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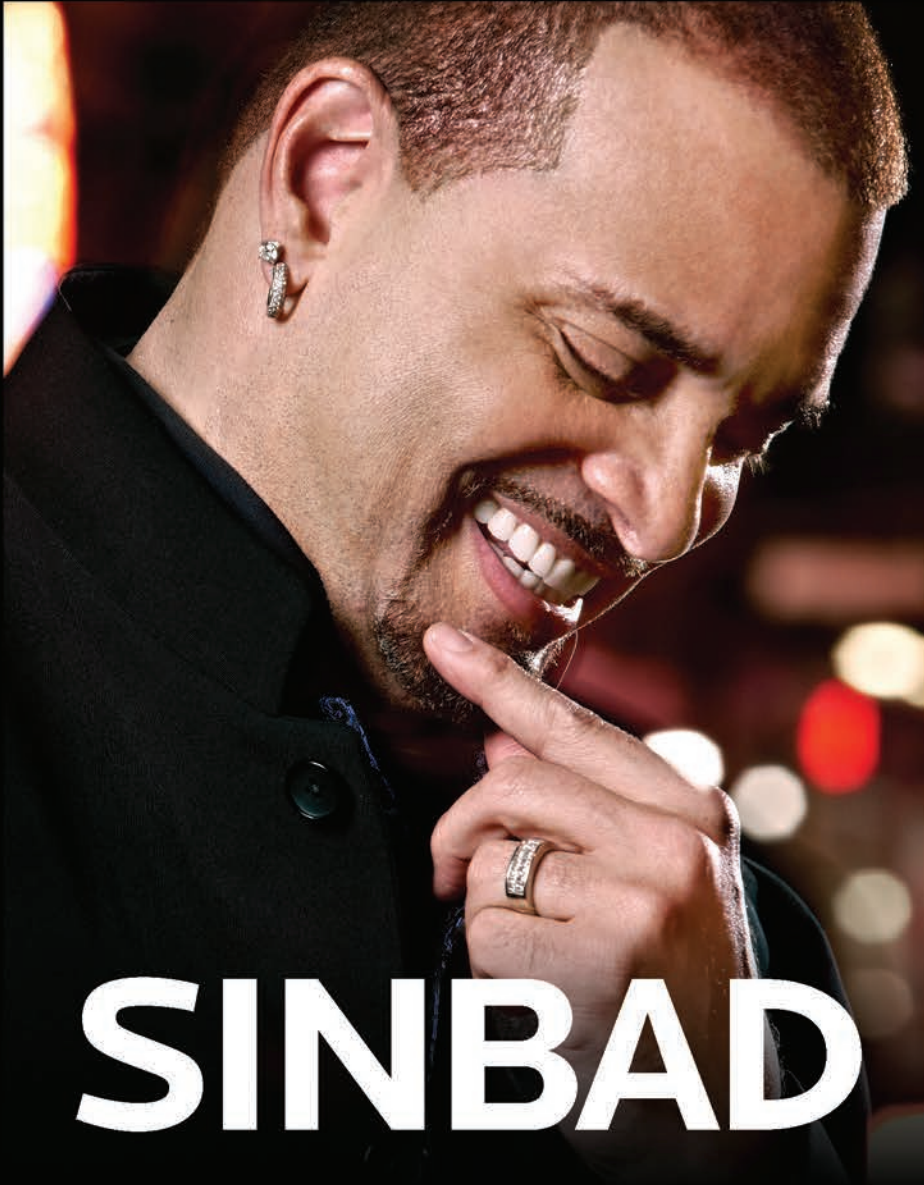
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Q&A: Dionne
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COVER

16 Detroit Queen to Pass Her Crown

NEWS

4 Victory Institute Announces National Out to Win Day April 2

4 Michigan's Arianna Morales Recognized as Engineer of the Year

5 WSU Student Hosts Event to Combat Youth HIV/AIDS Stigma, Miseducation

6 Jody LaMacchia for State Representative: Turning North Oakland County Blue and Rainbow, Too

8 International Transgender Day of Visibility Celebrates 10 Years March 31

12 Pelosi: Equality Act to Ban Anti-LGBT Discrimination to Be Introduced This Week

OPINION

10 Parting Glances

10 Transmissions

11 Creep of the Week

LIFE

14 Revry's is the LGBTQ Streaming Service That You've Been Waiting For

16 Detroit Queen to Pass Her Crown

18 Q&A: Dionne Warwick On Recently Learning About Auto-Tune, Her Friend Aretha & Not Judging Gay Fans

25 Detroit Public Theatre Hosts 'Girlfriend' March 21 - April 14

26 Happenings

28 9 Cold-Weather Grooming Essentials to Get Your Skin Spring-Ready

30 Puzzle & Crossword

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Victory Institute Announces National Out to Win Day April 2 Aims to Interest 22,272 LGBTQ People in Running for Office

BY BTL STAFF

Last week LGBTQ Victory Institute, an organization dedicated to putting LGBTQ people in office, and 10 partner organizations announced the first National Out to Win Day will be held on Tuesday, April 2. Its goal is to get 22,272 LGBTQ people pledging to consider a run for office. The day aims to raise awareness about the severe underrepresentation of LGBTQ people in elected office and encourage people to take the pledge or nominate LGBTQ people who should consider running. The center reports that LGBTQ people are 4.5 percent of the U.S. population but make up just 0.1 percent of elected officials nationwide. America must elect 22,272 more LGBTQ people to office to achieve equitable representation.

Individuals can pledge to run for office or nominate others in advance of National Out to Win Day by visiting outtowin.org. In addition to pledges and nominations on April 2, LGBTQ elected officials across the nation will wear rainbow colors to raise the visibility of out officials. Those who pledge to consider a run or accept the nomination will receive a week's worth of videos from LGBTQ elected officials, resources from campaign experts and other information intended to inspire them and make running for office more accessible.

"LGBTQ people, much like women and people of color, need to be asked more times to run for office than white straight cisgender men before they give it serious consideration," said Mayor Annise Parker, President & CEO of LGBTQ Victory Institute. "National Out to Win Day aims to address that problem by demystifying the process for those considering a run and encouraging people to ask qualified LGBTQ friends and colleagues to give running for office some thought. We need to be asked more times – and we hope for many LGBTQ people their first ask comes on April 2."

April 2 was chosen for National Out to Win Day because of Kathy Kozachenko's election to the Ann Arbor, Michigan, city council on that day in 1974, becoming the first openly LGBTQ person ever elected to public office. More information about the day can be found at outtowin.org.

Partner organizations for National Out to Win Day as of March 6 include: ActionLink Center Action Network, Equality Federation, Equality Ohio, Free State Justice, Montana Human Rights Network, National Black Justice Coalition, National LGBTQ Task Force, National LGBT Chamber of Commerce, One Colorado and Run for Something. LGBTQ or allied organizations interested in joining National Out to Win Day can contact Reggie Greer at [reggie](mailto:reggie@victoryinstitute.org).

Michigan's Arianna Morales Recognized as Engineer of the Year

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Along with three other awardees, Dr. Arianna T. Morales was highlighted for exemplary work by the National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals Inc. As a result of her recognition, Michigan-based Morales received a 2019 LGBTQ+ Engineer of the Year Award for her work as a staff research scientist with General Motors.

Originally hailing from Venezuela, Morales moved to the U.S. to continue her education via graduate school and soon after graduation earned a position at GM, eventually being named as an inventor in more than 24 patents throughout her time there. Though now openly LGBTQ at work, when she first earned her position that was far from a possibility.

In response to the news of Morales' award, BTL caught up with her to learn about her work, what this recognition means to her and the benefits of staying true to her identity while remaining a professional.

When did you first hear that you would be awarded Engineer of the Year?

I received a phone call in January from Rochelle "Shelley" Diamond the chair of the NOGLSTP board of directors, to ask me to apply for this year award. Shelley knew of me from the Great Minds in STEM 2018 Conference in October 2018, where I received the 2018 GMiS Award for Outstanding Technical Contributions. I sent my information and received confirmation of the award a month later.

Receiving recognition for one's work through awards like this is often really fulfilling. Does this experience inspire you to keep innovating in your field?

Absolutely. However, the rewards of working on STEM-related innovations are really great, even without the awards. I cannot think of a more exciting and interesting work than what I do. So yes, the awards and the appreciation, and help of your colleagues are a great perk.

What are some projects that you've worked on that have brought you a lot of fulfillment?



Arianna Morales

I work in many things, basically, most of it has been in lightweight materials, that is trying to reduce the weight of cars to reduce gas consumption and emissions. In that, I've been mostly working with aluminum processing and I've worked on several projects to do with that. Right now I'm working on several projects, and it has to do with the same thing, the reduction of weight and, in this case, not only for the reduction of fuel consumption but the reduction of energy needs; the less the car weighs, the lower the energy needed to move that car.

You've mentioned that when you joined GM you felt isolated because you were not only the only woman in the research lab but the only Latina. Since coming out and joining the GM Plus LGBTQ group do you feel that you're able to be more open?

Actually, I think the more important issue was that I was the only professional woman at the time. The other two labels, gay and Latina, were secondary since nobody could see them right away. Fortunately, things have changed during the last 20 years since GM has been working on developing an internal culture based on respect and equality. Inclusion and respect are always good ways to motivate which can result in increased productivity.

How has the experience of working at GM

changed since you arrived?

When I came to work at the location, it was for a very big project and there were about 100 people in this building, where I still am. There were, of the scientists, just me and 24 other scientists and there was one other woman, but basically, that was it: two people. Two females in the whole building (laughs). I remember that in the building there were four bathrooms, and of the four bathrooms three were male and just one was female and was on the second floor. So, first of all, you had to go one floor up or down, and then, there came a situation where some of the people said, 'Well, maybe we should put all of the male bathrooms in this building because there are so many men, that the two women can go to the other building' (laughs). So, there were things like that that people would not do intentionally, but they were not used to dealing with women in that kind of workplace.

Having observed such a drastic change in your workplace over the years must give you a lot of perspective.

Right now, I have to tell you, the situation is so much better for women and for Latinos and for gays than it was before. And, you know, that's one of the things that we try to do, we try to work for that. Of course, when you feel better at work, for many reasons you get more productive. One of the things about inclusion is that it provides all the different ideas and perspectives about one topic, that, for example, you wouldn't have if there were in a group five people that were exactly the same.

[In a group of] the same five straight male people from Ferndale, for example, it wouldn't be easy to have another type of concept or addition like if you had many different types of people from different backgrounds in that group. That's what inclusion has given us.

Editor's Note: This Q&A is a compilation of both phone and email interview questions and has been edited for length and clarity.

To learn more about Morales' contributions to her company and about NOGLSTP's award, go online to noglstp.org.

WSU Student Hosts Event to Combat Youth HIV/AIDS Stigma, Miseducation

Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Event in Detroit April 10

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Receiving an HIV diagnosis is unquestionably life-altering, and not always only because of the direct effects of the virus itself. Cara Mitrano is an undergraduate student at Wayne State University and was recently selected by sexual health rights organization Advocates for Youth to be an ambassador for National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. She said that often, HIV affects peoples' lives especially because of the negative reputation surrounding the virus. As part of her duties as an ambassador, she has collaborated with a variety of local advocacy organizations to host an April 10 event at The Planned Parenthood Detroit Health Center dedicated to bringing more awareness about HIV to the area.

"A lot of people, people who are not living



with HIV, don't understand the ways that we have to treat and manage the virus now," she said. "They're afraid of catching it, essentially, so there's a lot of stigma around people who are living with HIV and they aren't updated on the science."

This type of misinformation, she said, can especially be damaging to youth, who right now comprise the highest segment of new diagnoses, particularly among black men who have sex with men. In fact, a 2014 study titled "The U.S. People Living With HIV Stigma Index: Michigan" found that stigma surrounding the virus has led 80 percent of those diagnosed within the Metro Detroit area to feel negative feelings of self-blame and guilt about their positive status, 73 percent to experience various types of social discrimination and 20 percent to experience some kind of institutional discrimination — among other consequences.

Mitrano said that a common misconception she'd like to dispel regards the effectiveness of HIV medication.

"U equals U, so, undetectable is untransmittable," she said. "If someone has a maintained undetectable viral load and they continue to take their antiretroviral medication they cannot transmit the virus to someone else and I think that's something most people don't know."

At the event, Mitrano said attendees will be able to learn about this fact and more.

