

MICHIGAN'S LGBTQ NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



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PAGE 24

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PAGE 14



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THE '00S - 2008

February - Stryker Given 'Creating Change' Award: Jon Stryker was honored in February at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Creating Change Conference when the group presented him with the first ever Creating Change Award. Stryker founded and funded the Arcus Foundation in Kalamazoo, and at that point had provided \$40 million in grants to LGBTQ groups and \$36 million to protecting the great apes. He had also spent thousands of dollars to fund campaigns to unseat anti-gay incumbents in Michigan.



April - Cancellation Causes Chaos at Aquinas: A scheduled visit to speak at Aquinas College turned into a campus uproar over philosopher and gay rights advocate John Corvino after his event was cancelled by Aquinas President C. Edward Balog on the day of the event. While many students were excited about the dialog, Aquinas administration was not. They felt it was necessary to present Catholic views before or after Corvino's speech to expel any idea that what he said was in agreement with their teaching. Potential presenters were said to be unavailable that day so the event was cancelled. Supportive Aquinas students and local LGBT groups in Grand Rapids instead invited Corvino to speak at the Fountain Street Church.



FLASHING BACK TO THE PAST:



May - Justice for All?: A decision was made in May that shook the LGBT community in Michigan. The Michigan Supreme Court ruled 5-2 that the language of the amendment that defined marriage in the state as between one man and one woman precluded unmarried couples from receiving domestic partnership health care benefits. The ACLU of Michigan, at the time, began discussions with national LGBT organizations about a possible attempt to federally challenge Michigan's marriage amendment. In the meantime, some employers created short-term, unstable solutions like adopting alternative language that helped families retain their health care coverage.



September - Transgender Leader Receives Prestigious Award: In September, Rachel Crandall became one of only two people - and the only transgender person - to receive the Liberty Bell Award, honoring her work as co-founder and executive director of Transgender Michigan. The award has been given out since 1986 to local citizens who have excelled in providing service to the community. Jeff Montgomery received the award in 2006.



June - Sign of Pride and Support: A PFLAG tri-cities billboard was put up near the Garfield road exit on US-10 to promote understanding of the LGBT community. The message "Someone you know and love is gay," suggested that everyone knows someone who is gay, whether they realize it or not. The group's purpose in advertising was to let both parents and their LGBT children know that there are local people who are ready to help them understand what it all can mean.

HIV/AIDS- MICH. HAPPENINGS 2008



McCoy Infuses Spirituality Into the Fight Against HIV/AIDS: Longtime activist the Rev. Dr. Renee McCoy became the new director of HIV/AIDS Programs at the City of Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion. During a time when over 40 percent of HIV-positive people in Detroit were out of care, McCoy used her background as a pastor to outreach through the churches in Detroit about HIV/AIDS.



Detroit Teens Battle Rising HIV-Infection Rate with New Play: A concerned and eager troupe of Detroit high school students embarked on a mission to teach their peers the facts about HIV and AIDS. To do that, they staged an innovative, inspirational and important new play they believed could help save other young people's lives. "Caution: This is How It's Caught" opened in March at Detroit's Matrix Theatre. The script, written by teenagers for teenagers, was crafted with the assistance of experts from St. John Health and the Detroit Health Department. Pictured are Detroit teenagers Remington Devereaux, Floritta Wilson, Chynna Penson and Falana Smart.

Tapping Into Generosity: In June, Howard Tapper, co-owner of Tapper's Diamonds and Fine Jewelry in West Bloomfield, presented two checks totaling \$133,410.94 to the Midwest AIDS Prevention Project and the international charity YouthAIDS.

Historic Fundraiser at The Ringwald: History was made in September when actors from Southeast Michigan's first-ever production of Larry Kramer's "The Normal Heart" reunited with an all-star cast of local thespians and politician's at Ferndale's Ringwald Theatre to raise money for Steppin' Out's 18th annual AIDS Walk Detroit. Former Ferndale Mayor Craig Covey and former Royal Oak Mayor James Ellison both participated in the show.

AIDS Walk Michigan Raises \$175,000: A crashing stock market did not deter more than 2,500 people from walking in Detroit, Ann Arbor, Bay City, Lansing, Flint and Grand Rapids. The funds raised were important for many nonprofits that were having trouble securing grants.

MAPP, MAF Merged: Two of the state's largest HIV/AIDS organizations - the Midwest AIDS Prevention Project and the Michigan AIDS Fund - announced in November a historic merger



to ensure the future of HIV/AIDS services in Michigan. The new organization is called the Michigan AIDS Coalition.

HARC Fundraiser a Success Despite Tough Times: In spite of tough economic times, more than 150 people in the region donated special wines to HARC's (HIV/AIDS Resource Center) annual fundraiser, helping the organization raise over \$21,000 during the fifth annual Ann Arbor Wine Cellar.

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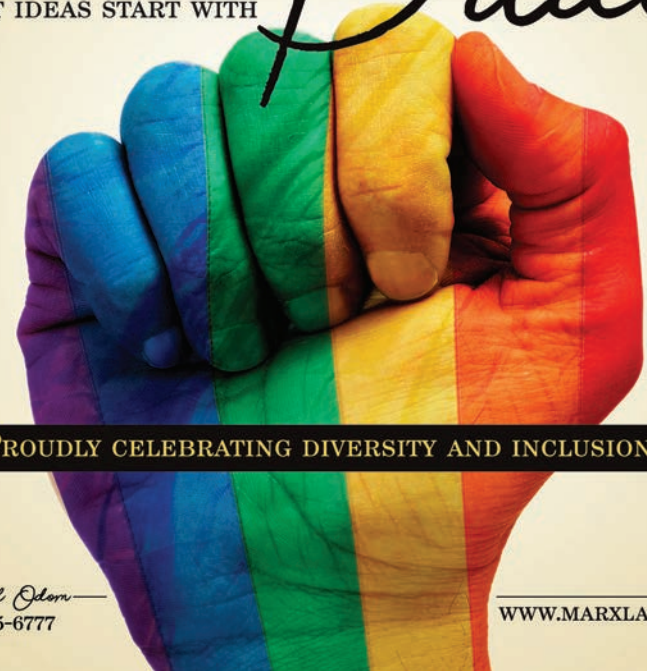
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RAINBOW DETROIT

Motor City Pride 2019 Celebrates Stonewall 50 in Style

BTL Photos: Andrew Cohen

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Detroit looked markedly more colorful last weekend as it bustled with thousands of people clad in all manner of rainbow flags on their way to attend Motor City Pride 2019 in Hart Plaza. Host to over 50,000, the event featured performances by drag greats like Sabin and Ongina, showcased local artists like Tunde Olaniran and brought in nationally known musical acts like Greyson Chance. Vendor attendance was high, too. For the first time in the event's history, Dave Wait, the chair of the festival's planning committee, said that vendor booths were booked solid a month in advance.

"Participation and interest in the festival just continues to grow each year as more people come out to support equality and to recognize each other," he said. "And to come together to make sure that we are working toward full equality with the passage of Elliott-Larsen and other initiatives out in the state and national level."

Attendee Alison Phelps said that the size of Motor City Pride was what motivated her to visit this year.

"I've been to a couple of different Prides, but I've never been to this one; it's the biggest one in Michigan and I wanted to go [because of that]," she said. "And I'm also the GSA adviser in Oakland and the GSA adviser for the school that I teach at. I wanted to be able to tell them

about what goes on at Pride."

When asked why she felt Pride was important to her she said it's Pride's ability to draw people out of their shells.

"I think it's important because a lot of times people are sort of isolated; they are only LGBTQ+ person that they know and that can be very depressing and cause a lot of problems. So, just the fact that people can see that there are other people out there like them and meet them is cool," she said, adding that its political origins are valuable, too. "I also think that the 50th anniversary of Stonewall is important to remember and that it was a protest and that it's still going on and that we still have things to do politically speaking."

And the weekend certainly had proof of the ongoing struggle to secure rights in the LGBTQ community. On Saturday, a group of roughly a 10 neo-Nazi protestors made an appearance in an attempt to disrupt the day's celebrations and a separate group of religious protestors appeared on Sunday. Wait said that despite the appearance of these groups, they failed in their goal to tear down the celebrations of the LGBTQ community.

"It was 10 people with their hate speech who were just overshadowed by the 50,000 who came out to support equality and each other," he said. "The protestors, they failed on so many counts. They failed to get into the festival, they failed to stop our participants, they failed to frighten us — people came out on Sunday to

the parade because of our support for one another. So, they failed on all levels."

For some people in attendance, this visible outward support and celebration of the progress made in the 50th year after the Stonewall Riots was made even more special as it was their first time attending Pride in general.

"I'm the 'L' in LGBTQ and this is my very first pride," Courtney W. said. "Basically, we just wanted to hang out and have fun with our people."

Leah Bordo said she went to Pride because of her friend Kyle.

"He came out last month and I'm super proud of him and Pride is something that I've always been interested in going to and the fact that I had someone to share it with this year is really exciting," she said.

Bordo added that until equality exists for everyone in the LGBTQ community, she views Pride as a valuable way to call attention to and drive positive change surrounding LGBTQ issues.

"Equality doesn't exist for everyone yet, and I'd like to try and support that in any way I can and to move that forward at Pride," she said. "And the more numbers we have, the safer we are and the more likely we're able to do something actively in our community."

Beyond LGBTQ-specific nonprofits, Pride had many allied vendors in attendance in support of the LGBTQ community. In one booth were members of the Michigan State

University's College of Osteopathic Medicine. Handing out pamphlets of LGBTQ-friendly doctors at the MSU booth was Abby Cook who emphasized the value of physicians who recognize that equality matters in medicine.

"We just wanted to show the LGBT community that there are future positions that are looking out for them and we're not going to turn someone away because they're gay or treat them differently," Cook said. "We also think that it's really important for the LGBT community to know that there are physicians that think of them as equals but also for future doctors to get involved with this sort of thing, to give them a broader perspective on things."

Cook added that short of full curriculum-wide changes to include LGBTQ-specific medicine, it's worthwhile to use events like Motor City Pride to raise awareness about these issues.

Pridegoer Jerome Fulton agreed.

"I'm a proud, gay man and I came out to celebrate amongst my other fellow queer brothers and sisters. It's a great time to do it, we've been persecuted a lot lately so any reason to celebrate our Pride [is important]," Fulton said. "It's important because not too long ago it was illegal to be gay, so just to celebrate the fact that we can be out, loud and proud is a true achievement."

Grace Bacon is a U.S. Army veteran and an example of someone who has lived to see the

See **Pride**, continued on p. 16



BTL Photos: Andrew Cohen

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

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Top: Allan Gilmour, right, was presented with the inaugural Allan D. Gilmour Award for Outstanding Leadership in Inclusion from the LGBT Regional Chamber of Commerce. Pictured here with the Chamber president Kevin Heard and Vice President Jan Stevenson. BTL Photo: Andrew Potter

Right: Bill Peters presented awards to the founders of Ford GLOBE. Cindy Clardy, Rob Matras, Alice McKeage, Peg Collins and Suzanne Wait. With Brian Abel. Photo by Mike Odom.

Below: Tito's Vodka was a silver sponsor of the dinner and provided this ice sculpture. Photo Andrew Potter



Ford GLOBE 25th Anniversary Makes History, Connects SE Mich. LGBTQ and Allied Business Professionals

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Making History

Thursday, June 6, marked a historic moment not only for the local Michigan LGBTQ community but for the business community, too, as hundreds of prominent leaders from

both groups joined to celebrate Ford GLOBE's 25th anniversary. Ford GLOBE is Ford Motor Company's LGBTQ employee resource group designed to unite, encourage networking among and generally service Ford's LGBTQ employees. The event was hosted in partnership with the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce that is dedicated to promoting and

connecting LGBTQ business people across Southeast Michigan to allied partnerships in order to create a more diverse, dynamic and innovative business community.

And the dinner was certainly not a one-off, it served as the inaugural event in a continuing annual cycle dedicated to fostering those relationships. The event's significance was



Wade Davis, left, gave an inspirational keynote address. The former NFL star shared his journey from a closeted professional athlete to an out-and-proud speaker, writer and trainer. He's with Mike Odom of Marx Layne Marketing and a board member of the LGBT Chamber. BTL Photo: Andrew Potter

perhaps best summarized by Noel Baril, an openly gay human resources executive for Henry Ford Health System — a dinner silver sponsor.

