49 Em's Dorothy
 51 A dentist may stick it in your mouth
 54 Exam taken in H.S.
 55 Put out
 58 Army NCO
 59 Queen's "Another ___ Bites the Dust"
- Find solution to this puzzle at www.pridesource.com*

Homophobia

QPuzzle

Across

- 1 Smart ass response from the mouth
 5 Spirited horse
 9 "Cunt" author Muscio
 13 "Take a crack ___"
 14 Memory unit
 15 "Lawrence of Arabia" director David

- 16 Start of a comment by 57-Across about homophobia all over the planet
 19 Big bang cause, briefly
 20 "Six Feet Under" character
 21 Athenian T
 22 "Claire of the Moon" actor Todd
 24 Cruises in style
 26 Adverb for Lord Byron
 27 Plumb, and others

Down


- 1 Like Peter and Mary
 2 Clothed
 3 Chapel with a Michelangelo ceiling
 4 Paparazzi pursue them
 5 Follower of Jim Buchanan
 6 Homophobe Paul once of the House

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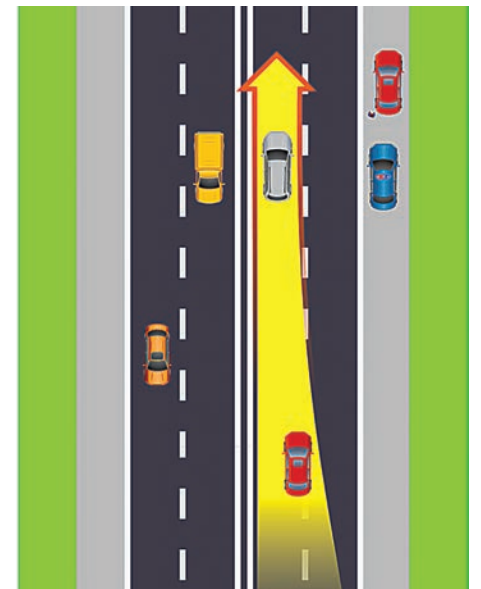
Michigan Move Over Law Could Cost Noncompliant Motorists \$400

Last week Michigan's Emergency Vehicle Caution Law, well-known as the Michigan Move over Law, took effect. In an attempt to prevent injury and death to first responders, this law requires motorists to slow down to at least 10 mph under the posted speed limit and move over for stationary emergency vehicles with their lights activated. Failing to do so could cost a driver two points on their license and \$400, while causing death or injury could result in a felony charge and include up to 15 years in prison and a \$7,500 fine.

This law applies to the following vehicles:

- Police
- Fire
- Rescue
- Ambulance
- Road Service: including tow trucks and courtesy vehicles operated by the Michigan Department of Transportation.
- Road Maintenance
- Utility Service
- Solid Waste Hauler

The Michigan Office of Highway Safety



Planning has published a brochure to educate motorists about the topic with included frequently asked questions and answers and a visual guide. To find out more go online to michigan.gov.

Gov. Whitmer Encourages Young Women in Michigan to Participate in Cybersecurity Competition

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer encouraged young women in Michigan high schools last week to explore their aptitude for cybersecurity and computer science through the 2019 Girls Go CyberStart program.

"Michigan has long been a leader in innovation that changes the world," Whitmer said. "To maintain our leadership and meet tomorrow's challenges requires us to develop a skilled cybersecurity workforce that can help protect our state's and the nation's most critical assets. We're excited to partner with SANS and to offer this opportunity for high school girls to discover and foster a passion for innovation and cybersecurity."

Participants use the CyberStart Game, an online series of challenges that allow students to act as cyber protection agents to solve cybersecurity-related puzzles and explore relevant topics such as cryptography and digital forensics. Michigan high schools where at least five girls in the Girls Go CyberStart Program master six or more of the challenges will win access to the full CyberStart Game for their entire school, extending the competition to both male and female students for the remainder of the school year. Students will also have the

opportunity to win cash prizes for themselves and their schools.

The cybersecurity industry is one of the fastest-growing professions in the country, with the demand for skilled candidates outpacing the current supply. There is also a large gender gap in the workplace where only 11 percent of cybersecurity professionals are women. In Michigan, at least 10 high school girls will each get \$500 scholarships to help them pay for college.

Participating students (and their teachers) do not need knowledge or experience in information technology or cybersecurity to participate in the free program. All that is required is a computer and an internet connection. Registration is open now and the games begin on March 20. Interested students and schools can register at girlsgocyberstart.org.

In 2018, the SANS Institute piloted Girls Go CyberStart, a program designed to inspire the next generation of cybersecurity professionals while identifying talented youth. The 2018 program provided the opportunity for 6,650 young women in 16 states to discover and demonstrate their aptitude for cybersecurity.



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Our Be Well team has met and unanimously affirmed to concentrate on continuing our great and sensitive care and not waste our energies on "negative forces" from wherever they are coming, especially social media. We have the experience and self confidence to know who we are and what we do!

— Dr. Paul Benson



Dr. Paul Benson's

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Dr. Paul Benson, mascot Baxter, and the staff at the Be Well Medical Center.

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Dr. Benson is an Associate Professor at Michigan State University providing training to our next generation of physicians.

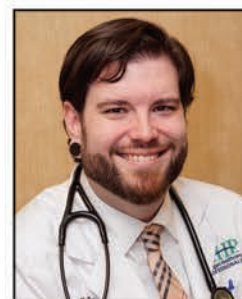
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Mark Rosen, PA-C



Leon Bullough, NP-F



Keyuna Nance, MSW