"There will be vendor tables from local agencies including Unified, WC Safe, several other LGBTQ and/or youth and/or HIV-related agencies. So, hopefully, people will be able to find whatever resources they need no matter how they identify and whether they're currently living HIV or not," she said. "And there will also be a meal provided, completely free for all attendees, and a raffle with Visa gift cards as well."

Mitrano added that HIV testing services will also be provided, along with resources and information containing next steps for those who might receive a positive diagnosis.

"Because we wouldn't want to develop a scenario where there is testing available but if then someone gets a positive diagnosis, where do they go from there? We have to have the full continuum of care if we're going to offer that service," she said.

Mitrano said that any Early Intervention Specialists and linkage to care coordinators who are interested in attending and aiding with the event's services should reach out to her personally at cara.mitrano@wayne.edu.

And, when asked if she had any advice for those who suspect that they already have HIV, Mitrano stressed the importance of finding a safe health care environment, something that she hopes this event can help people discover.

"So, if you're going to talk to a doctor, make sure that you know your doctor is going to be a safe person to talk to, that they are educated on the subject. And [know] that there are a lot of resources here in the Metro Detroit area, whether you have the ability to pay or not, there are organizations out there to support you," she said. "And it can be scary, I haven't lived through that myself, but navigating that situation can be really complicated. My advice would be to reach out to organizations that specifically do HIV work and talk to their specialists so that way you can get connected to care or connected to resources."

To find out more information about the event and the various organizations in attendance, reach out to cara.mitrano@wayne.edu. The event is on Wednesday, April 10, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Planned Parenthood Detroit Center, located at 4229 Cass Ave in Detroit.



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Jody LaMacchia for State Representative: Turning North Oakland County Blue and Rainbow, Too

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

Spurred to Action

Fifteen years ago, when John Kerry ran for president against George W. Bush, Kerry came to Michigan for a rally at Macomb University. For Jody LaMacchia, today a candidate for state representative, attending that rally was her first real political activity.

“No one wanted to go with me,” LaMacchia said with a laugh.

So, she grabbed her 1-year-old son, put him in his stroller and off they went. The line was long, but LaMacchia was undeterred.

“I was really excited,” LaMacchia said. “I got interviewed by a reporter, and they asked, ‘Did you wait to see John Kerry, or were you waiting to see Jon Bon Jovi?’” referring to the performer who was featured at the rally, too. A little incredulous about what seemed so obvious to her, LaMacchia said, “We waited in line two hours to see John Kerry!”

And when Kerry lost to Bush, LaMacchia said she was devastated, but she was motivated, too. She began to work in earnest on Barack Obama’s 2008 presidential campaign when she signed on as a team leader for her hometown of Oxford. She and her team knocked on doors every weekend.

“I decided I was never going to sit on the sidelines again,” she said.

And since then, LaMacchia has worked for candidates in national, state and local races, knocking on doors, making phone calls, hosting house parties and holding fundraisers. Currently chair of the North Oakland Democratic Club, LaMacchia also founded North Oakland Women – Making a Difference following Obama’s campaign. The group was formed as a means to stay in touch and phone bank for various causes and eventually evolved into a significant force in the 2018 election that “moved the needle” to the left in local races and even in conservative districts.

Rainbow Wave

If a blue wave is coming to north Oakland County, a win by Jody LaMacchia in 2020 would make it a rainbow wave, too. LaMacchia stands to become the first openly gay woman elected to the Michigan state legislature. Three openly gay men — Jeremy Moss in the state Senate, along with Tim Sneller and Jon Hoadley in the state House — are officeholders now. LaMacchia is only the second openly LGBTQ woman in Michigan’s history to run for state House or

Senate — Garnet Lewis can claim the title of first.

Being an openly gay candidate, LaMacchia said she and her wife, Samantha, have discussed the possibility of backlash. She said she is fully prepared, but that she has not experienced homophobia in her district, however conservative its reputation. She described Oxford as being accepting, a place where she can gather with other families to watch football and where her son brings friends over to their house.

On her campaign website, LaMacchia chose to include a family photo with her wife and 15-year-old son by a previous marriage. Doing so was a very conscious choice.

“I think my wife was actually a little more hesitant about that than I was because I think she was feeling protective of me,” LaMacchia said. “For me, I feel like there isn’t any point in doing it if I’m not going to be authentic to myself. That’s who I’ve always been. That’s the kind of person I am. And if people like me, and think I’ll make a good representative ... [they will] vote for me. ... And if they don’t vote for me because I’m married to a woman, then that’s really unfortunate. But I don’t think that’s going to be the issue.”

Bridging the Divide

Today her district is trending less conservative, but LaMacchia said she’s not taking any chances. Part of her strategy is starting early, and she was the first to file for state House. Her district, Michigan’s 46th, includes Addison Township, Brandon Township, Orion Township, Oxford Township and a portion of Oakland Charter Township. Despite the large swath of land to cover, she said she has enough experience knocking on doors and talking with people of all political persuasions that she believes, meeting people, listening to their concerns and finding common ground is a winning approach.

For LaMacchia, “Bridging the Divide” is more than a campaign slogan, it’s rooted in her life’s work for the past 17 years, as a family counselor and conciliator at Oakland County circuit court. There, she helps parents involved in high conflict custody and parenting disputes resolve their differences. It’s all about bringing people together, she said.

“Even people that are in a divorce [where]



there’s tears and crying and anger and they don’t think they’ll ever be able to agree, I hear that all the time. But they do. And I help them come to some middle ground,” she said. “[It’s] not about each side getting everything they want, but compromise. In this case, it’s about compromise for the sake of our district or our state. That’s kind of my specialty.

“All of my career has really centered around helping people,” LaMacchia continued. “And I feel like the best way to help people is to be in office, changing laws or creating laws, getting rid of laws that hurt people. ... That’s probably the greatest way to make change right now.”

Critical Issues, Including ELCRA

If elected, LaMacchia said she’d prioritize addressing disinvestment in education, the

condition of Michigan’s infrastructure and safeguarding the state’s drinking water and water supply. She added too that concerns over the expense of health care and prescription drugs came up consistently when she talked to voters in the last election cycle.

“I think that most of these issues are things that most people can get behind, but I feel like sometimes we’re so rooted in our ‘R’ or ‘D’ position,” LaMacchia said. “I also think that the climate is such that most people are ... tired of the toxicity, the nasty things that one side says about the other side, or lack of the ability to get anything done. I have no intention of perpetuating gridlock.”

Another issue that LaMacchia values, amending the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include protections for LGBTQ Michiganders, could potentially come before the legislature in the next term. While she said would certainly like to see that happen, she added that it’s not just because it affects a community with which she identifies.

“It’s not really about me,” said LaMacchia, referring to amending ELCRA. “I don’t really, totally understand why

anyone can justify being against that. This is just basic common sense. Why aren’t we including this community that is so often — especially the trans community right now — so under attack? We all should be protected.”

LaMacchia noted too that Republican Melvin Larsen, made famous in 1977 because of ELCRA, was a state representative from Oxford. His support was critical to bringing his fellow Republicans on board and LaMacchia said she is hopeful that she, potentially another legislator from Oxford, can extend the existing protections to include the LGBTQ community in the near future.

To find out more information about Jody visit jody2020.com.

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International Transgender Day of Visibility Celebrates 10 Years March 31

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Now celebrated across the U.S. and in countries all around the world, the International Transgender Day of Visibility got its start 10 years ago when Michigan-based activist Rachel Crandall-Crocker felt the need to not only mourn the loss of members of the transgender community via the Day of Remembrance but to honor the living members of the community. Now, as she gears up for the 10th consecutive March 31 of celebrating the transgender community, Crandall-Crocker said she has two primary feelings: pride and disbelief.

"So much pride it's almost surreal. It's hard to believe it's actually happening," she said with a laugh. "It's given me a lot of perspective. I'm realizing in a lot of countries, Transgender Visibility Day is really precious. It isn't something they take for granted."

As the celebration has grown and gained traction, Crandall-Crocker said that it's still not ceased amazing her that countries where being LGBTQ is illegal still hold events on days like this one.

"I'm helping different countries plan for Visibility Day and one of the main countries I'm helping is Uganda. I'm helping them decide what they want to do and what is safe for them to do. They like my idea of an open mic, and they wanted to have a rally, however, we all decided that in Uganda it just isn't safe," Crandall-Crocker said. "In Uganda, as is a lot of places around the world, it really is illegal. And people are arrested or killed."

Based on 2018 statistics provided by the World Economic Forum, there are still 73 countries around the world where openly existing as a member of the LGBTQ community is illegal and, in some cases, punishable by death. Conversely, regarding same-sex marriage is only legal in fewer than 30 countries of the world's

195. Despite those statistics, Crandall-Crocker said she's glad that her reach has been able to extend far enough to provide an outlet for people who aren't able to live as their true selves. She added that planning with transgender leaders around the world has given her a chance to take stock in the successes gained at home in the U.S.

"I'm realizing in a lot of countries like Uganda, Transgender Visibility Day is really precious. It isn't something they take for granted," she said, adding that she's hopeful every celebration of the

level later on in the year."

Locally, the holiday will be celebrated across the state's Lower Peninsula in Grand Rapids, Royal Oak, Ferndale, Lansing and Detroit in advance of the actual holiday and beyond it from March 22 through April 2. The flagship event will, as is tradition, be hosted at Royal Oak's Five15 bar and bookstore featuring an open mic. that will feature music, poetry, refreshments and more. However, Crandall-Crocker hopes that if Michiganders can only spare time to make



"I want everyone to know it's their day. It's their day to be proud of who they are. It's their day that they can actually celebrate what they are and that's exactly the reason I started it."

- Rachel Crandall-Crocker

it to one event, they try for Lansing on March 30.

"We hope to get people in Lansing from everywhere in the state," she said. "I want everyone to know it's their day. It's their day to be proud of who they are. It's their day that they can actually celebrate what they are and that's exactly the reason I started it. I wanted a day that we could actually celebrate who we are and that's exactly what it has become all over the world."

When asked if Crandall-Crocker has advice for first-time attendees or those who don't feel confident in attending, she had a clear message of support.

"I would like to emphasize that anyone can be an activist," she said. "You don't have to be completely fluent like I'm not completely fluent. However, that doesn't stop me from being a powerful speaker and a powerful activist. And I want everyone to know that they could be a powerful activist also."

To find more information on the various events held across the state and beyond, visit transgendermichigan.org.

International Day of Visibility will allow for unique interpretations. "I'm not trying to get everyone to do exactly the same thing like they do with Remembrance Day. I don't believe that one size fits all."

Crandall-Crocker also wants those acknowledging the day to remember that though it's an annual holiday, the message should live on year-round.

"I created it for not just one day a year. My idea was for people to gain contacts and connections that they can use every day of the year," she said. "And that is exactly what has happened. Contacts and connections have allowed people all over the world to make changes on a political



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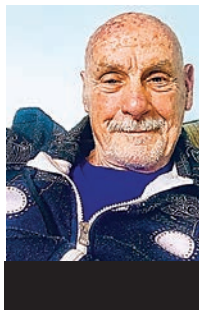
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Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

The Queer Occasion of Sin

Perhaps it's ironic — if not a touch appropriate given his name — but a prominent Villanova University professor is quoted at the beginning of 2019 as saying the Roman Catholic Church is facing its greatest crisis in 500 years.

“This is not like the Protestant Reformation; no, it's not. But [it] is in my opinion the most serious crisis since Luther's time,” he said. “While this crisis has gone global, one strain of it is peculiar to the United States, where it is inseparable from such hot-button issues as forbidden sexuality, homosexuality and gender.

These comments were made at an hour-long talk at the Virginia-based Bishop Keane Catholic Institute. The professor — might one here say, named just a tad ironically: Massimo Faggioli. (Indeed.)

In terms of accounting to this egregious, shocking, embarrassing, theological crisis that is literally driving hundreds, if not thousands, to leave the Church — yes, that's with a capital “C” — it's costing millions and millions of once tax-free, dioceses donated dollars.

According to online bishopaccountability.org the following is not atypical of costs incurred: “Over 3,000 civil lawsuits have been filed against the Catholic Church in the United States.”

“A Roman Catholic Diocese paid \$30.9 million in 1998 to victims of one priest. In July 2003 another Roman Catholic Archdiocese paid \$25.7 million to settle child sexual abuse allegations made in 240 lawsuits naming 34 priests and other church workers,” the site said.