“I’d really like to start by congratulating Ford GLOBE on its birthday and thank the organization for the many contributions that it’s made over the years,” Baril said.

He went on to describe the tone of the period in the 1990s when Ford GLOBE came to be, as well as its relevance today.

“[The world] was a really different place for the LGBTQ community. AIDS was rampant, anti-gay sentiment was rampant, marriage for individuals at that time was a quiet commitment that was really often made with little to no recognition, certainly not from the government and too often none from our families and very likely not from our employers,” Baril said. “Marriage equality seemed as if it was an impossible dream, but organizations like GLOBE and Pride and others that have come along since then raised their voices — I know because I was on the other side, the employer side, listening — demanding things like domestic partnership benefits and non-discrimination protections and they were heard.”

Honoring an LGBTQ Legend

Shortly after Baril’s address, Jan Stevenson took the stage. As *Between The Lines* co-publisher, former Affirmations LGBTQ center executive director and as vice president of the LGBT Chamber, her direct involvement with the Southeast Michigan LGBTQ community has given her a deep understanding of the need for groups that advocate not only for LGBTQ rights within the corporate hierarchy of individual companies but also within the greater business communities across the U.S. She said that in honor of the event’s goals she was excited to celebrate the person in Southeast Michigan with perhaps the single greatest influence on LGBTQ equality within the corporate world, Allan D. Gilmour.

“It’s my honor to give the first Allan D. Gilmour award to Allan Gilmour. For many in this room, Allan Gilmour needs no introduction, but he has so many spheres of influence, that even if you think you know Allan you may not have a full appreciation of the extent of the positive impacts on the lives of so many people he’s touched,” she said. “Ford recruited him from the University of Michigan and for the next 38 years he skyrocketed up the Ford corporate ladder, ultimately earning the position of vice chairman of all of Ford Motor Company.”

Stevenson added that though Gilmour retired in 1994, his influential work within the LGBTQ community was merely beginning, as it was at that time that he publicly came out as gay — a bold move as at that point he was the highest-ranking executive in the U.S. to do so. Despite his retirement, Gilmour

began to take an active involvement on the boards of various significant local organizations like DOW, DTE Energy, The HOPE Fund, Whirlpool and others. All the while, Gilmour involved himself philanthropically in LGBTQ-affirming causes, securing — among other notable achievements — enough money to construct the current physical space for Affirmations.

“These are just a few of the highlights of a distinguished career as a corporate leader at Ford, an influential philanthropist, a university president and as a respected voice in numerous boardrooms, advocating for the inclusion of LGBT people in the fabric of our society and our workplaces,” she said. “He is a beloved leader for his grace, compassion, high intelligence, effectiveness and personal warmth.”

Gilmour took the stage and expressed his deep gratitude for the recognition of his work.

“I am honored and excited to receive this award, especially

because it is a doubleheader, the award itself, and then the fact that it is a continuing award, an annual award, coming from the Chamber of Commerce,” he said. “Special thanks to the board of the Chamber for selecting me after developing the award and special congratulations to Ford GLOBE on its 25 years of inclusion and service. The people of GLOBE have made a difference in those 25 years.”

He emphasized in his speech the value of diversity and inclusion and the strides that can be made if businesses take care to ensure that employees from all backgrounds and sexual orientations can feel comfortable at work. He finished his remarks with a four-point call to action for the business leaders present in the room.

“First, work with the government to improve its performance. Our elected leaders should lead, they set the rules, the tone, for

See **Anniversary Dinner**, continued on p. 10

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► Anniversary Dinner

Continued from p. 9

much of what society does. Second, reach out to understand the backgrounds and experiences of your own colleagues. Make them welcome and an integral part of your organization. It may take special efforts with LGBT people because we cannot recognize them by color, nationality or gender," he said. "Third, work within your organizations to be sure the right policies and practices are in place and are followed. Fourth, give your own time ... to helping LGBT organizations and those that support them, our allies."

Keynote Messages

It was after Gilmour accepted his award that keynote speaker Wade Davis delivered his speech. The former NFL player and openly gay diversity consultant's career was introduced by Ford GLOBE President Bill Peters.

"[He is a] thought leader, writer, public speaker, educator on gender, race and orientation," Peters said. "[An] LGBT inclusion consultant and currently consults for numerous sports leagues on issues of intersections of sexism, racism and homophobia. Wade creates league-wide inclusive leadership strategies, leads inclusion training session for coaches and players and launches [national initiatives.]"

Davis' work has also been utilized by prominently known businesses across the U.S. like Netflix, Google and Viacom, he's worked with organizations like Planned Parenthood and he is currently an adjunct professor at NYU and Rutgers University. Davis began his speech by drawing attention to the need for a spirit of inclusivity to be present among all generations and businesses and by debunking myths about the LGBTQ community. Some myths include thinking that the younger generation is free of homophobia, that seemingly conservative companies like Ford cannot be great places to work for LGBTQ people and that communities of color are more homophobic than others.

"Homophobia is not located in one community or another. It's individual because what happens when you create a myth and you say communities of color are more homophobic than white communities, kids of color run away from home because they don't believe their parents will embrace them," Davis said. "As leaders, you have to create the conditions so that employees can bring themselves to work."

He finished his remarks with a challenge designed to spur more thought on inclusivity by asking the community members present to educate themselves on the experiences of their employees like those who belong to the transgender community.

"... What does it mean to be trans? What does it mean to be gender non-conforming? What does it mean to be bisexual?" he asked. "You've got to talk to them about issues of consent. You've got to have a lot of conversations."



1. From top: Bill Peters, president of Ford GLOBE, and Kevin Heard, president of the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce, welcomed the over 400 guests to the dinner. BTL photos: Andrew Potter

2. Brian Abel of Channel 7 Action News emceed the Ford GLOBE 25th Anniversary Dinner, co-hosted by the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce.

3. Over 400 people attended the Ford GLOBE 25th Anniversary celebration and Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber dinner, including representatives from more than 20 Detroit area companies and organizations.

4. Henry Grix, middle, is a partner at Dickinson Wright Law, a bronze sponsor. His husband Howard Israel on left. Photo Mike Odom.

5. Noel Baril from Henry Ford Health System, a dinner silver sponsor thanks Gilmour for his leadership.



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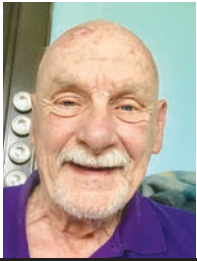
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Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Washington Goes We'what?

Editor's Note: Contributor Charles Alexander fell ill last month and was unable to provide his usual weekly Parting Glances Column. This selection was chosen in honor of Pride month and Stonewall's 50th Anniversary. Everyone at Between The Lines wishes Alexander a speedy recovery.

Gay and lesbians have been welcomed to the White House during the Clinton and the Obama administrations. BTL co-publishers Jan Stevenson and Susan Horowitz attended one such gathering and shook hands with President Obama.

I had asked Jan and Susan not to wash their hands until I could shake the President's hand by proxy. Unfortunately, on their return flight – joining the Mile High Club of Democratic Celebration – they forgot. (I herewith publicly forgive them.)

The first “gay” guest at the White House dropped in under the President Grover Cleveland administration 129 years ago. Cleveland was also a Democrat, and his guest was a Zuni Native American named We'wha. “She” was in reality a third-gender, cross-dressing, spiritual advisor to her people.

We'wha was in Washington in 1896 taking a performance part in a program presented at the city's National Theater. She also demonstrated basket weaving, of which she was highly skilled, at the Smithsonian Museum.

A sponsor for We'wha was anthropologist Matilda Coxe Stevenson – no relation to BTL's Jan – who met with We'wha several times over a period of many years, recording intimate impressions. We'wha “performs masculine religious and judicial functions at the same time that she performs feminine duties, tending to laundry and the garden.”

Stevenson, whose interest mellowed gradually into a happy friendship, lived with We'wha for six months without realizing that she was actually physically male.

“We'wha was the most intelligent person in the pueblo,” writes Stevenson. “Strong character made his word law among Zuni men and women, both of whom he spiritually led. Though his wrath was dreaded by all, he was very loved by children with whom he was very kind.”

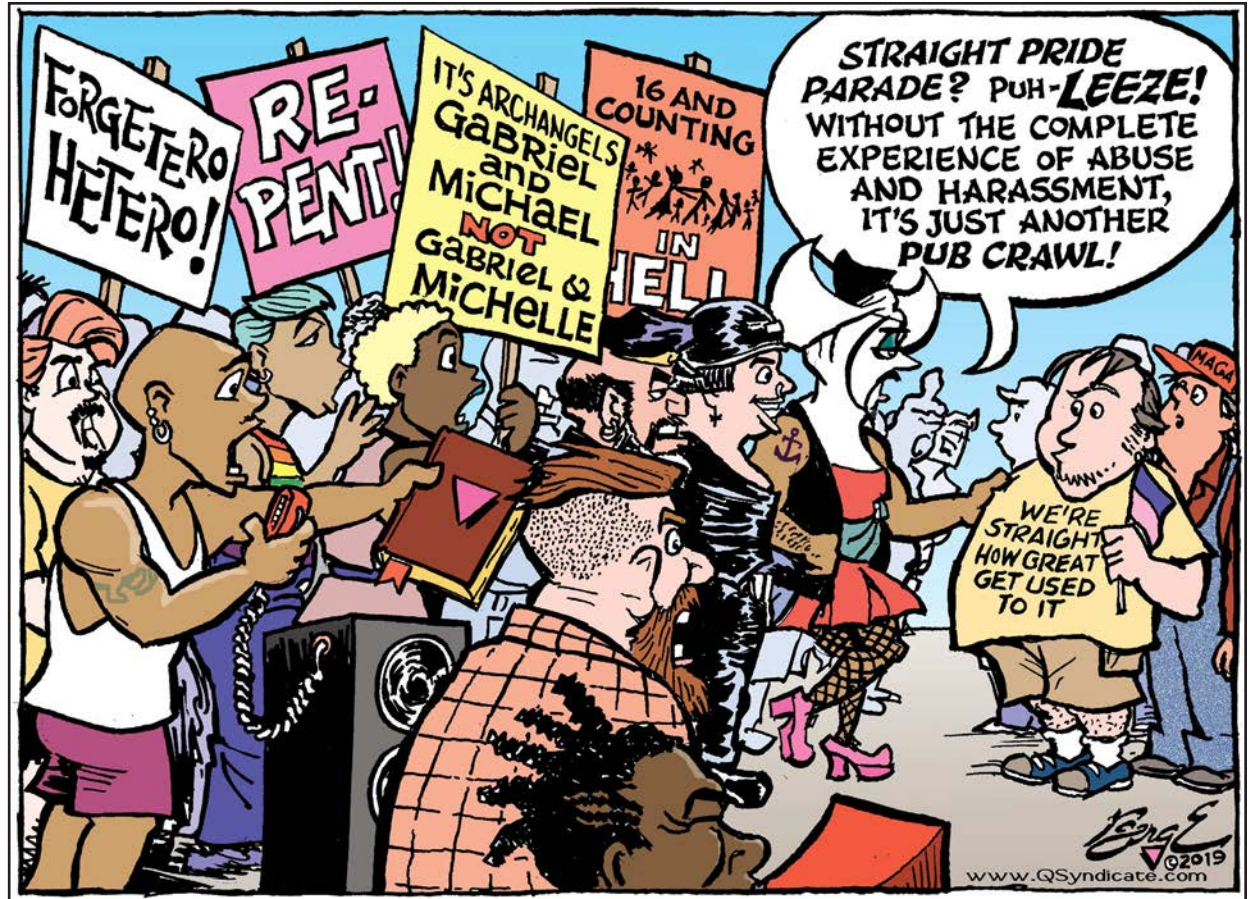
We'wha's own community believed he/she was “two spirited.” Anthropologists call this intersex status a berdache. Two-spirited persons – precursors of today's transgender “M” to “Fs” – were found in 130 Native American tribes and were often married to other males.