Bishop Accountability reports also that that figure reached more than \$3 billion in 2012.

According to well-known LGBTQ writer Andrew Sullivan in a New Yorker article titled “The Church's Corruption is Exposed,” the sex offender tally is extensive.

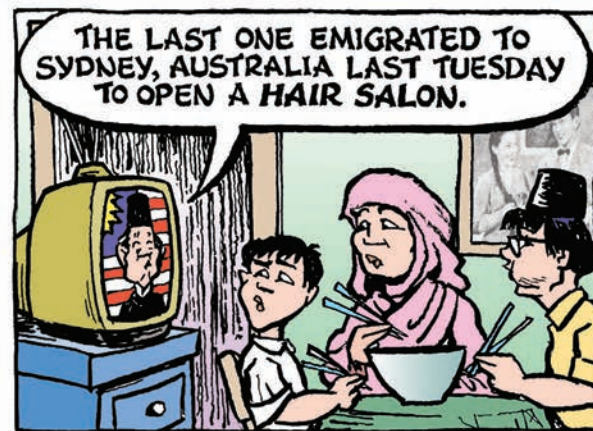
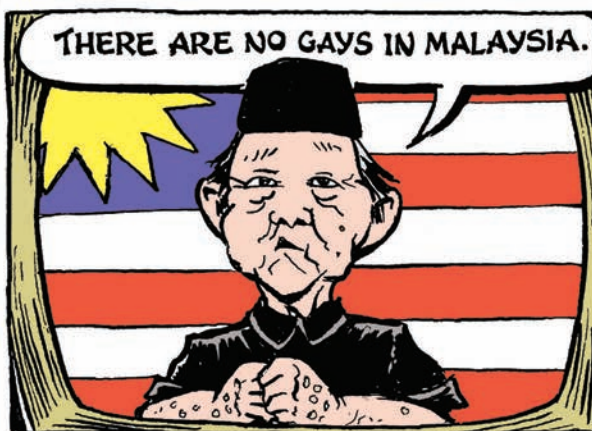
“The majority of accused priests in the United States 55.7 percent had one formal allegation of abuse made against them, 26.4 percent had two or three allegations, 17.8 percent had four to nine allegations and 3.5 had 10 or more allegations,” Sullivan wrote. “A major aggravating factor was the actions of Catholic bishops to keep these crimes secret and to reassign the accused to other parishes in positions where they had continued unsupervised contact with youth.”

And — no big surprise — the Roman Catholic Church is not alone. Fundamentalist and evangelical churches are also not exempt from close, and, one might add for them, unexpected scrutiny, lawsuits and criminal sentencing.

After months of research, a group of Fort Worth Texas Star-Telegram investigative reporters documented “at least 412 allegations of sexual misconduct in 187 independent fundamentalist Southern Baptist churches and their affiliated institutions” based in 40 states and Canada.

The Star-Telegraph expose reports also that some 168 “church leaders” were accused or convicted of sex crimes against children, with as many as 45 of them continuing in ministry after being so identified.

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



BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

Ducking Transgender Athletes

Centuries ago, during the witch trials of the medieval era, a unique way of determining who was or wasn't a witch was created. A woman suspected of being a witch would have her right thumb bound to the big toe on her left foot. She would then have a rope tied around her waist, and be thrown into a nearby pond or river.

She was viewed as a witch if she floated, as her body had “rejected baptism” in the water. She would then be put to death for her supposed crimes. If she sunk in the water - drowning in the process - she was deemed pure.

Either way, the woman was dead.

I remember hearing this story a lot as a kid, and always through the whole idea was abhorrent. There was literally no way to prove your innocence and continue to live your life after you were accused. Guilty or innocent, your life was forfeit. This simply made no sense to me.

Of course, we supposedly live in more enlightened times today, and the notion of ducking a witch has long become a tale we tell about backwards medieval peasants and their foolish practices.

Oh, and yes, “ducking” actually is the correct term here, in spite of modern jokes about iPhone's autocorrecting a popular expletive to that word. The term is actually an bastardization

of another Old English word, “cucking,” which in this case isn't related to the word “cuckold.” Rather, it is a term related to defecating, and was used to refer to the cucking stool, a seat with a lower opening for perhaps an obvious purpose - but more on that in a moment.

A few weeks ago, USA Powerlifting barred transgender women from competing in their gender, amid claims that they had a “competitive advantage” thanks to factors like increased bone density and muscle mass from the testosterone trans women experienced during puberty.

South Dakota has attempted to pass several anti-transgender laws during their current legislative session, including an attempt to bar transgender student athletes from competing with others of their same gender. The arguments were similar to those of USA powerlifting.

Most recently, tennis legend Martina Navratilova spoke out against allowing transgender women to compete against non-transgender women.

“A man can decide to be female, take hormones if required by whatever sporting organization is concerned, win everything in sight and perhaps earn a small fortune, and then reverse

See next page

► Transmissions

Continued from p. 10

his decision and go back to making babies if he so desires,” said Navratilova in an article in the Sunday Times.

“It’s insane and it’s cheating,” she added. “I am happy to address a transgender woman in whatever form she prefers, but I would not be happy to compete against her. It would not be fair.”

It’s an odd statement, given what exactly a transgender woman has to go through to compete in the first place, the effects hormone replacement therapy would have on their body, and the scrutiny they would be under if they did compete. It would likewise require a fairly large financial outlay just for the chance to win all this money Navratilova claims is in women’s sports.

It also implies that transgender women have never yet participated in women’s sports, something Navratilova herself should know isn’t true: she played, and beat Renee Richards decades ago.

While I think about trans people in sports and these arguments, I find myself seeing an odd similarity to witches and ducking. I’m not saying transfeminine athletes are facing a situation as fraught as women accused to witchcraft in the middle ages, I do nevertheless see a parallel.

A trans person who is involved with any given sport is in a no-win situation, stuck in a similar dilemma to medieval women - and sometimes men - accused of witchery.

If you lose at your sport, well, you lose. You’re viewed as a failure. This may, in fact, be the lesser of two bad situations, because if you win, well, then your win is “blamed” on your trans history.

► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 10

A prominent journalist in the crusade against the rampant sex abuse since 2003 has been Kathy Shaw, who died last year at age 72.

She courageously and bravely compiled a national register of misconduct accusations so that the largely uninformed public could for the first time grasp the dimensions of the ongoing sexual abuse scandal.

She collected hundreds of cases in several languages and posted them on her first-of-its-kind blog, Abuse Tracker, still carried these days by Bishopaccountability.org.

“She connected people who were suffering in isolation and blaming themselves and assuming they were the only ones,” David Clohessy, former national director of the Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests, said in Shaw’s New York Times obituary. “She helped them understand that, in fact, they were part of a system of corruption that could only really be

You are viewed as having a biological advantage, and any work you did to legitimately earn that victory is immediately discounted.

There’s one more important parallel. Remember what I was talking about ducking witches? The process grew out of using ducking or cucking stools to lower women into waterways, but it wasn’t originally for witches: they were used to punish women - and sometimes men - with scorn and humiliation, and primarily for being a “scold.” A “scold” is a person who was quarrelsome or “nags” others over their behavior.

In other words, this was a method of teaching a person — usually a woman — their “place” in the culture, though torture and humiliation. Most people who faced ducking were married women, and most were poor.

The notion, of course, would be that the woman would be so chastised by her time in the ducking chair that she would learn to not argue. I suspect that many might have considered the women’s death to also be a way to teach her - and others - not to be quarrelsome.

I see the same issue with trans athletes. They have a no-win situation: lose and, well, lose, or win and face disqualification for having an “unfair advantage.”

Meanwhile, much like the women in ducking chairs, the humiliation of having to face all this would simply drive trans people away altogether, which is what those opposed to trans people in sports wanted in the first place.

This has nothing to do with equity in sports, just like the ducking witches had little to do with proving who was in league with Satan — the cruelty is the point.

Gwen Smith can barely open a stuck jar, let alone powerlift. You’ll find her at gwensmith.com

addressed with a personal response, including open disclosure, therapy application, and calling the police. A truly collective response including pushing for broad change.”

Earlier, as a religion reporter for The Telegram & Gazette of Worcester, Shaw was credited in 2003 with bringing into glaring light a confidential 1962 Vatican document that mandated — get that, mandated — complete secrecy by church leaders in dealing with cases of sexual abuse by priests and their bishops. Just maybe an old — and many decades too long — hush-hush secret is finally being shouted from the religious and secular rooftops. Will it change things for the better? One must surely hope so. God only knows. If and when.

Charles Alexander is prolific both as a BTL columnist (700-plus columns) and as a well-known LGBTQ community artist (1,000 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

BY D’ANNE WITKOWSKI

Cardinal Raymond Burke

Welp, child sex abuse in the Catholic Church is in the news again and, gosh, wouldn’t you know it? The Catholic Church is trying to blame it on the gays. Again.

A Pennsylvania grand jury report found sex abuse rampant in the church, something everyone who has ever delved into it has also found to be true. According to the report some 300 priests preyed on children for decades while church leaders turned a blind eye to the literal hell on earth they were letting fester.

There’s a reason why in every Hollywood depiction of prison there’s a child abuser, usually a sexual abuser, who gets shanked in the showers. After all, it’s easy to hate that guy. I’m not condoning violence, just pointing out that as a society we pretty much agree that child abusers are THE WORST.

Unless they wear a black robe and a white collar. Then instead of going to prison, you just get transferred to a new parish with brand-new parishioners to terrorize.

There are many reasons why this is such a bad practice, but I would like to point out that by moving the priest away from his victim(s) the church is essentially saying that the victims are the problem. The priest is the innocent here, seduced by the tender flesh of wicked children, as opposed to a very sick person guilty of the worst kind of abuse.

And if you feel like you’re experiencing déjà vu, well, you are in the sense that, yes, this has happened before. And it keeps happening. All over the world. But the Catholic Church knows just who to blame.

In a 2018 interview with Thomas McKenna, the president of Catholic Action for Faith and Family, Cardinal Raymond Burke says, “It seems clear in light of these recent terrible scandals that indeed there is a homosexual culture, not only among the clergy but even within the hierarchy, which needs to be purified at the root.”

Now, it may sound like Burke is shining a spotlight on problems within the church itself, something that really needs to be examined more closely and would be examined more closely if the church stopped trying to cover up its sexual abuse epidemic. But, of course, that’s not what

Look, all organized religion requires a great deal of suspended disbelief and magical thinking, aka “faith,” in order to work. Critical thinking is pretty much the antithesis to religious doctrine. Which is why the church is seeking to capitalize on the gross mischaracterization that gay people are pedophiles in order to absolve its own sins.

Burke is doing here. He’s basically saying, “If we just get rid of all the gays who are mucking up each level of the hierarchy everything will be just fine.”

But, of course, it won’t. Rather than spend a second examining the institution to stop abuse, the church once again seeks to change the subject.

Look, all organized religion requires a great deal of suspended disbelief and magical thinking, aka “faith,” in order to work. Critical thinking is pretty much the antithesis to religious doctrine. Which is why the church is seeking to capitalize on the gross mischaracterization that gay people are pedophiles in order to absolve its own sins.

“I think it has been considerably aggravated by the anti-life culture in which we live, namely the contraceptive culture that separates the sexual act from the conjugal union,” Burke tells McKenna. “The sexual act has no meaning whatsoever except between a man and a woman in marriage since the conjugal act is by its very nature for procreation.”

Got that? Gays are a problem, but the whole thing has been made even worse by all of these whores on birth control having sex without making babies. Thank you for attending this TED Talk about sex by a man who supposedly has never had sex.

Burke calls homosexuality “disordered” and he’s not the only conservative Catholic calling for a purge of gays from the priesthood. However, Burke and the others are not making any distinction between “gay” and “pedophile,” a distinction that is, uh, really important because they are not one and the same. Unless, of course, your goal isn’t to keep kids safe from abuse, but is actually to CYF (cover your frock).

Pelosi: Equality Act to Ban Anti-LGBT Discrimination to be Introduced This Week

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) announced Thursday during her weekly news conference the Equality Act, legislation that would enact long sought-after federal protections against anti-LGBT legislation, would be introduced next week.

Pelosi said the Equality Act would be introduced in the same week as legislation intended to protect DREAMers, or young undocumented immigrants, and other immigrants from deportation in the aftermath of President Trump's revocation of their protections.