We'wha made a big hit in Washington, D.C., although few knew anything about her tribal function. The press called her – over 6-feet tall with a commanding gentle presence – a “Zuni Princess.” Her basket weaving and pottery were admired, but because she was a Native American, she was patronized.

We'wha, in turn, was shocked to learn that some women in Washington society had false teeth and wore braided “rats” in their hair.

Looking back, what has been done to Native Americans is a sordid affair. Their land has been taken. Their food source

See next page



Viewpoint



BY JAY KAPLAN

Fighting for Our Rights 50 Years Post Stonewall

June 28, 1969. With no civil rights protections available for LGBTQ people and rampant harassment and brutality by law enforcement against our community and LGBTQ establishments, a group of brave men and women — including two transgender women of color, Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson — stood up to the New City Police Department and determined that they were not going to take it anymore.

We have come a long way since June 1969 and it's important to take into account the critical battles that have since been fought and won for LGBTQ rights — legal victories that would not be possible without the incredible courage shown by members of our community at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village. In 1969, a person could be fired from a job, denied an education and be turned away from businesses open to the public, merely on the suspicion of being LGBTQ.

Today, 21 states have laws that specifically protect LGBTQ people from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. Unfortunately, Michigan continues to not be among them. However, clearly support for LGBTQ people has grown over the past five decades and today in Michigan more than cities and townships have local human rights ordinances that prohibit LGBTQ discrimination.

In May 2018, the Michigan Civil Rights Commission issued

an interpretative statement that said that LGBTQ discrimination is a form of sex discrimination, in violation of our Michigan civil rights laws, based on gender stereotyping. This now makes it possible for LGBTQ people who have suffered discrimination to file a complaint with the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, which is governed by the MCRC. This interpretation is consistent with federal court case law, where we have won significant LGBTQ gains.

In 1996, the Supreme Court of the United States in *Romer v. Evans* for the first time acknowledged that LGBTQ people had constitutionally protected rights, including the right to be protected from the government when it purposely targets us for discriminatory practices and policies. Another hard-fought victory occurred in 2003 where SCOTUS struck down laws the criminalized same-sex sodomy. Such laws had been used to justify discrimination against LGBTQ people, defining us solely by our presumed sexual behaviors. In *Lawrence v. Texas*, SCOTUS held that the constitutional right of privacy regarding sexual intimacy between two consenting adults extends to LGBTQ people, ending the practice of criminalizing our community. A decade later SCOTUS struck down part of the federal Defense of Marriage Act, which denied federal recognition of legal marriage between same-sex couples in

Creep Of The Week

Trump Administration

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

June is Pride Month, which means anti-LGBTQ folks are losing their goddamn minds.

I attended Motor City Pride in Detroit with my wife, our son and my wife's 69-year-old aunt. It was a family affair. There were rainbows galore, men holding hands with men, women holding hands with women, transgender and genderqueer people holding hands with men or women or with whomever they wanted because it's pride and love is love, damn it.

Oh, and there were Nazis, complete with swastikas and guns because open carry is legal in Michigan. Yes, that's right. In Michigan, an LGBTQ person has no right to be free from discrimination, but a Nazi has a right to carry guns out in the open. As a state, our priorities are pretty fucked up.

Thankfully, my family didn't encounter the Nazis. We were too busy at the kids' tent learning about fossils from a man in a lab coat named Dr. Dinosaur. My son got to hold fossilized dinosaur poop. Definitely the highlight for him.

The Detroit Police Department got a lot of criticism for "escorting" the Nazis, though in their defense their goal was to keep the Nazis and the Pride celebrants separate to prevent violence, which they achieved. Ideally, the police would have told the Nazis to GTFO, but that's not their job because of freedom of speech.

Though I'd like to point out, that marching with guns and screaming that LGBTQ people should die, is not free speech, it's an incitement to violence, which is not protected by the first amendment and should not be protected by the police or any other governmental entity. But that's not where we are as a society yet.

The Nazis reportedly destroyed a rainbow flag while trying to disrupt Motor City Pride. Thankfully, there were more where that came from.

Also thankfully, the Trump Administration is protecting embassies worldwide from Nazis... Wait, I'm sorry. That's my mistake. Let's try this again: The Trump Administration is protecting embassies worldwide from rainbow flags.

Under President Obama U.S. embassies were allowed to officially raise a rainbow flag during June. Under Trump they are not. Rainbow flags aren't banned from embassy premises, but they are conspicuously absent from the official flag pole. And that absence is definitely intended to send a message.

And anti-LGBTQ Trump supporters and self-proclaimed Christians are getting that message loud and clear.

Franklin Graham thanked Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo "for making the decision not to fly the gay flag over our

Under President Obama U.S. embassies were allowed to officially raise a rainbow flag during June. Under Trump they are not. Rainbow flags aren't banned from embassy premises, but they are conspicuously absent from the official flag pole.

embassies during June in recognition of gay pride month. That is the right decision. The only flag that should fly over our embassies is the flag of the United States of America. The gay pride flag is offensive to Christians and millions of people of other faiths, not only in this country but around the world. The U.S. flag represents our nation — everyone — regardless of race, religion or sexual orientation."

The rainbow flag isn't offensive to Christians, but it is offensive for people who use their religion as a weapon against people they don't like. So I can see that while Graham would be offended, many LGBTQ and allied people of faith are not offended by a rainbow flag. They are offended by bigotry though.

"Most people don't know that these State Department folks are defying the president of the United States and flying the rainbow flag."

Right-wing pastor E.W. Jackson railed against anyone at the State Department who dare display a Pride flag, calling the rainbow flag "an accursed thing."

He continued, "The rainbow was given to us by God as a sign that he would not destroy the earth by water again, and you're going to appropriate that as pride in homosexuality? Are you kidding me? Talk about blasphemy. Talk about arrogance. Talk about boldness. Talk about shaking your fist in God's face."

If the music at Pride festivals around the world is any indication, there's a lot more shaking than fists. But I get Jackson's point. Then again, it's nice to see that he's so worried about floods. I'm sure his sermons on global warming are lit.

If only the Christian right got as worked up over Nazis as they do over LGBTQ people. Imagine a world where Graham said, "Nazis are offensive to Christians and millions of people of other faiths" or where E.W. Jackson said, "Talk about shaking your fist in God's face," and he was talking about hateful Nazis, not about peaceful LGBTQ people.

Until then, we'll keep shaking our fists, and our asses and refusing to apologize for who we are.

► Viewpoint

Continued from p. 12

Windsor v. U.S. This was the first time that the Court spoke about the dignity of LGBTQ relationships and the harm that is done to our families, including our children, when our relationships are denied recognition and legal protections. This decision set the template challenging laws like Michigan's that denied LGBTQ people the right to marry one another, culminating in the 2015 Obergefell v. Hodges decision, which held that the fundamental constitutional right to marry and enjoy the benefits of marriage includes same-sex couples.

And yet despite these many victories, many challenges remain. Opponents of LGBTQ rights have found allies in the current Trump Administration in their quest to roll back gains that have been made for LGBTQ equality. Three cases involving LGBTQ rights will be heard by SCOTUS this Fall. One of those cases is ours — involving Aimee Stephens, a transgender woman who was fired from her job at a Detroit area funeral home for disclosing that she is transgender.

In a reversal from the Obama Administration, the Trump Department of Justice is arguing that LGBTQ people are not protected under sex discrimination laws. Because of the DOJ's reversal, several federal agencies have rescinded discrimination protections for our community, and the Trump Administration along with Senate Leader Mitch McConnell are attempting to remake our courts with judges who are not only conservative on social justice issues but have issued decisions that are anti-LGBTQ

rights. This Administration has launched a fully fledged attack against transgender people, with among other things, a trans-military ban and HUD rules that permit federally funded homeless shelters to turn away transgender people, in the name of "religion." The Administration has also introduced a medical "conscience" rule that permits medical providers to refuse to provide medical care to transgender people. In addition, it has issued a proposed rule that states that the Affordable Care Act does not protect LGBTQ people from discrimination in accessing medical care and health insurance coverage.

Along with these political, legal and policy challenges (many the consequence of the 2016 Presidential Election), the murders of trans women of color continue to occur at alarming rates. Nine murders have been reported this year so far nationwide, and that number is most likely undercounted. With all the progress our community has achieved, Michigan's Hate Crimes law still does not acknowledge crimes of violence motivated by animus towards LGBTQ people.

So as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion and recognize the contributions and significant roles that transgender people played in this demonstration, let's recommit ourselves to fighting for our rights and dignity and refuse to allow our opponents to roll back the clock.

Jay Kaplan is a staff attorney with the ACLU of Michigan since 2001. He can be reached at jkaplan@aclumich.org

► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 12

destroyed by hunters (60 million buffalo). Their religion and customs demeaned. They have been subjected to imported diseases, killing 96 percent of their population.

(According to Latter Day Saints theology, based on Prophet Joseph Smith, Jr.'s "Book of Mormon" translated Golden Plates, Native Americans are descendants of Israelite tribes who came to America by boat. Following his resurrection, Mormons believe, Jesus appeared to these Holy Land exiles, preached, baptized and sanctioned a new-found worship.)

Since 1987, hundreds of LGBT Native Americans gather yearly in the Pacific Northwest for celebrating an International Two-Spirit Gathering. In the tradition of We'wha, participants meet to pray, dance,

share sweat lodge initiations, honor their sexuality and traditions and mourn AIDS losses that have further so decimated their communities.

Today there is also a strong Gay American Indian Coalition. Co-Founder Randy Burns observes of LGBT Native American Spirituality, "We are perhaps a little more spiritual than our straight native counterparts because that is the traditional role we played." A time-honored role, indeed.

In spite of the White Man's singular mean-spiritedness.

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

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Pictured left to right are victims Alunte Davis, 21; Paris Cameron, 20; and Timothy Blancher, 20.

Man Charged for Shooting Deaths of 3 LGBTQ People in Detroit

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Devon Robinson of Detroit was charged last Thursday with three counts of first-degree murder in the shooting deaths of 21-year-old Alunte Davis, 20-year-old Timothy Blancher and 20-year-old Paris Cameron. Davis and Blancher were gay and Paris was a trans woman. Police believe their sexual orientation and gender identity were factors in their murders. They were all shot and killed while together at a home on Detroit's east side May 25. Two others were shot but survived.

"The alleged actions of this defendant are disturbing on so many levels, but the fact that this happened during Pride Month adds salt into the wound," said Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worth. "We must remain ever vigilant in our fight to eradicate hate in Wayne County and beyond."

Special Prosecutor Jaimie Powell Horowitz of the Fair Michigan Justice Project handled the case.

"This case illustrates the mortal danger faced by members of Detroit's LGBTQ community, including transgender women of color," said Alanna Maguire, Fair Michigan's president. "The LGBTQ community knows that the Fair Michigan Justice Project, the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office and the Detroit Police Department stand ready to aggressively

prosecute these brutal crimes."

Robinson, just 18 himself, was charged with two counts of assault with intent to murder and five counts of use of a firearm in connection with a felony in addition to the murders. He was arraigned Friday. A probable cause conference is scheduled for June 21 and a preliminary examination will take place June 28.

Meanwhile, funerals for all three victims took place over the weekend and on Monday. Jey'nce Poindexter Mizrahi, Equality Michigan's transgender victims advocate, knew all three of the victims. She said she considered Davis to be her grandchild.

"He had a lot of personality," she said. "He was really funny, really easygoing."

"They all were definitely well received in the community," Poindexter Mizrahi continued. "Alunte was really supportive of Paris and her transition. Whenever you saw one of them you saw the other. Literally. They were very close. I met Tim sometime last year. He was really funny and charismatic. He loved to talk stuff, you know, shoot the dozens."

Poindexter Mizrahi said the metro



Jey'nce Poindexter Mizrahi, Equality Michigan's transgender victims advocate, knew all three of the victims. She is seen here during Pride flag raising ceremony. Photo: Tih Penfil

Detroit community has suffered a season of great loss in recent weeks.

"It's not the middle-aged people," she said. "It's not the elders. It's the young people. Before life really started for any of them it was taken away. It was discarded so frivolously."

LGBTQ-Owned Eli Tea Bar to Host Charity Pop-Up to Benefit Ruth Ellis Center June 17

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Serving both tea and cocktails at a pop-up event at first might not seem like the most obvious pairing, but for Elias Majid, the owner of Eli Tea Bar, it's ideal. The event is a fundraiser dedicated to raising money for the Ruth Ellis Center in Detroit and will be held at The Skip on Monday, June 17, from 6 p.m. to midnight.

The Ruth Ellis Center provides short and long-term residential safe spaces and support services for runaway, homeless and at-risk LGBTQ youth. Majid said that when deciding which organization to support via this fundraiser the decision to pick Ruth Ellis Center was an easy one.

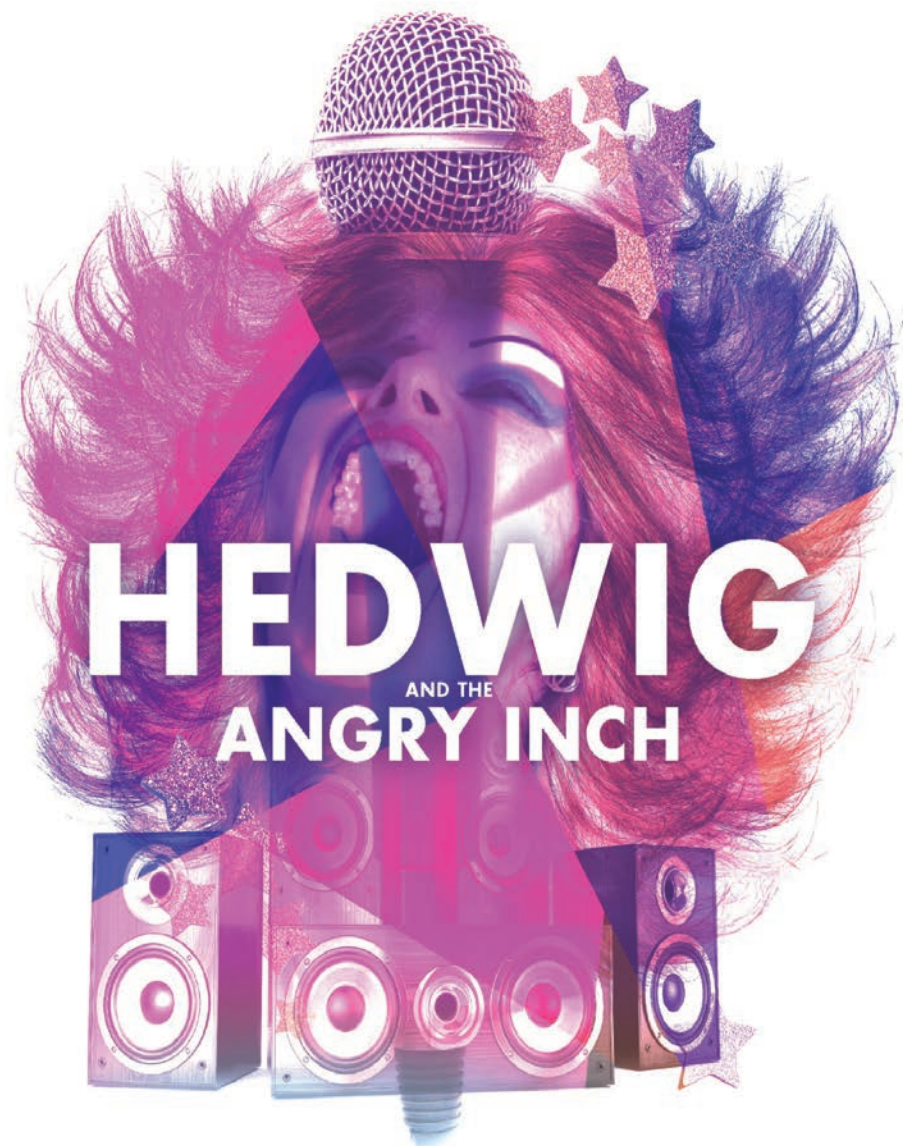
"We chose the Ruth Ellis Center because of their longstanding commitment for helping people in need and particularly helping LGBT people in need," he said. "Eli Tea, we're definitely not able to be involved on a daily basis but we can at least fundraise for them to take in and help out homeless youth whether it's through their group programs or through their counseling services that they offer, too."

Majid said that he wants to go beyond what many businesses do during Pride month and instead of just talking about supporting the LGBTQ community, to show an active level of support. At this event, 100 percent of the profits will go toward the Center.

The Skip is located at 225 Gratiot Ave. in Detroit. For more information visit eliteabar.com.



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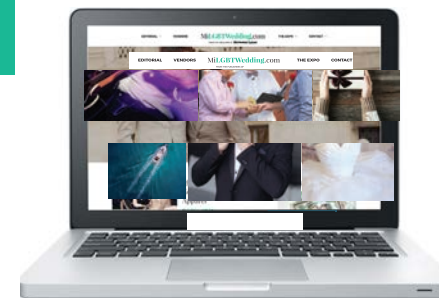
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► Motor City Pride

Continued from p. 6

scope of that achievement. She was wearing a shirt that said: “Transgender Veteran: I fought for your right to hate me” and said she loves attending Pride because of what it symbolizes.

“I’m a part of the community, especially the trans community. I came out in 1976 and in 1977 I put Crossroads together. At the present time, all of the transgender groups in Michigan are kind of indirectly my responsibility,” she said, adding that being in a non-judgmental space is important. “It’s being with other people like myself, mixing with people, seeing everybody, it’s a good feeling; this is where I belong. And it’s a nice feeling to know that nobody is going to get on your case.”

Pride Chair Wait said that hearing stories like the ones at Pride this year and from years before is what motivates him to keep putting on the event annually.

“It moves me when I hear their stories and am grateful to be able to participate on this team that provides a welcoming space for people to

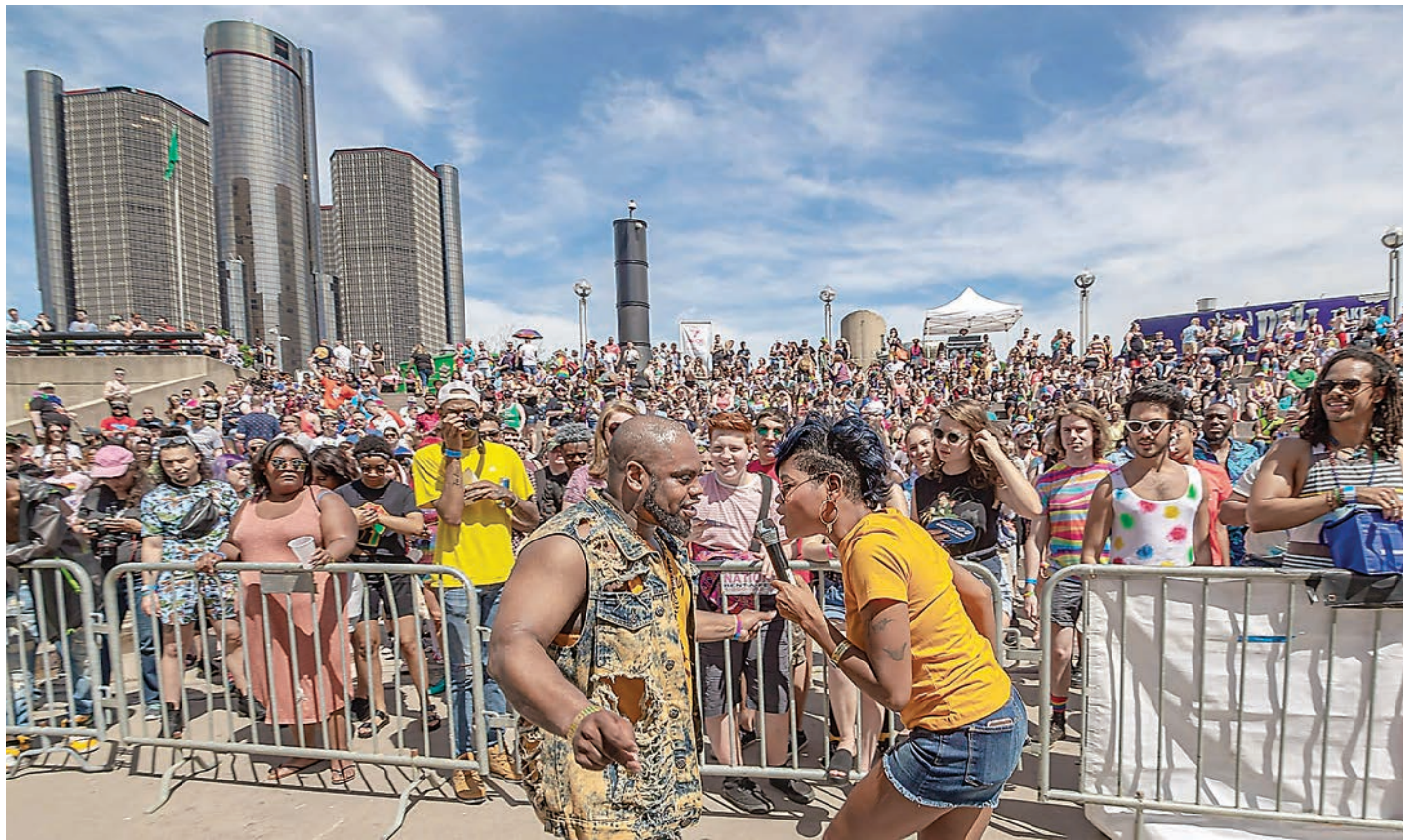


Photo: Jamie Feldman



Huntington Woods Commission Bans Conversion Therapy

The Huntington Woods City Commission voted unanimously at its June 4 meeting to enact an ordinance banning the practice of conversion therapy within the city limits. Violators will be guilty of a municipal civil infraction. Huntington Woods is now the first and only city in Michigan to ban the practice. The ordinance was introduced by City Commissioner Joe Rozell.

“Eighteen states and two territories already ban the practice of conversion therapy,” City Commissioner Rozell said. “Unfortunately, the Republican leadership in our state legislature won’t allow a statewide ban in Michigan to be put to a vote in the house and senate. That means we as local leaders must act to protect the public health, safety and welfare of our citizens and ban the practice locally.”

Huntington Woods has a history of progressive leadership, being one of the first cities to enact a human rights ordinance.

“Conversion therapy is a hateful and fundamentally flawed practice that is counter to everything this city stands for,” Rozell said.

Numerous professional organizations such as the American Medical Association, American Counseling Association, National Association of Social Workers, American Psychological Association and the American Psychiatric Association all deem the practice as harmful.

“The American Psychological Association has concluded that conversion therapy leads to substance abuse, social withdrawal, decreased self-esteem and suicidal thoughts by young people exposed to this therapy. I believe that exposing children to these outcomes is dangerous, especially in light of the fact that no evidence exists that the practice is beneficial,” Rozell said.

By city charter, the ordinance will take legal effect 20 days after adoption.

“I’m very proud of my colleagues on the commission for supporting this ordinance,” Rozell said.

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Major funding was provided by FedEx.

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Marvel and DC Unite

Captain Marvel Proposes to Wonder Woman at Motor City Comic-Con

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Marvel and DC Comics crossovers have happened before but Captain Marvel and Wonder Woman getting engaged is certainly new. However, that's exactly what happened at Motor City Comic-Con in May when Ashley VanSickle, in full Captain Marvel gear, got down on one knee and proposed to her Wonder Woman, Deanna Mascia.

"Part of me almost doesn't even remember what happened. I was so excited but nervous that I was going to stumble over my words and I had so many butterflies in my stomach and

I remember just smiling the whole time," VanSickle said. "I was almost in tears at one point trying to get this out and it was just like an out-of-body experience because I couldn't believe it. I was finally able to do this and I was just so happy and it just felt like the best, most perfect moment."

But despite her nervousness, "it all came naturally" VanSickle said. It was moments before Mascia gave a joyful "yes."

"And she cried and she just kept nodding and she couldn't get any words out yet," VanSickle said. "I just remember that butterfly-in-my-stomach excitement."