"Next week, will be launching our Equality Act to end discrimination for the LGBTQ community and we will be launching our initiative to protect the DREAMers and temporary-protected status persons in our country," Pelosi said.

Touting the new Democratic House majority's achievement in advancing background checks for gun purchases and government reform legislation, Pelosi also said legislation for women workers ensuring equal pay for equal work and reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act would come later this month.

"We said these things during the campaign,



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) said the Equality Act would be reintroduced next week. Washington Blade file photo by Michael Key

and we're getting it done and we are telling the public about the paths that we are on to get them turned into law to make a difference in the lives of the American people," Pelosi said.

As it was previously introduced, the Equality Act would amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964

and the Fair Housing Act to ban anti-LGBT discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, jury service, education, federal programs and credit.

The bill also seeks to update federal law to include sex in the list of protected classes in

public accommodation in addition to expanding the definition of public accommodations to include retail stores, banks, transportation services and health care services. Further, the Equality Act would establish that the Religious Freedom Restoration Act — a 1994 law aimed at protecting religious liberty — can't be used to enable anti-LGBT discrimination.

After the news conference, Pelosi told the Blade "we'll see" when asked when she'd bring legislation to a floor vote, but was confident the House would approve it. (The Republican-controlled Senate is a different story.)

"As we go along, it's the tempo of the floor, but it is a priority for us," Pelosi said. "I'm very pleased because we have a great deal of outside support for it, which I hope will help us pass it in the Senate. We most certainly will pass it overwhelmingly in the House."

In previous years, the Equality Act was introduced in the House by Rep. David Cicilline (D-R.I.) and in the Senate by Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.). The Washington Blade has requests in with those lawmakers' office seeking additional details about the introduction.

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

Ruth Ellis Center's Youth Advisory Board Visits UN

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

A group of six members of the youth advisory board of the Ruth Ellis Center traveled to New York from Feb. 21 through 24 to take part in the 2019 U.N. Global Engagement Summit at the United Nations headquarters. The opportunity came about as part of a collaboration between attorney London Bell and the Bell Global Justice Institute and the Ruth Ellis Center. Bell, a member of the United Nations Association of Greater Detroit, had been preparing the youth for the trip since last June.

"[I] held different workshops on advocacy strategies, voting rights and then, most recently, the United Nations and how it works and preparing them for the trip to the U.N.," she said. "The youth were very engaged and really interested in learning more about how to include advocacy strategies in their current activism work."

Armed with knowledge, the youths walked into U.N. headquarters with enthusiasm and confidence, said Lilianna Reyes, Second Stories director for REC and a chaperone on the trip.

"The youth really enjoyed their UN trip," Reyes said. "They were able to sit in the seats of actual delegates and see people from all over the world. We wanted to give them the

chance to see how change can happen through community togetherness. They were able to see how small acts of advocacy funnel into a larger global scale. They talked to other LGBTQ people who had been tortured just because of their identity. For some, they were able to see the climate of our community and the differences worldwide."

Pamela Alexander, REC's deputy director and Bell's mother, also went on the trip.

"The youth networked, attended U.N. workshops and they had an opportunity to attend LGBTQ-specific workshops from a global perspective," Alexander said.

And when they weren't at the U.N. headquarters, the youth took in the city's sights.

"They took New York City by storm," Alexander said. "They were paired with chaperones and visited many sites including Sylvia's, a famous soul food restaurant, a legendary bookstore, a tattoo shop in Harlem. They also went to Times Square, Stonewall and Central Park, just to name a few places."

Sterling Clemmons, REC's youth services manager, was also on the trip.

"This was all new," Clemmons said. "For some of the staff and a lot of the youth, this was the first time they traveled like this. For a couple of them, it was their first time on a plane. So, for it to be a lot of peoples' first, was

kind of magical to watch."

Reyes agreed.

"It was so amazing to experience youth being able to network with so many world leaders," she said. "Many of the youth had never left Detroit, and to be able to take them not only to New York but to the United Nations, was truly emotional."

Memories of the trip, Clemmons said, will surely linger with trip-goers for years to come.

"I hope that they took away that no matter how small of a place they feel they serve, their voices are important and heard," Clemmons said. "I hope it motivated them. We've had a couple people come back super motivated [who] wanted to create programs and get



involved in programs.

"One of our youth was able to speak on an international level," Clemmons went on. "Whatever table you're invited to, I tell them, 'Make sure you take that invitation and show yourself and show your skills.' And I think a lot of the youth were able to do that on this trip and I hope that they continue it now that we're back in the city."



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Revry is the LGBTQ Streaming Service That You've Been Waiting For

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Diverse media representation has made great strides in recent decades, but most LGBTQ people can attest to the fact that they're still not regularly seeing themselves included in mainstream entertainment. And when it comes to streaming platforms, the LGBTQ category is usually limited to a small amount of content that leaves little to no room for a variety of storytelling. That fact was not lost on ally Alia J. Daniels either, a Michigan native who transplanted to Los Angeles to finish Loyola Law School and start a career in entertainment law. She said she and a group of friends noticed the sparseness in LGBTQ content on mainstream apps in 2015.

"In November of 2015, the fourth generation of Apple television had come out and I had purchased it and loved it – I'm a huge apple geek," Daniels said with a laugh. "And I told Damian [Pelliccione] who is a tech guy, 'You've got to get this, it's great.' And he said, 'Let's search lesbian, gay, bi, transgender and see if you see anything in the app store,' because it was the first time that you could search the app store for Apple television and get free apps for it. At the time, there was nothing there."

Two weeks later, Pelliccione got his own Apple TV and still couldn't find any LGBTQ-specific streaming apps. Daniels said that at that point it was an obvious choice to take action, and from there the streaming network known as Revry was born.

"[Pelliccione said,] 'This is such a missed opportunity, we need to do this, there's nothing here,'" Daniels said. "And I always like to joke and say that this is like the easiest 'yes' of my life because it was such a no-brainer to see such a huge opportunity."

Fast forward to today and the global service hosts a library of exclusively LGBTQ content in film, shows and music made by and for LGBTQ people. Its current board consists of co-founders Pelliccione, who is its chief executive officer; Daniels, who serves as its chief operating officer; LaShawn McGhee, chief product officer; and Christopher Rodriguez, the company's chief business officer. Though Daniels does not identify as LGBTQ, as an ally she said she recognizes the value of hosting content specifically tailored to the interests of LGBTQ viewers.

"I've always been very supportive of the community and clearly very aware of what traditional queer media looks like, so I was very adamant that if we were going to do this, that we'd have to do this differently," Daniels said. "It [couldn't] just be the same white, gay, coming out stories that you see coming out every other time. It's got to be everyone, and I mean everyone, not just the same folks over and over again telling the same stories. Because, you know, yes, you come out, but things happen after you come out and those stories need to be told as well."

Although their original goal was to target U.S. viewers specifically, Daniels said that the team noticed early on that viewers were receiving content across the globe.

That realization, Daniels said, spurred on Revry's vision to include diverse perspectives outside of the country, too.

"So, we intentionally began to partner with different festivals around the world to start to pay attention to content and bring in content that was international, so that we could have the opportunity to tell stories to people within their own language and be in familiar locations, things that make people feel seen. That was very important to us. For instance, we've not been blocked in China yet, fingers crossed, knock on wood," Daniels said with a laugh. "Because of that, we were very intentional about licensing content from China so we have about 50 hours of queer content in Mandarin which is the largest library of queer content outside of China. And we were very intentional about doing that because we were seeing a growing audience there."

Revry has also started partnering with festivals to connect with content creators, too. And, of course, the company has extended that reach internationally, so far partnering with festivals in places like India, Israel and Brazil. That has resulted in not only U.S.-based original programming, but in the creation of a few internationally based originals. And beyond those efforts, Revry's board is also interested in drumming up viewership by partnering with



Alia J. Daniels is COO of Revry and a Michigan native.

more mainstream media companies. Just recently, the service partnered with the comedy video website Funny or Die – famous for shows like "Billy on the Street," "Drunk History" and "Between Two Ferns" – to produce its Emmy Award-nominated series "Gay of Thrones."

"So, we have all seasons up for it now, but this last season we did as a co-production with them. And so we did a joint release to make sure they were on Funny or Die and on Revry simultaneously as the episodes would come out," Daniels said. "That was our first foray into working with one of the mainstream companies to create content that [answered the questions:] Was it authentic? Did it work? Was it funny? If that content provides what we're looking to do in a show, then yes, it's a no-brainer for us."

where just identifying as LGBTQ can result in criminal proceedings.

"One of our initial challenges, we realized really early on, was that you had to have a subscription to watch the content," Daniels said. "It became incredibly clear to us, especially talking about the international side and talking to even just the fact that someone might not want Revry to come up on their credit card statement because they're still in the closet, that it's a safety issue."

In 2017, Daniels said that the company took action to combat this problem and overhauled the company and its services. Though now paying a subscription to receive Revry's services is an option for those who are able, downloading the app and watching content with commercials allows viewers concerned about their

"It [couldn't] just be the same white, gay, coming out stories that you see coming out every other time."

safety to enjoy its LGBTQ-specific entertainment with less worry.

"So that was something that we recently did and we relaunched in September. So, for us, it's reaching out to people and saying, 'Hey, this is the new website, this is a brand-new service.' It looks completely different from when we first launched, the logo's completely changed, our tagline is different, we're continuing to evolve and we are looking to our community, we're looking to our audience, to what they want to view and that's what we're trying to provide," she said.

When asked why the company completely altered its brand, Daniels said that fundamentally it was about fostering a safe, inclusive community.

"We always sort of joke that people don't really wear Netflix T-shirts because Netflix is a very broad, mainstream service, and it doesn't really say anything that you watch Netflix. But with Revry, it does say something about you that you watch Revry," Daniels said. "So it's to build the community aspect for people, and for people to say, 'Oh, I want to find my new favorite queer rapper, I'm going to Revry,' or, 'I want to find my new favorite digital series, I want to go to Revry.'"

To find out more about the service and its offered content, go online to revry.tv or find it on the Google Play and App Store.



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DETROIT QUEEN TO PASS HER CROWN

Paige Michaels Chanel Will Take Final Walk as Little Miss Woodward

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Paige Michaels Chanel will pass her crown as Little Miss Woodward on Monday, March 18, but her reign in Detroit has only just begun. As far as Chanel is concerned, she's not going anywhere.

"I mean, I'm growing up. I can move on to the big leagues. Miss Woodward is the next thing I'm going to do," Chanel said.

The 31-year-old won the amateur title of Little Miss Woodward in 2018. Chanel was selected by a panel of judges, former kings and queens of the city.

"She got out there and got the crown, and I told her, 'Let this be a stepping stone.' She advanced so fast and captured so many other crowns. She is the hardest-working woman in show business," said Ray "RB" Calhoun of RB Entertainment.

"Being here and being Little Miss Woodward brought so much meaning to me and my life," Chanel said. "RB is like a dad. He really is so supportive of what I do. This is one of the best titles I've held. It's a beautiful experience being Little Miss Woodward."

Chanel has also held the titles of Miss Necto Amateur in Ann Arbor, Gay Performer of the Year in Battle Creek, Miss Legends Newcomer and Miss Other Side Newcomer in Toledo and Miss Amateur Club Gold Coast in Detroit.

"I'm so proud of her. This young lady is one of the best queens I have ever had out of all the years I've been doing this," said Calhoun, a promoter in Detroit for more than 20 years. He has been hosting shows like "A Night of Duets," "Woodward's Got Talent," "313's Finest," the "Little Miss Woodward Pageant" the "Mr. Woodward Pageant" and the "Miss Woodward Pageant" for the last 11 years.

Born Performer

Chanel attributes her drag pageantry success to her performance abilities coupled with aesthetics.

"I'm a natural performer," Chanel said. Behind the elaborate makeup, under the wigs, is a dancer, a teacher and a choreographer. Chanel graduated from Marygrove College in Detroit with a bachelor's degree in fine arts.

Although she has been a guest at The Woodward Bar & Grill in Detroit since she was 18, Chanel said it wasn't until just a few years ago that she began paying attention to the drag shows.

"I really started getting interested in the performing aspect of it and how much they put into their craft, like the showgirls," she

said. "I really wasn't sure if this was something I wanted to do, but I was encouraged by others. I started getting myself involved in the shows and being around people that were involved in pageants. I decided I was really going to take my craft seriously and dedicated myself."

Guiding Chanel's transformation into a queen was her mentor Melanie Von Cruz, and drag mothers Ravin Devine and Victoria Sanchez.

"Watching them perform, their presence, the way they engage the audience, it really captured me and made me want to get into drag," she said.

When Chanel first competed for the Little Miss Woodward title she did not succeed. The second time, she was the first runner-up. The third time Chanel entered the pageant, she won.

"I wore a pretty pink evening gown, like a princess gown. It was amazing," she said, adding that she wears a size four to a size six gown, which makes it easy for her to find and buy prom or bridal dresses and embellish them. But once a queen starts winning, she said, other queens share their "bags of drag," which helps with the expense. Although Chanel said the money has been good and tips are abundant.

"They love you here at The Woodward. They really support you here," she said.

In addition to wearing one of her favorite gowns, for her winning talent presentation, she and her dancers performed to "Rise Up" by Andra Day.

"It really had a big impact on people in the audience," she said. "People were like, 'Oh my God, I was crying,' and it was because it was so heartfelt. It was around that time when I felt like this is my time and I'm ready, I'm focused and it's mine."

Since then, Chanel said she has had an immense responsibility to her fans. In addition to a required amount of shows she's booked during her reign, Chanel frequents The Woodward as a patron to support other performers at the bar and to visit with members of the community.

"It means so much when people come out specifically for you. So many people support me – my boss at work, my coworkers, my friends, my family. It really means a lot," she said.

Not letting these people down is one of the reasons Chanel said she works so hard to be the best queen she can be.

Mastering Queendom

"It takes a really strong, dedicated person. That's something I didn't realize until really being here and being a part of it," she said.

It takes Chanel two hours for makeup alone, but she said she has mastered the art of the quick-change and, when she isn't working her 9-to-5 job as a receptionist, a big chunk of her time is spent preparing for shows. That can include a lot of research.

"Studying your character is important. I watch interviews to pick up on their personality, like what they do with their hands. I don't just listen to music. I watch videos to make sure my lyrics and choreography is going with the songs," Chanel said.

When asked whose character she identifies with most, Chanel answered Cardi B, an American rapper, singer and songwriter. As a performer, Chanel said she feels like she and Cardi B share a willingness to be open and honest.

"The very first time I performed as Little Miss Woodward as Cardi B the audience went crazy. The response was ridiculous. I made so many tips," she said. "It's her rawness. I'm the same way when it comes to stuff. I'm just so raw, so uncut. I'm just me. That's the same as Cardi B. She's just her and that's what people relate to and really, really like. She might not be the most articulate or polite, or however you may say, but she's her in everything she does and you have to respect it.

"When it comes to me, you have to respect what I'm doing. You see that I'm working hard. I'm out here putting in the hours and I'm working," Chanel continued. "And I'm me. And I can't be anybody else but that."

Cardi B might be her favorite character reference, but Chanel said she has learned that people don't always want to see the same face or hear the same song when they come to see her perform. She said that the trick to keeping fickle audiences captivated is versatility.

"You have to study your bars, watch the shows there and know what type of characters and music the audience likes and accepts," she said.

Because, according to Chanel, it's different in different areas. In Battle Creek and Grand Rapids, for example, she got "chewed up" for not being "drag enough." She lives her life as a woman and made the assumption that putting on everyday makeup and costumes would suit most performances, but said she quickly learned that in many spaces the drag scene requires a queen to overexaggerate her makeup, jewelry, body presentation and movement. She added that it was a hard lesson to learn, too.

"I felt like people were trying to tell me how to be me. I didn't want to wear that makeup, but I didn't know you can't see your face when

the light hits you if you don't wear certain makeup," she said. "So if you don't contour or highlight enough then you get washed out by the bright lights. I would watch videotapes and say, 'Oh my God, I look so stupid.'"

Calhoun said Chanel's willingness to review her past performances, be open to change and strive to improve her performance makes her "one of the best" queens around.

"She is very professional. She is willing to listen and learn," he said.

That, and being able to get along with others, is what he said judges will be looking for in the next Little Miss Woodward. Whoever it is, Calhoun said, "They have some big shoes to fill."

Coming Back Stronger

Without spoiling all the surprises in store before her final performance, Chanel teased what to expect before seeing her as Little Miss Woodward one last time.

"A lot of girls will want to be cute and pretty, but I'm going to dance for my life," Chanel said. "I'm going to give them a show they will never forget. They're probably going to want to crown me again when I perform."

Despite her confidence as a performer, Little Miss Woodward is a title only handed out for a year at a time and Chanel will have to relinquish it soon. She described the feeling of giving it back as "bittersweet."

"It's so sad. I love my title, but I also have to realize I'm always going to be a former. I'm always going to be Little Miss Woodward. But it's my title. I want to keep it. I don't want to hand it down. I love it. This is my home, my start, how I became who I am," she said. "It hasn't really hit me yet. I'm sure on the day I have to hand down I will boo-hoo all day. I know I will. I don't want to hand down, but it symbolizes growth and the future and I know the future holds a lot for me."

This includes a run at Miss Woodward in July. According to Calhoun, a queen has never left Little Miss Woodward to come back and win the Miss Woodward title.

"If she does that, she'll make history," he said. "The girls better watch out and be very scared. She is no joke."

The Woodward Bar & Grill is located at 6426 Woodward Ave. in Detroit. Showtime for the Little Miss Woodward pageant is 11 p.m. There is a \$10 cover for the event hosted by Shauntrelle Blu with music by DJ Ray. For more information, visit gaybe.am/Xe.

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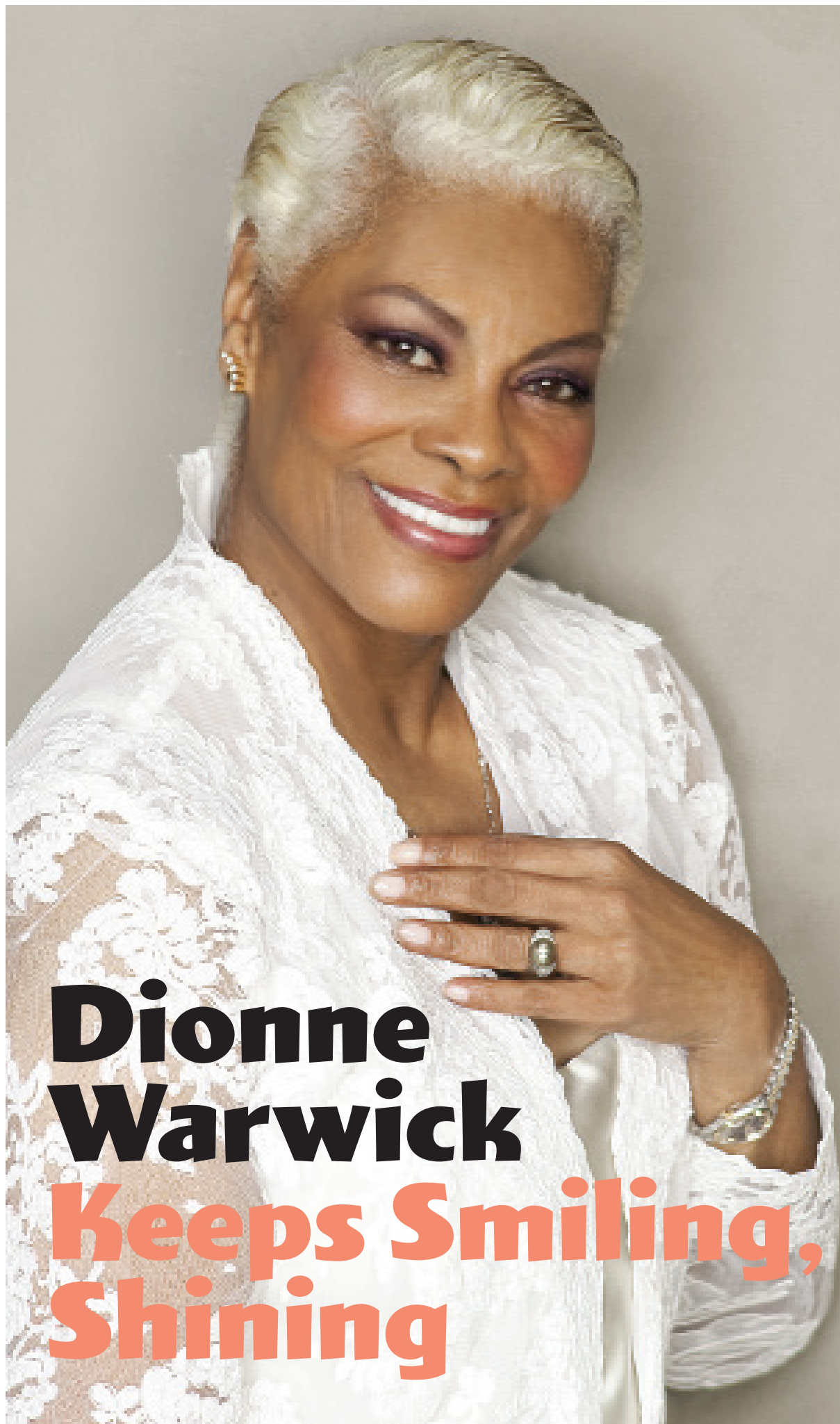
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Music Legend Talks Recently Learning About Auto-Tune, Her Friend Aretha & Not Judging Gay Fans

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Dionne Warwick has laughs like no other. The memory-laden laugh for explaining, despite popular opinion, her friendship with Aretha Franklin; another for her read on what she thinks is, quite literally, the depressing state of the music business (she won't call some new songs "songs"); the one when discussing "Twitter or twatter."

Oftentimes it's a breezy, throaty, less-coded chuckle, but the one she whoops with great dramatic effect when the topic of Auto-Tune is broached is a cackle so distinctly a cackle that it immediately answers the question about Auto-Tune before she uses a barking dog analogy to illustrate her very Dionne response. On this front, she seems to agree with Franklin, who once scoffed at the mere idea of using the pitch-fixing tool after an interviewer explained it: "Oh please... that's ridiculous. That would be ridiculous. After 50 years, please."

Like Franklin, Warwick has certainly put in the time too. The five-time Grammy winner grew up singing gospel music at New Hope Baptist Church in her native state of New Jersey, where she currently lives. She did background singing, performed in a gospel trio. But after composer Burt Bacharach took her under his wings in the early '60s, Warwick landed a recording deal and her pop-soul music went on to dominate the charts. Her songs are timeless: "I Say a Little Prayer," "Walk On By," "Do You Know the Way to San Jose" and "That's What Friends Are For," recorded with Elton John, Gladys Knight and Stevie Wonder. The song was released in 1985 as a charity single for the American Foundation for AIDS Research and raised over \$3 million for the cause. In 1967, she also released "(Theme from) Valley of the Dolls" from the cult film of the same name after Judy Garland, originally set to sing the track, was fired.

On May 10, the 78-year-old music legend will release her 36th studio release and first album in five years, "She's Back." Produced by her son Damon Elliott, the album's 10 songs include duets with Kenny Lattimore ("What Color Is Love"), Musiq Soulchild ("Am I Dreaming?") and Krayzie Bone of Bone Thugs-N-Harmony ("Déjà Vu"). Notably, the set is Warwick's first R&B/soul album since "Soulful," released 50 years ago, in 1969.

Is this where you expected to be 50 years after your last R&B album?

No, not necessarily.

What did you envision for yourself?

That I'd be doing exactly what I've always been doing: recording when the opportunity presents itself, doing my concerts around this entire world like I always do, and just enjoying my music and giving it to people to enjoy.

Why lead with a new recording of "What the World Needs Now Is Love" from the new album?

Because that's we need. And it's not that simple – I mean, this whole world is in shambles and it's because of our own country. Our own country is just – I don't know what's going on! I'm beginning to wonder what country I live in.

How does where we are now in the country compare to other eras you've lived through?

It's almost as if we're walking backward. Nobody seems to be looking ahead at what the possibilities are and the good that can be done.

**Dionne
Warwick
Keeps Smiling,
Shining**

We're literally back in the '60s during the marches and the blatant discrimination. I mean, now it just runs rampant. It's crazy.

Sometimes I feel like I'm living in a history book.