Planning the Perfect Engagement

Ever since VanSickle, 26, and Mascia, 25, began dating a year ago, the Columbus, Ohio, couple has been inseparable. Part of their close bond, VanSickle said, is attributed to their mutual love of comic books. That's why when VanSickle, who had purchased an engagement ring in February, saw the opportunity to take Mascia to Motor City Comic-Con, she realized it would be the perfect place to propose.

"So, when I found out when we were able to get off work I surprised her with tickets for her birthday, which was in April, and so I knew then that this was going to happen, this was how I wanted to do it," VanSickle said. "About maybe a month or two knowing for sure I was going to do it at Comic-Con ... I got ahold of Susan [Onysko] who did our photos, it was just set in stone; I knew that this was gonna work."

Onysko is an Ohio photographer currently in the process of creating a project called "Cosplay 50: The United States of Cosplay," in which she travels across the country capturing special moments in similar events like Motor City Comic-Con. Though Mascia was aware that VanSickle had been in contact with Onysko the day before Comic-Con to capture

See **Proposal**, continued on p. 20



Ashley VanSickle, in full Captain Marvel gear, got down on one knee and proposed to her Wonder Woman, Deanna Mascia. Photo: Susan Onysko

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► Proposal

Continued from p. 18

the both of them in full cosplay — or “costume play” of their favorite heroes — she didn’t know that the two had been emailing back and forth for months to plan the day.

“I had originally thought I wanted to do it in the main exhibit area of Comic-Con around everybody and their costumes. ... I was kind of scoping it out like, ‘Where would be the best spot in front of a bunch of comics?’ But once Saturday came around it was just so busy and I didn’t want it to feel rushed and it wasn’t feeling right,” VanSickle said. “So I had Susan’s cellphone number and I texted her earlier that day and was like, ‘Hey, listen, change of plans. Instead of you doing our after-proposal photos, would you be able to capture the whole moment?’ She said, ‘Oh my gosh, absolutely.’ She said that no one had ever asked her to do that before and that she would be honored to do it.”

The two agreed to an appointment time of 3 p.m. and for the rest of the day VanSickle tried to contain her excitement while keeping the surprise engagement a secret. A half hour before the specified time, VanSickle told Mascia she had a surprise for her. When the two got into the studio Onysko was able to capture every aspect of the couple’s special moment.

A Brand-New Adventure

When asked about next steps regarding wedding plans, the fiances plan on keeping a long engagement of a year or two while they save for the ceremony of their dreams. They will, however, in true comic fan fashion, bring an element of the superheroes that brought



them so close together into their ceremony.

“We don’t have a location but we do kind of want to keep the superhero theme,” VanSickle said. “I don’t think we want a big everybody wears costumes [event]. We want a traditional wedding but maybe our colors [will] be our superhero colors and incorporate superheroes somehow into a wedding cake so we already thought of that.”

VanSickle said that before all of that happens, though, they both are excited to start the next phase of their lives together. She said she’s most excited about growing together, starting with a big move in June.

“I have my own apartment, she moved in with me, but now we’re moving into our place and we’re going to be making plans for our future together and working together on that is very exciting,” she said. “And I’m very excited for pictures. I love the pictures and so I’m excited to do all of our engagement photos, and we already have ideas of what we would like to do and I’m excited to have fun with it.”

The BTL 9th Annual LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo takes place Sunday, Oct. 13 at The Henry in Dearborn. Learn more at MiLGBTWeddingExpo.com.

Another Case Heading to Supreme Court Seeking Religious Exemption

BY LISA KEEN

The U.S. Supreme Court will soon get another chance to consider whether businesses can claim religious motivations for refusing service to LGBTQ people.

The case will come from the Washington State Supreme Court that ruled last week a business cannot claim a religious exemption from a state law prohibiting discrimination in public accommodations based on sexual orientation.

The Alliance Defending Freedom, a group that has been pushing for such exemptions, said immediately that it would appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The case, *Washington v. Arlene's Flowers*, has already been to the U.S. Supreme Court once. In June 2018, the U.S. Supreme Court vacated the state supreme court's initial ruling on the issue, also against the religious exemption. But the U.S. Supreme Court said last year that the state court should reconsider its decision "in light of" the Supreme Court's decision in *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado*.

In *Masterpiece Cakeshop*, the Supreme Court did not say a baker had a right to refuse to sell a cake to a same-sex couple by citing his religious beliefs. It said the Colorado Civil Rights Commission had demonstrated "clear and impermissible hostility toward the sincere religious beliefs" of the baker.

In its ruling June 6, the Washington Supreme Court said it reconsidered the case and reviewed "substantial new briefing" on the issue and found that the courts which deliberated on the issue "did not act with religious animus" when they ruled a florist violated a state law by refusing to sell flowers to a gay couple.

The Washington case involves Barronelle Stuzman, the owner of a flower shop known as "Arlene's Flowers" in Richland, Washington. Stuzman refused to sell flowers to a gay couple – Robert Ingersoll and Curt Freed. Both the state and the couple sued Stuzman, saying she violated the state public accommodations law. The lawsuits were consolidated.

Stuzman, who identifies as a Southern Baptist, told the couple she could not provide flowers for their wedding because of her "relationship to Jesus Christ." The state court

noted that she also defended her refusal by pointing to her denomination's position that marriage can be between only one man and one woman. She said she had sold flowers to gay customers but had a policy of "don't take same-sex marriages" because providing flowers to such weddings constituted an endorsement of marriage for same-sex couples.

"However," noted the Washington Supreme Court, "Stuzman acknowledged that selling flowers for an atheistic or Muslim wedding



Robert Ingersoll, left, and Curt Freed were refused service by the owner of Arlene's Flowers in Richland, Washington, for their 2013 wedding. Photo: Missy Moo Studio

would not be tantamount to endorsing those systems of belief."

In a unanimous decision, the state supreme court rejected all of Stuzman's arguments, including arguments that requiring she obey the state non-discrimination law violates her U.S. Constitutional First Amendment rights to free exercise of religion, free speech and freedom of association.

The U.S. Supreme Court could announce any day now whether it intends to hear an appeal pressed by another group, the Texas-based First Liberty Institute, on behalf of a baker in Oregon who refused to sell a cake to a same-sex couple. That case, *Klein v. Oregon*, has been on the justices' conference list for since February but the court has yet to say whether it will take the appeal.

In March of this year, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear another appeal on the public accommodations issue from the Alliance Defending Freedom. That case, *Aloha Bed & Breakfast v. Cervelli*, involved the owner of a bed and breakfast in Hawaii who refused to accommodate a same-sex couple. There was no indication of why the court did not take the case.

A large advertisement for B. Ella Bridal. The background is a soft-focus image of a bride in a white, strapless, floor-length gown with a long train and a veil, standing in front of a white door. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top, it says "Say Yes!" in a large, elegant, black script font. Below that, in a smaller, black serif font, it says "at B. Ella". At the bottom, the brand name "B. Ella Bridal" is written in a large, white, cursive script font. Below the brand name, the address "570 S. Main St., Plymouth Mi 48170" and phone number "734-459-0000" are listed in a black sans-serif font. At the very bottom, the website "www.instagram.com/b_ella_bridal" is provided in a black sans-serif font.

BEING ELTON JOHN

Impersonator Kenny Metcalf on What it's Like to Bring a Legend to Life



BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Down to the very last rhinestone on a perfectly recreated jacket, when Kenny Metcalf and The Early Years Band is on stage audiences swear they're being serenaded by Elton John himself. Having performed Elton John hits across the country to sold-out shows and earning the endorsements of Mark Cuban, Ryan Seacrest and John's original producer and lead guitarist Caleb Quaye, the California native has made a name for himself as the best Elton John impersonator in the business.

He attributes that success to a variety of things, but attention to detail is certainly front and center. Now, in the middle of Pride season on Saturday, June 15, Metcalf and the band will make their way to The Emerald Theatre in Mt. Clemens to play the hits of the legendary LGBTQ icon. BTL caught up with Metcalf via phone in advance of the show to learn more about his process of turning into John, how he got his start and what it takes to successfully imitate a musical great.

Elton John is undeniably a musical icon, but what was it that made you fall in love with his music and decide to dedicate a tribute act?

I started playing drums at age 6 and in high school one day a guy walked into the drama room, he was a junior classman, and started playing "Benny and the Jets" and every girl went around that piano and started singing with him. I looked at my best friend and I said, "I've never had that effect on a girl playing drums." Because you couldn't serenade a girl over a drum set, you just can't. So, my mom had just bought a piano and I went home and taught myself to play "Benny and the Jets." And I kept going at it, and by the time I was out of high school I had a band. I ended up getting married in 1980 and I put the band aside. I was still playing — always a musician — but I was raising my family.

What made you get into the tribute scene?

I got sick 14 years ago. My immune system crashed and it took me to death's door in about a year and three-quarter's time and they had no cure for the disease — it was an autoimmune thing. I was bleeding all over my body and my wife took me to the hospital the day I was going to die and I had a miracle happen, honest truth. As they were rolling me down the hallway my wife wasn't willing to let me go yet and she said, "You're not leaving me yet." And the doctor said that is where the turnaround happened in my spirit. And everything they started to do started to help me because nothing my doctors did before would help. While I was recovering 10 years ago, a friend of mine walked into my house and he said, "Remember the band The Fab Four?" I said "yeah" and he goes, "Well, tribute bands like them at their level of expertise, they're playing the same kind of venues you played in the '80s when you toured with Stryper" — I was a keyboardist for that heavy metal band. He said, "You've always kind of sounded like Elton. Why don't you consider it? And let's put a show together, it'll get you out of bed."

How did you go about recording some of Elton's songs and which one did you pick?

I have a full-blown recording studio in my house and that night I sat down at the keyboard and I recorded the song "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road" and I sang all the vocals and I played the bass parts, the drum parts on the keyboard. It sounded just like the album. So when my wife got home she said, "Is that you or is that Elton?" Honestly, I said, God if I do this, I want to be the best at it in the world, I don't want to do this half-assed. That was just an honest conversation, me and God, and I actually said those things, and I meant it. So, I set out to do it and just worked and worked at it and 14 months later we played our first show to 4,000 people standing in the front and it was said there was like 40,000 people at the venue because it was a beach thing. When I finished that show I was in bed for two weeks because I couldn't get out of bed. I was so wiped out, my immune system, so it was a gradual process of healing.

“I recorded the song “Goodbye Yellow Brick Road” and I sang all the vocals and I played the bass parts, the drum parts on the keyboard. It sounded just like the album. So when my wife got home she said, “Is that you or is that Elton?” Honestly, I said, God if I do this, I want to be the best at it in the world, I don’t want to do this half-assed.”

Your band plays Elton’s hits from the ‘70s and early ‘80s. Why only that section of his discography?

I sound like he did when he was 27 years old and that was the music that I loved the most before his voice changed. That was the music that turned me on all the way through “Yellow Brick Road” up through “Captain Fantastic.” And we do some of the stuff in the ‘80s of his, but I’m the early years of Elton.

What goes into being the perfect tribute band? How do you prepare and get it right every night?

I studied Elton’s voice and just started practicing and working at it and working at the material, and it’s still an ongoing learning process. We follow the format that The Fab Four did. They don’t break character. There’s three different basic forms of tribute: there’s the ones that’ll go into a bar or something and will only play one band’s music, but they don’t look the part, they don’t dress the part. The next level is, the guys that play it note for note and they sing and sound like them but they don’t dress like them and the third is the level that I’m at, that’s where it’s a full-blown play. We walk out in costume, play it note for note, sound like the album and that’s the key to being the tribute on the top.

And as far as detail goes, you’re really meticulous. You make all of your costumes as authentic as possible and I heard that your glasses are exact replicas of Elton John’s, too.

I met one of the guys – Elton has two or three different people that made his frames for him – but the one man that I met was Ray Winston. And Ray Winston, he has 300 or 400 different shapes that he made for Elton and he saw me and he said, “You’re the only one that I’ve ever seen who does Elton justice, I want to show you something.” And he opens up all these briefcases that he has and he says, “Whatever you want, pick something.” I actually have three pairs of Elton’s glasses.