That's what you're living in. You're living in the period of time when people who have died over the years for the freedoms that we're supposed to be enjoying, it was almost all in vain. It doesn't make sense. It just does not make sense. So I feel that this world *does* need love. It really does. A whole bunch of it. And I personally know that love is God, so that's what we need.

You stood up for the LGBTQ community when we needed you most, in a time when many influential names did not take that step. You lost many people who were close to you to AIDS, including your valet. How do you reflect on that time, and how personally affected were you?

I was not the only one personally affected. I think everybody that ever heard that word "HIV/AIDS" was affected, not necessarily directly but indirectly. Losing people for any reason is not an easy thing to be a part of, but when you lose people to something (where something) can be done about it then it becomes another kind of situation. I've always believed what my grandfather told me at a very, very tender age: that we were all put here to be of service to each other. We all have got to get our heads out of the sand and take a good look around us and say, "Enough."

Because of you, Ronald Reagan said "AIDS" for the first time, you've said. Why did you decide to challenge Ronald Reagan?

Basically he appointed me the United States Ambassador of Health and my mandate, self-imposed basically, was the AIDS issue because that was what was prevalent at that time. And he just did not want to say that word for some reason. I hadn't a clue as to why. But when I did a press conference and he was there, I prodded him into saying the word. I think it was time for him to fess up and know that the community that was suffering from this disease should be addressed by someone who meant something to *all* people and being the President of the United States he had an obligation to do so.

You've had a special relationship with the LGBTQ community for decades. Is that closeness to the gay community something that came out of that tragic period or did it start before?

Apparently it had started before, when I was singing gospel music as a teenager. The young man who played piano for our group was gay, but that was his lifestyle, that's what he chose as a lifestyle. Who am I to judge him? He didn't judge me. So, you know, everybody does what is satisfying to them to do, and I let you live your life and you allow me to live mine.

You come from a family who seems divided on accepting the LGBTQ community: the Houston family has not been the most outspoken allies of the community and have, in fact, expressed some

homophobia over the years.

Well, yeah. That's their way of dealing with it. I can't speak for that, everybody approaches any kind of a situation in different manners, so I can only speak for myself.

What was your relationship like with your gay church friend? You were close, I imagine.

Oh yeah. He was wonderful to be around, and could play a piano like nobody else. He was a human being, OK – that's the way I look at people. I can't judge you for your preference – that's your choice, not mine. You gotta be who you are and I've gotta be who I am and that's just the way it's supposed to be.

You say "preference" and "lifestyle," and I know some people still use both of those words. But a lot of gay people think they were born this way, that it wasn't a chosen lifestyle or a preference. Do you think a gay person could be born gay?

Absolutely. It's not only the way you're born, it's the lifestyle you've chosen to live and that's your choice. I can't define what it means or how it happens or why it happens or when it happens. It just is. I look at it that way.

What has the LGBTQ community's loyalty all these years meant to you?

It's absolutely wonderful to know that people generally still appreciate what I do and your love and care for me means an awful lot to me and I certainly appreciate it.

Famously, in addition to being her cousin, you were Whitney's mentor. Whitney was supportive of the community as well. Do you think her LGBTQ support was influenced by your own? Did you ever talk about that fanbase that you shared?

No, we never talked about anything like that. She made her choice as I make mine. I'm involved with an awful lot of things that do not seem to be popular, but it's something that should be addressed, and if I feel I have something to offer, I have no problem doing it. I'm certain that she, eventually in her growing years, felt the same way: If she had something to offer, she felt like, "OK, I'm gonna do it."

How do you think Whitney's legacy has been handled in the years since her death?

Oh, I don't know. That's not for me to discuss or to make an opinion on. And I'm gonna stop you at this point in time because I do not discuss Whitney. She is gone and she will be well remembered as the beautiful person she was.

Absolutely. I can respect that. Let's shift to the music business and talk about the way that things have changed over the last 50 years, because this is not the same music business you were brought into.

Not at all! (Laughs)

Today's music industry is often criticized for not producing as many genuine vocal talents as in past



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► Dionne

Continued from p. 19

eras.

Mmhmm! (Laughs)

What is your take?

What is happening in the industry today is so alien to me. (Laughs) It really is! I'm not a computer geek, so I'm not here all day long sitting at a computer screen. My cell phone, I try to leave it anywhere I can.

But you have one.

Yes, I do. And it's only because of my grandbabies! They want to talk to Grammy and I'm available anytime they wanna talk. But we've lost all of our social skills, nobody talks to anybody anymore. Everybody's so busy texting – is that what it's called? Yeah, texting. And you know, I've witnessed kids sitting across from each other and instead of speaking cordially saying whatever they need to say they're busy getting carpal tunnel on their phones. I think it's a sad, sad scenario right now. I think we all have to really get back to – I remember writing notes to somebody to say “thank you.”

Now it's difficult to break out as a successful artist unless you can manage your Twitter and your Facebook.

Guess what? I don't manage anything. I don't even know what Twitter or twatter is! And I really don't want to. That's why I have social media people who do all that stuff! And I told them from the very beginning: “I know nothing about it, I don't want to know anything about it; that's why you're hired, that's why I pay you very well. So you do what you gotta do and let people know what they have to know.”

What do you think of Auto-Tune?

Of what?

Of Auto-Tune.

(Boisterous, dramatic, iconic cackle) I just learned what that was!

When, how?

Honest to god, I really did. My son told me what that was and I couldn't believe it. He said, “Yeah, you know, you can take a puppy in there and he can bark and I can make him sound good.” I said, “What?!” So, where is the real talent?

Is it missing? Do you think we have less talent being produced than we did in the '60s and '70s?

Absolutely, no doubt. I had a discussion with some wonderful people not too long ago, and they asked my opinion on the songs or whatever you wanna call them because I do not call them songs – the recordings of today. How many people will remember any of those words 20 years from now? Music is supposed to keep you reminded of wonderful times, of peaceful times, of happy times, of sad times, of joy. You know, what happened to that? What happened? Doesn't anybody wanna be happy anymore?

Looking back at your status as one of the first true black crossover artists, do you feel like a pioneer or trailblazer?

No, because I've always considered – first of all, nobody can ever decide to put me in a box. I just feel music belongs to everyone and music is just that – music. It doesn't have a title or a genre, it's just music. It's the same eight notes in a major scale, the same 13 notes in a chromatic scale. So music is music.

But you don't recognize that you blazed a trail for other black female artists?

No, I think people's eyes and ears opened. That's basically all that happened. They call me the one that bridged the gap – what kind of gap was it? (Laughs)

After singing in church, you've said you never thought you'd be doing what you're doing music-wise. Have you had the music career you always wanted? Did you want more out of it? Expect more out of it?

I never really wanted to do this; it's just not what I went to college for. I was gonna teach. So, you know, that's that answer. (Laughs)

I feel your accomplishments aren't as celebrated currently in the same way as yours peers.

Right.

Where are all the Dionne Warwick award-show tributes? When it comes to your career and those of your peers, like Gladys and Aretha and Patti LaBelle and Diana Ross, do you feel left out?

No, not at all. No. Every concert I did, and I'm truly blessed to say, all sold out. So those people who want to hear and see Dionne Warwick are the ones who show up and put their butts in the seats. I'm not concerned about the accolades they're giving to others – apparently they deserve it, and I applaud them. It doesn't matter to me. Most people like you feel I've been overlooked but I don't feel that way. It's like everything else: I feel that what is supposed to happen for and with Dionne does.

Given your relationship with Aretha, how did you process her death?

It was a hard loss. It was a very difficult loss. Aretha was a friend regardless of what most people might think. (Laughs) It's so funny how people like to put some craziness into anybody's life when, in fact, they don't know anybody's life for real.

Aretha and I grew up together; we were teenagers when we met. And she's always been one of the most incredible talents I've ever heard, since the first day I heard her sing. Never grew old. So, you know, it's difficult to lose anyone that you know and that you're close to.

Your relationship with Aretha has been depicted as fairly tense in the media, and in 2017 Aretha sent a lengthy fax to the Associated Press addressing what she noted was a “libelous” statement made by you about her at Whitney's funeral.

See **Dionne**, continued on p. 25

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Detroit Public Theatre Hosts 'Girlfriend' March 21 - April 14

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Released in 1991, the album "Girlfriend" is the third studio album released by Matthew Sweet to critical acclaim. Years after that release, playwright Todd Almond and Sweet reimagined the record into a full-length musical love story with an LGBTQ twist, a local production of which is slated to play at The Detroit Public Theatre from March 21 through April 14.

Set in the '90s, the story follows Mike and Will, the only two cast members, as they explore their own lives, the ideas of first love and what lessons they've learned from high school. BTL reached out to the show's director, Joe Bailey, in advance of the show's local debut to get a sneak peek at what to expect before it hits the stage.

When did you hear you would be directing the show?

The lovely ladies at Detroit Public Theatre asked me to direct it. It was last year, I don't remember exactly when it was, [but it was around] spring of 2018, and I knew the show. I remember when it first premiered, I think it was in Berkeley, and I was intrigued by it because I listened to Matthew Sweet's album "Girlfriend," which I was a huge fan of in the early '90s. And just having a show called "Girlfriend" based on that album made about two high school boys that fall in love, I was very intrigued with the whole thing. So, when the opportunity arose, I was just over the moon.

Having been a fan of Sweet's work beforehand, did you ever consider the record to be an LGBTQ-themed love story?

► Dionne

Continued from p. 20

Aretha was a person who was reactive. She wasn't one (laughs)... she just... well, she thought the way she did, period, that was the end of that. And the next day, she probably was like, "Why did I do that?" (Laughs)

You laugh because you seem to understand her.

Well, I knew her. That's the difference. When you know someone and when you think you know someone, those are two different things. I knew Aretha.

You're one of a few left in your peer group, next to Patti, Diana and Gladys, after Aretha passed last year. What do you want your legacy to be?

My music, of course. And that I've been true to who I am and who I was.

Where do you keep your five Grammys?

(Laughs) Well, they were in my mom's house

Never, which is really what was so amazing and intriguing to me about it.

What are you excited about most in directing this musical?

I'm thrilled with how things are progressing, and it being set in the early '90s. So, we have production meetings every week. Things are coming together and it's fun to check in with all the designers and see how the project has been made and it's been great. It's a great design team and I'm very excited to be working at the Detroit Public Theatre. So far, it's all been great and I have no worries about it going any other way.

What are you hoping audiences will be able to see in this reimagining of the original work?

I guess, looking at things differently, I'm a fan of that. Also, I guess, seeing what they may know in a different way is something that is really intriguing to me. And it's just about love, who doesn't like love? If they come in and even if they know the music or not, I hope that they will just walk away happy.

Since the show has only two people in the cast, it lends itself to an intimate look at these two characters. Are you excited about that and have you directed anything like this before?

I've directed a lot of things, but I don't think I have done a two-person show. I've been in one-person shows but I don't think I've directed two-person shows, so no, it's a first for me. The whole thing is just full of excited potential. The crew and cast are really lovely and they both sing like angels and I'm really excited about it.

until she passed. Now a couple are in my cousin's house. I have only one in my house and I'm gonna keep the one that I'm gonna get soon, and that's the Lifetime Achievement. I'm gonna keep that one.

Why haven't you kept them all?

There's just so much space on the wall and so much space on the shelf.

What does being honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Recording Academy mean to you?

It means an awful lot – that the entire academy has decided, finally, that I'm deserving. So like I said, when it's supposed to happen, that's when it happens.

You once went to a psychic who told you you'd win the first two Grammys you ever won. Have you been back to a psychic since?

No, I haven't. I haven't found one that's good! (Laughs) No, I've been too busy trying to put some beautiful sounds into your ears.

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JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE AT LITTLE CAESARS ARENA MARCH 25

Famous for hits like “SexyBack,” “My Love” and “What Goes Around... Comes Around,” Justin Timberlake has sold millions of albums worldwide and is now coming to Detroit to share songs from his Man of the Woods tour. Fans can look forward for the show’s unique 360-degree multi-stage layout and signature choreography. Tickets start at \$54.50. More information about ticketing and showtimes can be found online ticketmaster.com.

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OUTINGS

Thursday, March 14

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. detroitlgbtchamber.com.

OUT Night at the Ann Arbor Film Festival 7:15 p.m. This year’s Out Night films focus on recurring themes of memory and community and historical belonging, said guest programmer Sean Donovan, a doctoral student in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts at the Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397. info@aafilmfest.org. aafilmfest.org.

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.

Thursday, April 4

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.

Tuesday, April 9

Serving Up Knowledge: Bold Beauty for the Trans Community 12 p.m. Bring a lunch and join us for our session on Bold Beauty for the Trans Community. Open to all OU students! OC Rooms 128-129.

Friday, April 12

Gender and Sexuality Center Semester Send-Off! 12 p.m. Make crafts, socialize and celebrate the end of the semester at our last event of winter 2019! OC Gold Room B. GSC@OaklandUniversity.edu. GSC@OaklandUniversity.edu. oakland.edu/gsc/events/.

MUSIC & MORE

Midwest RAD Fest March 9, The 10th Anniversary Midwest RAD Fest is a 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.

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.

Mapplethorpe in Performance March 14, 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.

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 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. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium,

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See puzzle on pg. 30



Myles Gallagher

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Title of Show

LIGHT

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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. 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.

Michigan Philharmonic Presents "PhilPalooza2" April 6, 7:30 p.m. Highlighting our local stars playing cool music with an urban vibe. Michigan Philharmonic, Plymouth Arts & Recreation Center, 650 Church St., Plymouth. michtix.com.

THEATER

Fisher Theatre Presents "The Lightning Thief" March 9, 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 9, 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.

Stagecrafter's Second Stage Presents "Sondheim on Sondheim" March 9, 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. 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/events.

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. smtd.umich.edu.

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 landmark album, *Girlfriend*. Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Avenue, 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

Editor's Pick

Royal Oak Music Theatre Hosts Demetri Martin March 29

Famous for quick-hitting one-liners, Demetri Marin has also used his talents as a writer at "Late Night with Conan O'Brien" and as a regular performer on "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart." The stand-up comedian has also hosted his own Netflix comedy special and written a New York Times Bestseller and will be performing at The Royal Oak Music Theatre on March 29. Find out more about him and upcoming tour dates demetrimartin.com and buy tickets online at ticketmaster.com. Doors open at 7 p.m. and tickets for this all ages show start at \$39.50.



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. Studio Theatre at the Hilberry, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. theatranddanceatwayne.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.

Young Frankenstein March 29, 7:30 p.m. This monster musical comedy is an adaptation of Mel Brooks' legendary cult

classic film. Following the grandson of the infamous Victor Frankenstein, Frederick Frankenstein inherits his family's estate in Transylvania. 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. Over 54 million people all around the world have fallen in love with the characters, the story and the music that make *Mamma Mia!* the ultimate feel-good show. A mother. A daughter. Three possible dads. Bonstelle Theatre, 3424 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-577-2960. theatranddanceatwayne.com.

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Libretto by **Korde Arrington Tuttle**
Featuring words by **Essex Hemphill** and **Patti Smith**
Directed by **Kaneza Schaal**
Featuring **Roomful of Teeth**
in cooperation with **The Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation**

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.

This work may contain a frank discussion of sexuality and will include images depicting sexuality and nudity.

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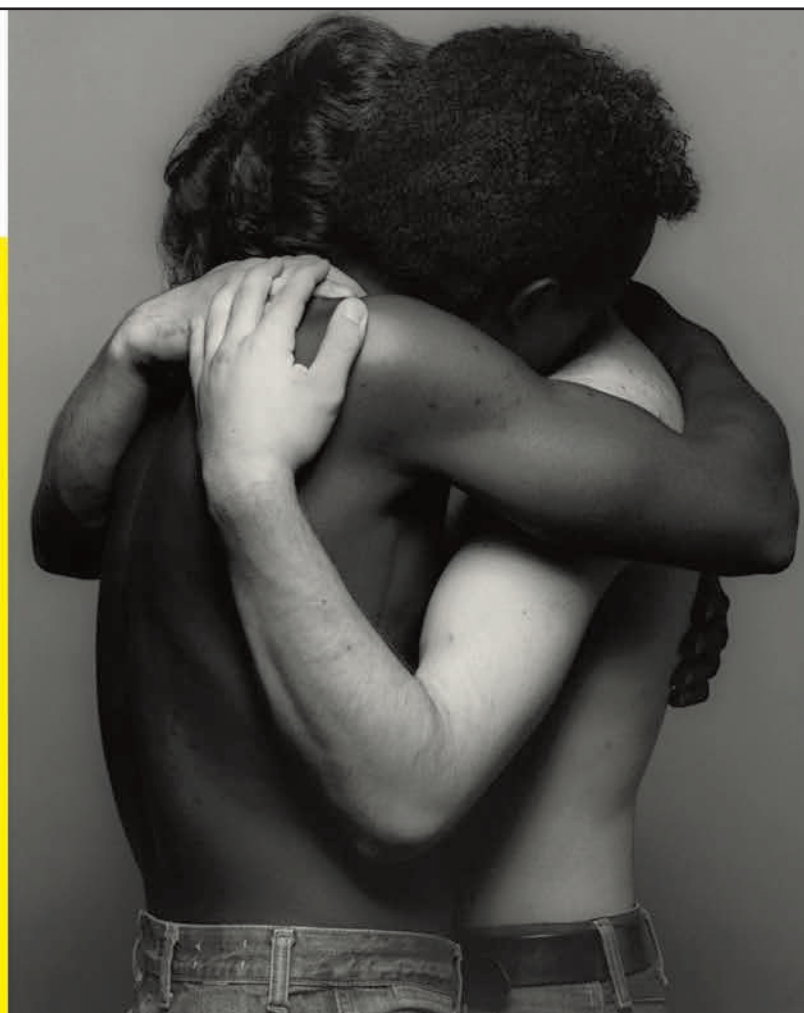
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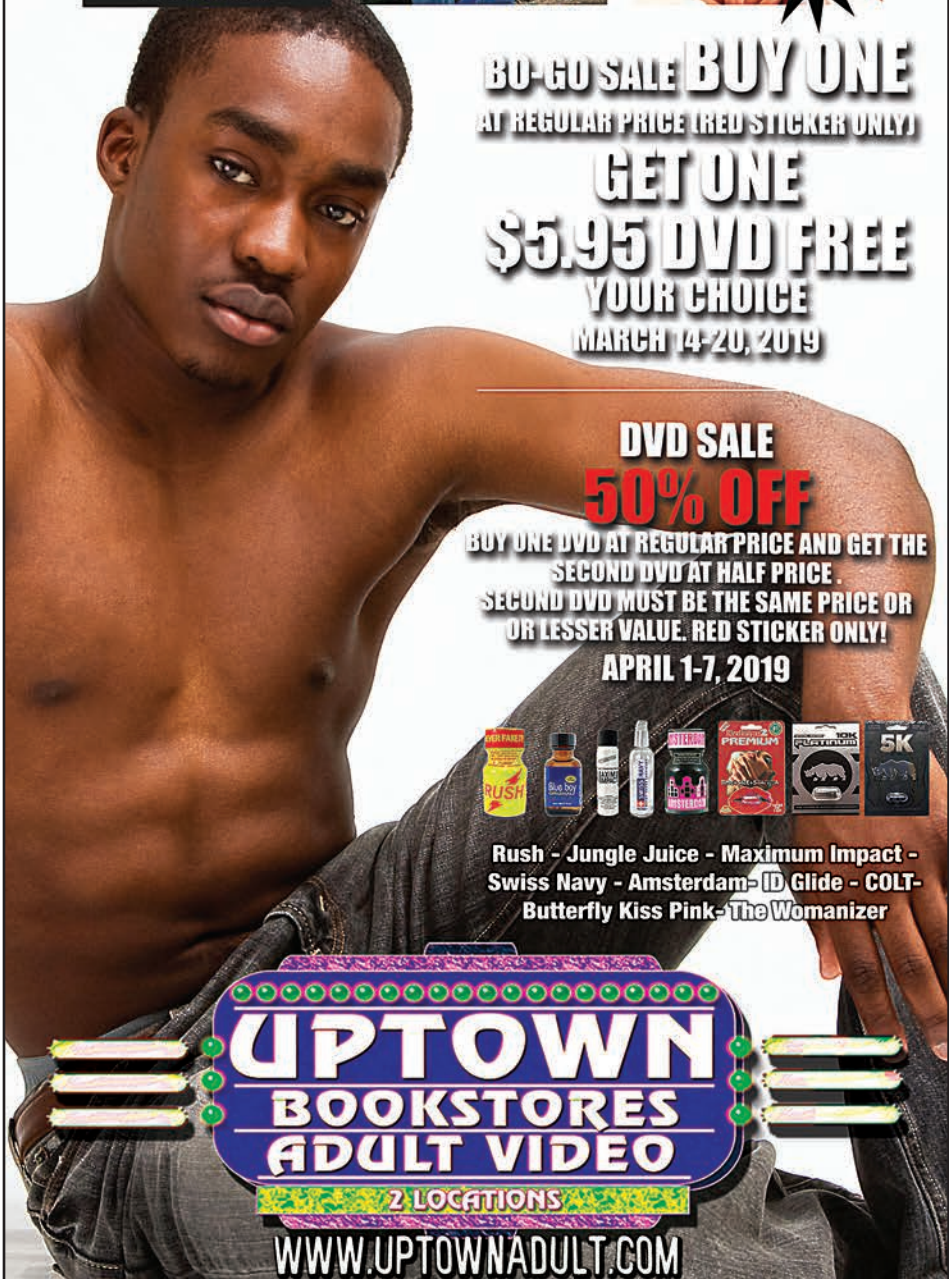
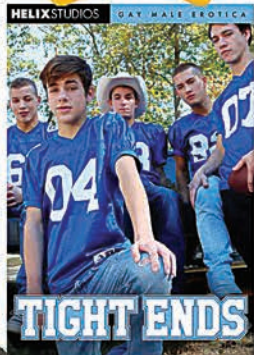


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when basked in the flames of a ski-lodge blaze. eracleaskincare.com, \$45

3. Tom's of Maine Organic Moisturizing Lip Balm

Sunflower, soybean and organic peppermint keep your lips lush and smooth – without the addition of harmful parabens, phthalates or phenoxyethanol – so you're eager to pucker up on snow days spent in bed. tomsofmaine.com, \$3

4. Aveda Hand Relief Night Renewal Serum & Foot Relief Moisturizing Creme

Your extremities won't know what hit 'em with this one-two punch of relief from Aveda that at once soothes callused and dry feet while visibly reducing your hands' dark spots and protecting their natural moisture barrier. aveda.com, \$9-\$35

5. Trilogy Certified Organic Rosehip Oil

Rosehip's potent natural actives make it highly effective in bringing dehydrated and ageing skin back to life, but it also will make the hirsute among us happy: Lumbersexuals can embrace their softer side thanks to the organic oil's beard-moisturizing properties. trilogyproducts.com, \$54

BY MIKEY ROX

While you can't avoid winter's skin-damaging effects altogether, you can fortify your grooming routine with a vitamin-, mineral-, and moisture-enriched regimen that keeps your skin supple and soft despite the elements for that summertime silkiness even when it's snowing out. Here are 10 new products to add to your arctic arsenal.

1. Sothys Homme Energizing Face Cleanser

Save precious time in the morning with this three-in-one energizing facial cleanser – it washes, scrubs, and works as a mask (when left on for five to 10 minutes) – which features key ingredients like volcanic rock to stimulate skin cells and rhyolite grains for microdermabrasion. rladvancedlaserandskincarecenter.com, \$34

2. Eraclea Daily Bamboo Exfoliant

For a face "as smooth as a baby's tush," as one reviewer put it, use this exfoliating micro-scrub every couple days (it says daily on the packaging, but you can chill a bit on the micro-scrub when the mercury is low) to remove impurities, oil and dead skin cells for a youthful glow that'll look even more radiant

6. Pacific Shaving Company Caffeinated Shaving Cream & After Shave

Hopped-up shave cream and after shave from Pacific Shaving Company not only promotes healthy skin (caffeine is an effective antioxidant) and reduces redness, but the buzz you'll get can help you cut back on your morning joe-on-the-go. pacificshaving.com, \$8

7. Superfood Infused Under Eye Serum

A hundred-thousand units of retinol – a form of vitamin A, and the most tested anti-wrinkle nutrient – are combined with deep-penetrating Moringa oil to comprise this eye-brightening serum that diminishes the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles so every day you can wake up fresh as a February dusting. amgnaturally.com, \$66

8. Mister Pompadour Peppermint Shower Experience

Tea tree oil tickles the scalp as you lather up with this nourishing peppermint shampoo and conditioner combo that provides a breezy tingliness, like the wind whipping through your untamed mane on a trackless toboggan. misterpompadour.com, \$25

9. LifeCell All-in-One Anti-Aging Treatment

This derma-approved, celeb-endorsed one-stop shop for men's preventative and anti-aging skin care reduces the appearance of face fatigue, refreshes and hydrates the skin, and smoothes out the appearance of stubborn cellulite so nobody will bat an eye when you tell them you're celebrating your seventh 29th birthday this spring. lifecellcream.com, \$189

Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and LGBT lifestyle expert whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world. He spends his time writing from the beach with his dog Jaxon. Connect with Mikey on Instagram @mikeyrox.