Elton John is not only a musical icon but a massive influence in the LGBTQ community, both as a member of it and philanthropically. How has

it been portraying someone who is so beloved by the LGBTQ community?

The LGBT community has been great to us. We’ve played different Pride events and we love it. It’s just awesome and I’m straight, I’ve been married for years, but it’s like, so what? What is there not to love about people? He’s one of my heroes and he’s their hero so let me entertain you, let me put some smiles on some faces today, and that’s what we try to do when we walk out on stage. That’s one of the greatest gifts that I was given back from almost dying.

And I’m sure you know, but Elton’s gotten an even bigger spotlight recently with the release of the “Rocketman” movie. How did you feel about Taron Egerton’s performance?

I haven’t gotten to see the movie yet! But I’ve seen the trailers and I think it’s great. We’re gonna throw the whole band together and go out to see it but we’ll probably end up catching it while we’re on the road (laughs), because I’ve easily got 50 shows in front of me this summer and making the movie is helping us get even more.

Do you think you’ll watch the movie with a more discerning eye than the average viewer?

Well, they didn’t record the songs the way they were recorded on the album, so I already know that they took liberties there, and that’s fine. And Elton didn’t use his own music, which I would have preferred actually if they had Taron just lip-sync to it, but Elton wanted him to do it and he wanted to do it and that’s fine. It’s musical theater, that’s just what he did, he put a musical on and it’s on film and of course, I’m looking forward to it!

Editor’s Note: This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Find out more about Metcalf’s upcoming show on Saturday, June 15, at 7:30 p.m. at The Emerald Theatre online at theemeraldtheatre.com. Tickets start at \$25.



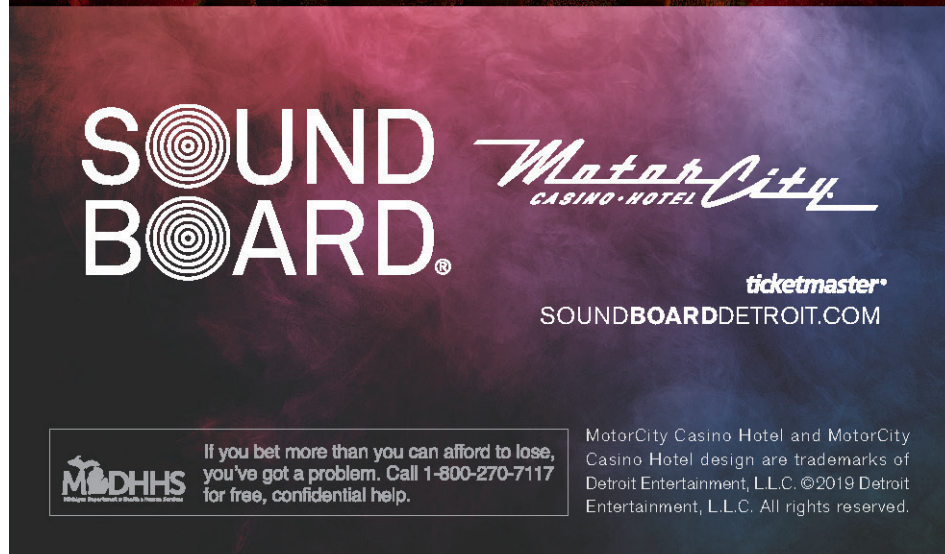
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The Bearded Circus in Ann Arbor

Q&A Cirque Alfonse Founder Antoine Carabinier Lépine Talks 'Barbu'

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Picture a classic circus strongman and the thought of him lifting a heavy barbell isn't far behind. Quebec-based circus "Barbu" is bringing the strongmen, but in this show, they're the acrobats, too. In fact, the strongmen play all the parts. Described as electro-trad cabaret, this show presents traditional circus performance and then turns it on its head into what organizers describe as a "cheeky and exuberant circus rave." As "Barbu" is part of the 2019 Ann Arbor Summer Festival lineup on Thursday, June 20, BTL caught up with founder Antoine Carabinier Lépine to learn more about the show's boldness, its modern take on traditional performance and its unapologetically sensual aspects.

"Barbu" means bearded in French – is that a nod to the historically inspired strongmen in the show?

Yeah, exactly. We created that show after a show called "Timber!" and we were bearded during that time, so we decided to call that show "Barbu" because it reminds us also of all the bearded guys, the strong guys who were starting the circus in Montreal in the fairgrounds. So, for us, it was kind of a concept that it was suited for the show. And, you know, there was a lot of fairgrounds back in the day in Montreal, back in the beginning of the 1900s.

"Timber!" was about lumberjacks and now Cirque Alfonse is taking audiences to a rave. That's quite a shift.

Yeah, a really big difference. We created "Barbu" to be more like an androgynous show. It was really to bring people to the edge of their seats and "Timber!" was more about the classical, but "Barbu" is more about [the] impressive and stuff that you won't see anywhere else. It's like a reminder of a freak show, kind of.

In the description of the show on your website you say that political correctness has no place in "Barbu." Could you expand on that?

Yeah, exactly. The show is divided into two parts. So, the first part, it's more traditional skills like normal circus skills. We decided to do that really traditionally, but the second part is more weird and freaky and we've created acts that you've never seen before, and you feel the difference that makes it special. At first, people arrive and they're like, "Oh, that's weird, we didn't expect that" — there's a lot



of circus skills but it's more traditional. But when the second part arrives, they're blown away, they don't expect that at all.

Do you think that the LGBTQ community will be able to relate to the show, too?

Yeah, for sure. It's always worked great with LGBT people because we're all big, bearded boys (laughs) and there's also girls with us, but we're really open with our bodies even though we're bigger and there's no censor about us. And like, we're really LGBTQ-friendly because it's a kind of a vibe that you can see in a Pride festival and it's really more adult as well. The vibe is a party, like a rave show. So for sure, you're going to love it.

I've read that when people see "Barbu" they're often surprised that you can do the acrobatic elements of your show because you're really strong, bearded men. Do you like breaking expectations like that?

(Laughs) For sure. It's part of our company to surprise people. For example, when we're

in a bar or a restaurant people will ask us what we do and people never expect that we're acrobats. They always think that we're the technicians or musicians because we're quite big. So, for us, it's pretty nice to surprise people by doing stuff that they don't think we're able to do because we're bigger and a bit older as well. But yeah, we try to keep it up just to amaze people (laughs).

How do you continue to push the limits beyond what you're taught in school?

We've all pretty much been to the same school in Montreal. Twenty years ago all of us were there and we're still working together for 20 years, so we know a lot of stuff, we've been through a lot of circus shows — new acts and stuff like that — so we really know well what we can do and what we cannot. That's how it's been easier for us to do new stuff even though normally people train like a couple of years before they're able to do those kinds of things. Us? We manage to do them faster because we know each other so well. And I think that's a

part of why we manage to push ourselves more and more and we never stop thinking about new things. When we're on tour and we're doing new stuff we're like, 'Oh, let's try that.' And we try to figure out also, all the circus skills that have been forgotten. So, we try to do the stuff that people don't want to do or that they've forgotten about.

Your touring company is very family based and on your site it says that Cirque Alfonse is focused on looking back to the past and making time for family and friends. I know you toured with family on "Timber!" Is it the same here?

Yeah, with "Timber!" We toured with my dad, my sister and my brother-in-law. But in "Barbu" my sister is still with us and my brother-in-law as well and my girlfriend, it's just my dad now is retired because he's a bit too old now for that (laughs). But otherwise, it's still really a family company and we still are a family working in the circus.

Was circus performance always part of your family dynamic?

No, actually I did the National Circus School and after that, I went on tour with many other companies like The 7 Fingers and Cirque du Soleil. And after a while, we decided with my sister to create a show for the 60th birthday of my dad. So, my dad started doing circus when he was 60 years old and he never did circus before. And now it's been like 13 years that the company is running and "Barbu" is our third show. So, we never did circus before with my family, we just started with the company.

What drew you to circus performance? Why did you find that to be something you wanted to pursue professionally?

Actually, it was my parents who brought me to see the National Circus School end-of-year show. And I went there and I fell in love. I was 14 years old and I just was blown away and said to them, "Oh, I want to do that." And they really supported us doing arts and circus and dance for my sister and it's why I decided to create a show with my dad, to thank my parents who supported us.

To find out more about Cirque Alfonse visit cirquealfonse.com. Find out more about their Thursday, June 20 show at the Power Center in Ann Arbor online at a2sf.org.



Michigan Pride March, Rally and Festival

Saturday, June 15, 2019

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Assemble at 10:45am, step off at noon.

RALLY ON THE STEPS OF THE CAPITOL

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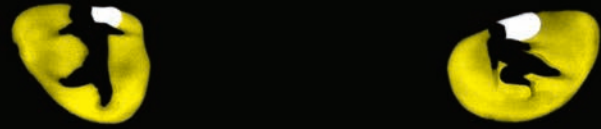
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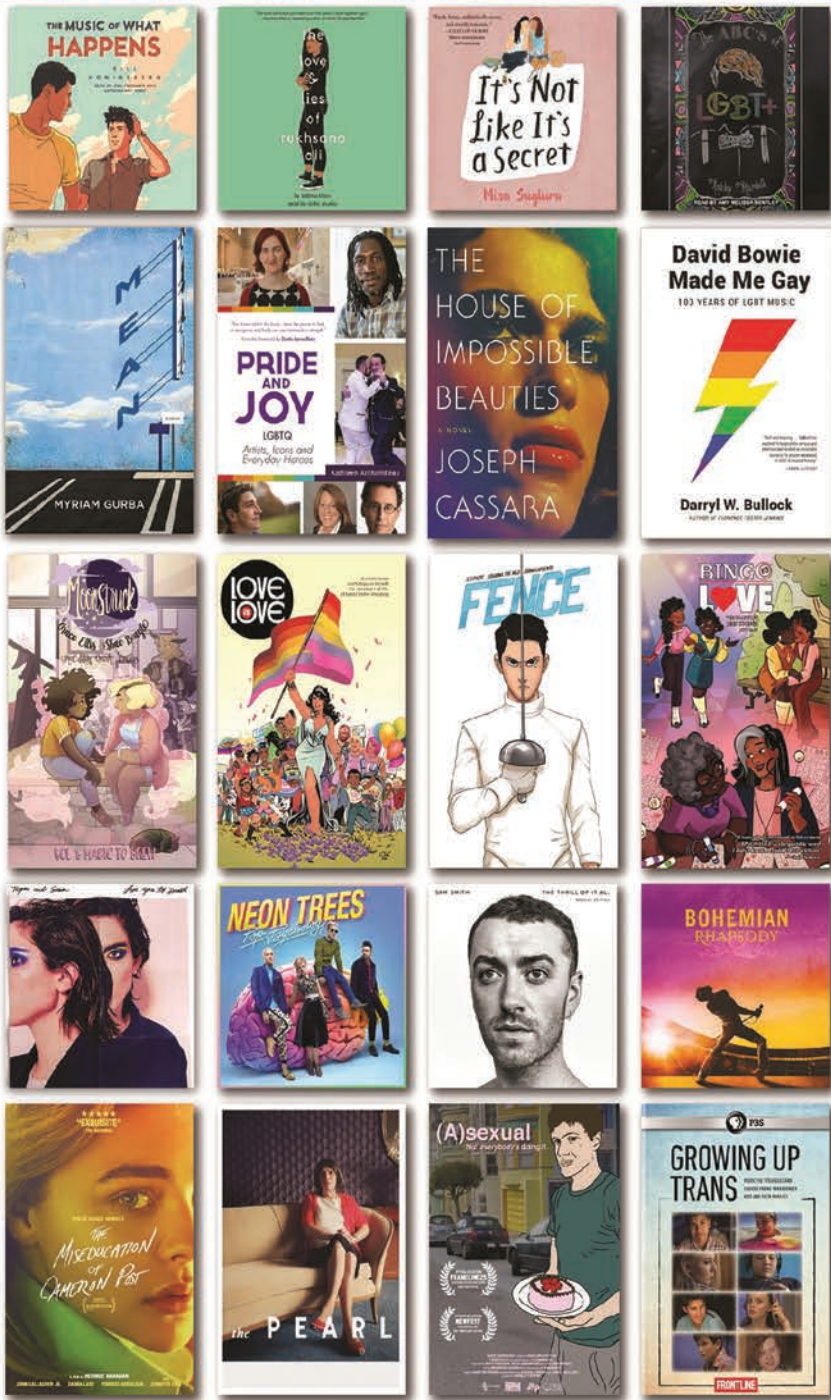
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2019 Michigan Pride Festival, Parade and Rally on June 15