FERNDALE

FERNDALE, MICHIGAN – CITY MANAGER

Ferndale, MI (pop. 20,428) – The City of Ferndale is located in southeast Oakland County, Michigan, offering an outstanding, unique and dynamic urban experience with easy access to major metropolitan areas and an international airport. Known for its award-winning downtown; community events; excellent housing options; and welcoming culture, the City of Ferndale is proud of the high quality of life it offers its residents.

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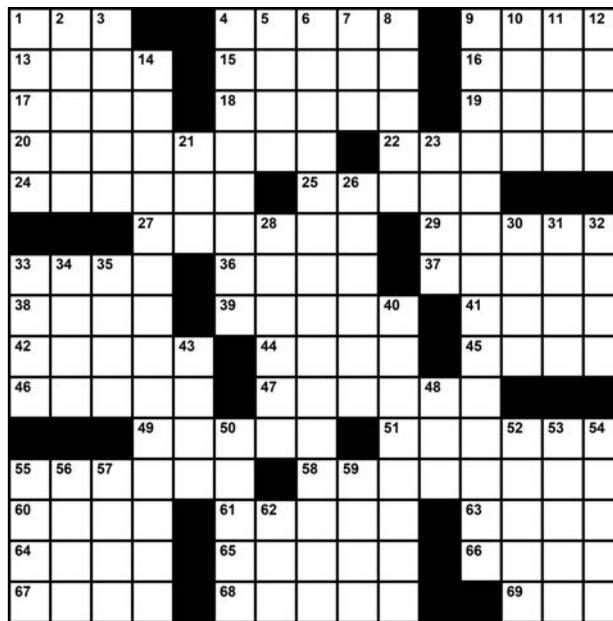
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Across

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 ("Grease")
 4 Canning tomatoes
 9 Visit Barneys, e.g.
 13 Ballet supporters?
 15 Pass, as a law
 16 Site of desirable stones
 17 Prot. denomination
 18 ___ music (do Britten's job)
 19 Book after Joel
 20 One who doubts there's a Divine
 Miss M?
 22 Julia's pal in "My Best Friend's
 Wedding"
 24 Shoulder warmers
 25 Rubs the right way

- 27 Doesn't dine at the Rubicon, e.g.
 29 Say "Bottoms up!"
 33 Begin to wake up
 36 Holds title to
 37 When actors should come
 38 Navel fetish accessory?
 39 Knights' attendants
 41 Pronoun for King James
 42 Shaft in a straight simile
 44 "Honky ___ Woman"
 45 Pianist Dame Myra
 46 Consider carefully
 47 Matter
 49 George Cukor's "Dinner at ___"
 51 Out in the open
 55 Street in San Francisco
 58 LGBT History Month, in the UK
 60 Nevada neighbor
 61 Drag queen Mann
 63 Some Feds
 64 Brought forth fruit
 65 Kind of dish
 66 Keep an eye on
 67 Hit boxers
 68 Stand next to Eakins
 69 "Vox populi, vox ___"
 6 Before the game they put on...
 7 ___ UP
 8 Seattle's WNBA team
 9 During the game they exchange...
 10 Chauffeur's order
 11 Lysol target
 12 Pain in the derriere
 14 After the game they...
 21 P. Hearst's kidnappers
 23 Engaged in
 26 Still waiting to go out
 28 Cloth sample
 30 BenGay target
 31 Takes to court
 32 Patty Sheehan's supporters
 33 Side dish with fish
 34 Rubber on a rim
 35 Letters over Mary's son
 40 Abscond after posting a surety
 43 Spin like a top
 48 Contemptible one
 50 Pop one's cork
 52 Unable to walk like a man
 53 Cara of "Fame"
 54 "She Bop" singer Lauper
 55 Young bears
 56 Lying on
 57 Gilbert of "The Talk"
 59 Verb of Verlaine
 62 R. Mapplethorpe supporter

Find solution on page 26 and
 at www.pridesource.com

Licensed Swedish Massage

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FERNDALE

Department: Police Department
Location: Police Department Records Bureau
Salary Range: \$15.84 to \$17.46
Employment Type: Full Time

The City of Ferndale is seeking a full time Customer Service Representative I (CSRI) to provide administrative/clerical support for the Police Department within the Records Bureau. The CSRI will provide support to the Police Department through record keeping, warrant verifications, maintaining time and activity records and more. Candidates must have graduated from an accredited High School. An Associate's Degree in Business Administration or related field is preferred. Any equivalent combination of education and experience will be considered. Salary Range: \$15.84 to \$17.46. Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, FSA, and Retirement Plans are available.

For a full list of qualifications and to apply, go to <https://www.ferndalemi.gov/jobs>.



FERNDALE

Department: Fire Department
Location: Fire House
Salary Range: \$46,618 to \$63,302 + 6.5%
FLSA Status: Non-exempt
Employment Type: Full Time

The City of Ferndale is seeking firefighters—aka superheroes, lifesavers, educators, and general doers of awesome things!

Firefighters serve and protect the community. Our firefighters are first responders, combating and extinguishing fires; performing rescues, hazmat responses, and life support functions; and engaging in other specialized duties under emergency conditions, frequently involving personal hazard and/or severe weather conditions. Must have completed the written firefighter test with EMPCO and have a valid CPAT. Preference will be given to those applicants with a paramedic license, valid in the state of Michigan. Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, FSA, and Retirement Plans are available. For a full list of qualifications and to apply, go to <https://www.ferndalemi.gov/jobs>

PrEP Clinic

Now Open
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 313-446-9800

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Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is a way to help prevent HIV by taking a pill every day.

PrEP must be taken every day to be most effective.

- ✓ HIV Testing
- ✓ PrEP Assessment
- ✓ Insurance & Payment Guidance.
- ✓ PrEP Education



When taken consistently, PrEP has been shown to reduce the risk of HIV infection in people who are at high risk by more than 90%.

Your risk of getting HIV from sex can be even lower if you combine PrEP with condoms and other prevention methods.

For more information about PrEP and prevention services please contact our Lead Prevention Specialist, Keith Hughes at khughes@miunified.org

WWW.MIUNIFIED.ORG

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25% To 75% OFF
Thursday, Friday & Saturday

March 21, 22 & 23

10:30 am - 4:00 pm

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1748 Northwood Drive, Troy, MI 48084

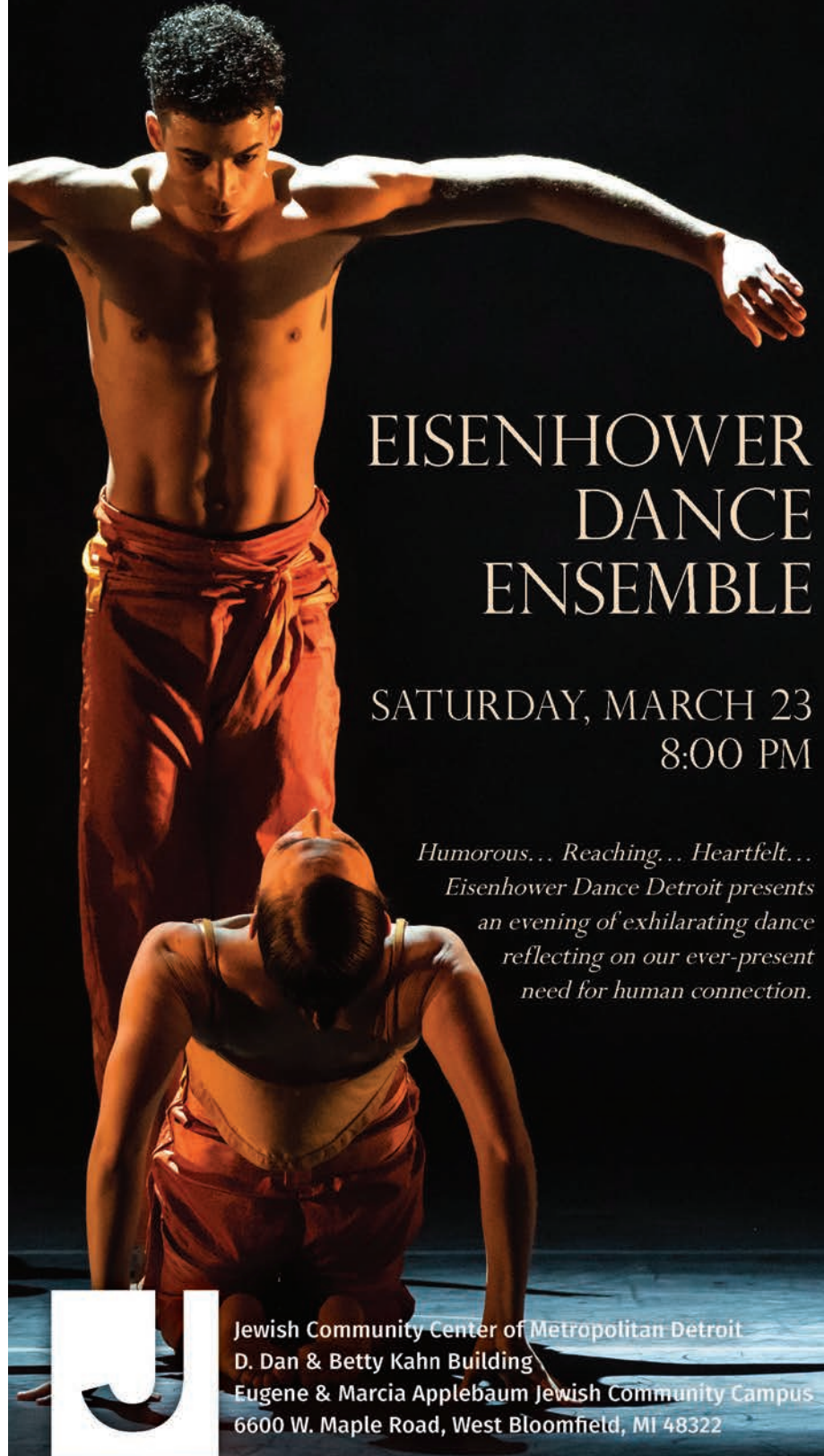
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D. Dan & Betty Kahn Building
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6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield, MI 48322

March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month

The American Cancer Society has updated its colorectal screening guidelines.

They may be found on the following link:

www.cancer.org

To learn more, click on "signs and symptoms of colon cancer."

Colon Cancer is a non-AIDS related malignancy. Non-AIDS related malignancies, such as colon cancer, are the number one cause of death in people living with HIV. These malignancies occur more frequently and at an earlier age in persons living with HIV as compared to the general population.

Dr. Benson and his providers screen patients living with HIV for cancers earlier and more aggressively than the general population. Our standard of care is the cutting-edge.

Soon the American Cancer Society's guidelines will catch-up for those living with HIV. They will recommend what we are already doing.

We have the knowledge and experience to keep you healthy!

— Dr. Paul Benson



Dr. Paul Benson's

Be Well
Medical Center

1964 Eleven Mile Rd
Berkley, MI 40872

(248) 544-9300
doctorbewell.com

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

Kindness & Patient Care has been at the Top of Our Priorities since 1980

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

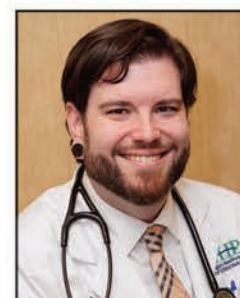
He leads our team of professional and talented Providers:



Caleb Youngblood, PA-C, AAHIV-S



Mark Rosen, PA-C



Leon Bullough, NP-F



Keyuna Nance, MSW