BY BTL STAFF

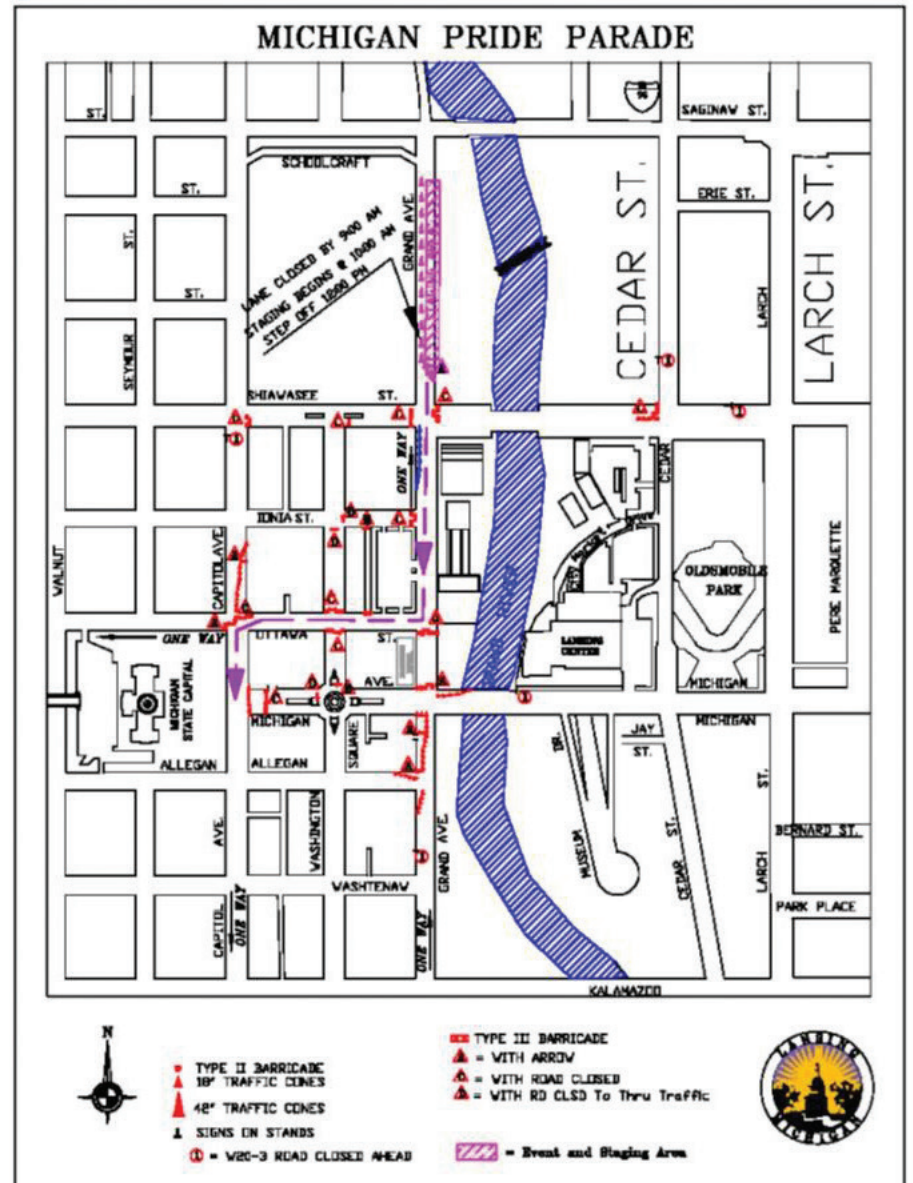
This year Lansing is celebrating Pride hard and providing dual ways for those interested in being politically active or celebrating the hard-won gains the LGBTQ community has fought for in the last half-century or so or even both.

“Michigan Pride is a statewide celebration that commemorates the equality achievements of the LGBTQ community while calling

attention to what still needs to be done,” wrote event organizers.

On Saturday, June 15, attendees can make their way down to the Michigan Pride Parade and Rally set to begin at stages in Adado Riverfront Park at 11 a.m. which will lead to a rally at the state capitol. There, guest speakers like Michigan’s first openly gay Attorney General Dana Nessel will make an appearance and the event will conclude at 2 p.m.

However, Pride attendees can also make their



Revised on 5-9-17 R.L.



way to Old Town right at noon to enjoy the Pride Festival that will last until 10 p.m. that evening. There, performers like drag queens Sabin and Emma Sapphire will perform and funk band Tell Yo Mama.

Festival in Old Town:
Noon - 5:30 p.m.
DJ Restless

1 - 1:45 p.m.
LVRs - band

2 - 5 p.m.
Sabin & Emma Sapphire - Drag performances

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
New Fame - female duo

8 - 10 p.m.
Tell Yo Mama - band

See the event schedule below:

Michigan Pride Parade & Rally at the Capitol

Parade stages in front of Adado Riverfront Park at 11 a.m.

Parade steps off at noon.

Rally at the Capitol steps starts immediately following the parade

Some Guest Speakers Include:

Dana Nessel - Attorney General of Michigan
Michigan Pride Board Members
Cody Bennett - Trans Teen
Phiwa Langeni - Director of Salus Center
Shane Shananaquet - Trans Teen

To find out more about the event visit the [Michigan Pride Facebook page](#).



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Pride Festival Map June 15, 2019

MAP KEY

- Entertainment
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History Comes Alive in Historical Exhibit in Detroit

BTL STAFF

DETROIT – The Stonewall rebellion ignited a movement that spread across the nation 50 years ago, including in Detroit. What's happened in Detroit since that catalytic uprising is documented in a remarkable new exhibit, *Invisible No Longer: LGBTQ+ Detroit*, now



open to the public at the Detroit Historical Society through Sept. 30.

The exhibit, created by a partnership of Dr. Tim Retzloff, the Ruth Ellis Center, Between The Lines and LGBT Detroit, includes photographs and art depicting the accomplishments and trials of Detroit since 1969. The exhibit provides a sweeping overview of the turning points that have propelled the LGBTQ community from the shadows to limited legal protections, to inclusion in the workplace and to marriage equality. The exhibit also challenges visitors to

not take these gains for granted, nor to stop pushing for full equality under the law and in the social fabric of the nation.

A special opening celebration will feature Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of LGBT Detroit, who will present a talk about the organization's role in the city and its connection to civil rights and social justice. This opening is June 20, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and is free, however pre-registration is encouraged at casieb@detroithistorical.org. More information is available at www.detroithistorical.org.



Grosse Pointe Hosts 3rd Annual Pride March June 22

BY BTL STAFF

Welcoming Everyone Grosse Pointe, also known as We GP, will host the third annual Grosse Pointe Pride March on Saturday, June 22, starting at 9:30 a.m., in conjunction with National Pride month and hundreds of cities across the nation hosting their own marches and

events. The objective is to raise awareness and show support for the LGBTQ community within Grosse Pointe as well as those who are considering the area for shopping, dining, recreation and living.

Attendees are invited to start gathering for the family friendly march at 9:30 a.m. in the Grosse Pointe South High School "J" parking lot along Fisher Road and will

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Between the Lines



Sufjan Stevens Releases 2 Songs in Honor of Pride Month

BY BTL STAFF

In celebration of Pride Month, Sufjan Stevens released two new songs today via Asthmatic Kitty on the topic of love: “Love Yourself” and “With My Whole Heart,” available on all digital platforms, and on limited-edition 7” vinyl on June 28. A portion of the proceeds from this project will go to two organizations that provide support for LGBTQ and homeless

kids in America — the Ali Forney Center in Harlem, New York, and the Ruth Ellis Center in Detroit.

“Love Yourself” is based on a sketch Stevens wrote 20 years ago. The original 4-track demo he recorded in 1996 is included as well as a short instrumental reprise. “With My Whole Heart” is a completely new song that Stevens wrote as a personal challenge to “write an upbeat and sincere love song without conflict,

anxiety or self-deprecation.” Sufjan also designed a Pride T-shirt that is available exclusively on his new merchandizing platform Sufjamz.

To find out more about the Ali Forney Center visit aliforneycenter.org/about-us/. For more about the Ruth Ellis Center go to ruthelliscenter.org. More about Asthmatic Kitty Records can be found here: asthmatickitty.com.

proceed along Kercheval Avenue to Maire Elementary School. Before the march begins, Pride merchandise will be available for purchase and family friendly activities will be offered, including face painting. The march will start at 10 a.m. and will conclude with a brief rally in the Maire Elementary School parking lot at 11 a.m., which will feature food trucks, a performance by a community choir, a peace meditation and other vendors and activities. New to this year’s March will be a Pride-themed float, a performance by Grosse Pointe South 2011 graduate Sierra Misst, an organized military presence to recognize the LGTBQ community’s contribution to our armed forces, and the group Free Mom Hugs will be in attendance.

The Grosse Pointe Pride March has quickly become a popular event in the community, with more than 1,000 community members and families attending annually to march, gather and show support for their friends and neighbors.

“Grosse Pointe Pride is an opportunity to show what a truly welcoming and inclusive community Grosse Pointe is, and we have a lot of fun while doing it,” said Andrea Joy, We GP LGTBQ+ Task Force leader. “It’s also a great time to speak with kids about accepting and supporting different kind of families and people. There is a gay agenda; it’s to be proud to be your unique self!”

A portion of the proceeds from this year’s event will benefit Outserve-SLDN, which provides legal services for LGBTQ service members. Its mission is to educate the community, provide legal services, advocate for authentic transgender service, provide developmental opportunities, support members and local chapters, communicate effectively, and work towards equality for all.

“We felt it was important to recognize the contribution LGBTQ service-members have made and will continue to make to our armed forces,” said Shannon Byrne, We GP President. “With the Trump administration transgender military service ban in place, it is more critical than ever to give our support to organizations such as Outserve-SLDN, which advocate for our LGBTQ service-members. We believe everyone should be allowed to serve with dignity.”

Attendees are encouraged to continue their Pride celebrations at other local Pride festivals

The Grosse Pointe Pride March boasts 37 sponsors this year. Gold level sponsors include: O’Flaherty’s, the 1000 block of Balfour, Blair Hess & Derek Latka, Park Grill, Posterity Framing & Printing, Fishbones, Fisher Pointe Dental, the Byrne/Simon family and Steiner Printing.


Find out more about the event online at we-gp.org.

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Q&A: Lev Raphael's 'State University of Murder' Shines Satirical Light on Higher Education and Abuse of Authority

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Hypocrisy, secrets, power struggles and even murder are at the center of author Lev Raphael's latest book, and no, it's not set amongst cutthroat pirates or even politicians: "State University of Murder: A Nick Hoffman Mystery" takes place in the seemingly mundane halls of academia. Still, it's not all seriousness; this cultural satire takes a deep dive into the delicate politics of higher education with a sense of humor that reviewers have called "delightful," "pointed" and "witty."

This is Raphael's ninth mystery book with LGBTQ character Nick Hoffman at the lead. Hoffman being a professor, too, Raphael said his own education and experiences as an LGBTQ educator himself have helped give him an informed, true-to-life, inside look at the higher learning community, warts and all, throughout Hoffman's existence. And "State University of Murder" provides not only another glimpse into that reality but a topical one as well.

Raphael took the time to catch up with BTL to share more about Nick Hoffman's latest adventure, his inspiration for this mystery and his writing process.

This is the ninth Nick Hoffman story, so clearly academia is a rich source material for satire. What drew you to it as a topic initially?

There's all this high-minded rhetoric about a community of learning and a community of scholars and shepherding young minds and you name it, and it's [a] reality that many schools are just a number of [sports] teams with classes attached. You can see where the values are in how much money is spent and where it's spent, so I saw that this was a great subject for satire and that's the tone of the book. The murders themselves are not satirical – those are taken very seriously – but the university world, the academic world, is a world where people are not treated as well as they should be.

Mystery books make up only a small portion of what you've written; you've published everything from books on the LGBTQ community, the Jewish community and even self-help books. What keeps you coming back to the mystery genre?

Oh, I discovered Agatha Christie when I was in junior high at my local library and I just fell in love with her books. Her plots are so intricate that I can re-read a book of hers

years later and I won't remember who did it. I was just fascinated by it and I just started reading all the mysteries on the shelves and fell in love with the genre. And, you know, I'm the son of Holocaust survivors and, at a certain point, a number of my works had been published already when one of my editors said, "Your work is pretty dark, why don't you try writing something funny?" And then I immediately thought of a mystery series in academia because it was the funniest environment I knew.

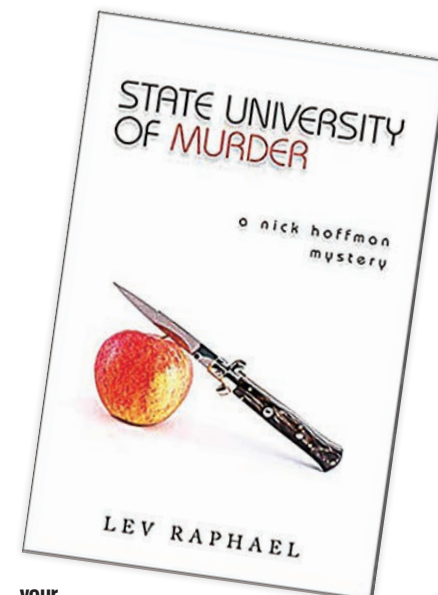
What draws you in about crime stories like this one?

Crime fiction is one of the most popular genres in the country along with romance, and that tells you something, right? Two sides of life: murder and romance. And I never know when exactly I'm going to write a book, because I write in other genres as well, so the mystery series is sort of a vacation for me from the other books that I write, whatever they happen to be. And that's a great thing about having a mystery series because you have some core characters who keep returning so you're not starting from scratch and inventing a whole new world. Even though that world changes and those people change, you have a foundation which is really nice; it's like the bar in "Cheers," it's nice to come back, you feel at home.

Where do you draw inspiration for Nick? Is he based off of yourself or anyone you know?

He's part of me and so is his partner Stefan, but not all me. There's no one-to-one correspondence to any character, they're all pretty much inspired by someone or a few people and then I develop them into someone else.

This particular story deals with sexual assault and harassment, topics that as of late have been more widely discussed in the media and even in



your work environment. Since you went to school and now work at Michigan State University, did you draw inspiration from any of the events surrounding the Larry Nassar scandal?

Oh yeah, absolutely. I was really, as I think we all were in Michigan, horrified by what was revealed to have been going on at Michigan State with the Larry Nassar scandal and many other issues connected to sexual assault and sexual harassment. All of that was focused for me because I was teaching there at the time and my office mate had been assaulted by someone, told me about it and he had been stalking her. And actually, it was somebody who was on campus. Then, one of my creative writing students started telling me about someone who was stalking her and I said, "Wait a minute, this sounds like the same guy," and it actually was. And I put the two of them in touch with each other and I have to say that each one of them felt very badly treated by MSU, and so the book is not a transcription of their experiences but because of knowing them and because of knowing what was going on I thought I need to write something that not only includes sexual assault and sexual harassment, but it's about the abuse of power because I think that's the larger question.

To find out more about Lev Raphael and his latest work go online to levraphael.com. To purchase "State University of Murder" visit amazon.com.

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PBS Film ‘The Lavender Scare’ Showcases US Govt.’s Efforts to Rid Federal Workforce of LGBTQ Employees

Narrated by Glenn Close and featuring the voices of Cynthia Nixon, Zachary Quinto, T. R. Knight and David Hyde Pierce, “The Lavender Scare” tells the little-known story of an unrelenting campaign by the federal government to identify and fire employees suspected of being homosexual. Produced and directed by Josh Howard and based on the award-winning book by David K. Johnson, “The Lavender Scare” premieres Tuesday, June 18, 2019, at 9 p.m. on PBS.

In 1953, at the height of the Cold War and Sen. Joe McCarthy’s virulent campaign against suspected Communists and possible traitors, President Eisenhower declared gay men and lesbians to be a threat to the security of the country and therefore unfit for government service. In doing so, he incited decades of stigmatization against LGBTQ employees in the federal workforce.

Over the next four decades, tens of thousands of government workers were intimidated, harassed and investigated, confronted with information from anonymous informants and threatened with exposure. Many lost their jobs and prospects for the future — some even driven to suicide — for no reason other than their sexual orientation. But the actions of the

government had an unintended effect, stirring outrage in the community and helping to ignite the gay rights movement.

In 1957, after being questioned about his homosexuality by two civil servants, a Harvard-trained astronomer working with the U.S. Army’s Map Service became the first person to fight his dismissal. Instead of arguing against the prevailing opinion that homosexuality was immoral, Frank Kameny reframed the issue as one of civil rights — discrimination against a particular group — and his attempts to regain his job evolved into a lifelong battle for the rights of LGBTQ people until his death in 2011.

It was not until 1995 that President Clinton signed an executive order ending the ban on security clearances for gay workers.

Featuring interviews with Kameny and others who were targeted, as well as authors and government officials responsible for investigating federal employees, “The Lavender Scare” is a compelling story of a fight for justice and a chilling reminder of how easy it can be, during a time of fear and uncertainty, to trample the rights of an entire class of people in the name of patriotism and national security.

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Happenings

'Anastasia' at the Fisher Theatre Through June 23

The Tony Award-winning musical "Anastasia" is now in Detroit. Both longtime fans and those new to the show can expect an adventure and romance-filled night about the lost princess Anastasia on the hunt to discover the mystery of her past. Find out more about the show online at broadwayindetroit.com.

OUTINGS

Friday, June 14

Lgbt social meet up group Wed Fed 27 6thirty pm 6:30 p.m. Lgbt social meet up group is a group for all lgbt people. All welcomed, we are on going every ongoing Hazel Park Community Center, 620 West Woodward Heights, Hazel Park. 248-632-8274. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com.

Saturday, June 15

LGBT Community Chat 11 a.m. Saturday LGBT Chat is an on going social discussion group meets every week to discuss issues LGBT people face. Coming out, dating, and much more. Come join us every Saturday at 11 am. Java Hut Ferndale Michigan, 165 W. 9 mile, Ferndale. 248-632-8274. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com.

Sunday, June 16

Stand with Trans Wyandotte Support

Group for Trans Youth and Parents of Trans Individuals 4 p.m. Free. For Parent Support Group information, contact facilitator Kim Tooley, 734-747-4363. St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 2803 1st St., Wyandotte. 734-747-4363. standwithtrans.org.

Monday, June 17

LGBT Game Night 7 p.m. LGBT Game Night is an opportunity for all LGBT people and allies to come play a board game, drink coffee and socialize with other LGBT individuals. Java Hut, 165 W NIne Mile, Ferndale. 248-632-8274. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com.

Wednesday, June 19

Affirmations Senior Koffee Clatch! 1 p.m. A discussion and networking group for people 45 and older. Various discussion topics, social outings, and potlucks are held throughout the year. With age comes wisdom but, for LGBTQ seniors, loneliness can often come along. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org.

Stand with Trans Support Groups – Livonia – Wayne County 6:30 p.m. Free to all. Parent Support Group Facilitators Karen Sessler, kssessle@yahoo.com or 734-673-3590 and Scott Sessler, pastorscott@emmanuel-livonia.org or 734-673-2485 Trans Youth Support Group (12+). Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 7 Mile Road, Livonia. standwithtrans.org.

Thursday, June 27

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.

Thursday, July 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.

Sunday, July 7

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Adrian-Lenawee County 6:30 p.m. FREE and OPEN to the community. For parents of transgender kids, this group meets the 1st Sunday of each month @ Hilltop Counseling For Trans Youth

Support Group information, contact facilitator Socorro Sevilla, MSW: socorro@hilltopcounseling.org Hilltop Counseling, 115 W. Maumee St., Adrian. 313-909-5408. standwithtrans.org. hilltopcounseling.org.

June 20 - July 28, 2019

BY JAMES HINDMAN

Williamston Theatre
122 S. Putnam Street, Williamston MI 48895
517-655-SHOW (7469)
www.williamstontheatre.org

Editor's Pick

Michigan Pride March June 15

The Michigan Pride March is an intentionally political event that serves to honor all the statewide Pride events across Michigan and then finishes off with an all-ages parade, rally and festival. The event will start at noon at Adado Riverfront Park. Find out more by visiting gaybe.am/qe.



SUMMER OF PRIDE

June 15

Grand Rapids Pride

Grand Rapids Pride is a West Michigan mainstay that has been recurring since 1988. The event, as all Prides do, brings LGBTQ people together in a celebration dedicated to the acceptance of everyone's identities.

facebook.com/
grandrapidspridecenter

June 15

Michigan Pride

On its website the organization states it "provides education, outreach, support and events to enhance the lives of lesbian, bisexual, gay, and transgender people and builds quality relationships with all Michigan residents." It holds events throughout the year in the greater Lansing area and produces the June Pride event on the steps of the capitol followed by a festival in Old Town.

facebook.com/MichiganPride

June 15

Picnic in the Park

produced by Lapeer Pride This event is held in Rowden Park and encourages attendees to bring both friends and a dish to pass around. At the event will be games, activities and more.

facebook.com/lapeerpride

June 17-23

Up North Pride

The sixth annual Up North Pride Week takes place in Traverse City June 17-23, featuring free special events every night of the week celebrating the LGBTQ+ community.

Up North Pride Week is hosted by Up North Pride/Loud and Proud - visit www.upnorthpride.com.

facebook.com/upnorthpride

June 21-22

Holland Pride

Sponsored by the Out On The Lake Shore LGBTQ community

center, Holland Pride is an event that invites all LGBTQ people and allies to celebrate. There will be events in the Park Theater on Friday night with a community celebration in Centennial Park on Sat., June 22.

facebook.com/HollandPride

June 22

Flint Pride

Pride events are a positive stance against discrimination and violence toward the LGBTQ community, and Flint Pride aims to do that. Entertainment will be included in the event.

facebook.com/FLINTGAYPRIDE

June 22

Sault Ste. Marie Pride

This event invites all LGBTQ people and allies to enjoy a day of affirmations, fun and entertainment.

facebook.com/Sault.Pride/

June 22

Grosse Pointe Pride

Grosse Pointe Pride will feature a Family Friendly March in support of the LGBTQ community at the Grosse Pointe South High School for face painting and a rally, and then lead into a step-off at Maire Elementary for a community picnic with vendors and more.

facebook.com/gppride/

June 29

Great Lakes Bay Pride

This event will be held at Wenonah Park in Bay City and will include retail, LGBTQ resources, food, vendors and activities.

facebook.com/
greatlakesbaypride

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MUSIC & MORE

Pride Performance by PRISM Gay Men and Allies Chorus June 15, 3 p.m. On Saturday, June 15, the PRISM Gay Men's and Allies Chorus will perform a series of tunes as part of a double performance, titled Destination Detroit – Music That Put Us on the Map, featuring One event on June 15 at 8:00pm Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. 4th Street, Royal Oak. 248-399-2980 www.royaloakmusictheatre.com <http://royaloakmusictheatre.com/events/detail/371752>

Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival: Opening Night June 15, 6 p.m. Celebrate the 26th Anniversary of the Great Lakes

Chamber Music Festival on Opening Night and see the nine-time Grammy Award-winning Emerson String Quartet perform!

Kenny Metcalf as Elton June 15, 7 p.m. Kenny Metcalf as Elton and The Early Years Band is a tribute performance to the one and only Elton John. This event is 18+. Emerald Theatre, 13 N. Walnut, Mount Clemens. 586-630-0120 theemeraldtheatre.com.

Coordinating a Community Response to the Opioid Epidemic June 25, 7:30 p.m. Molly Welch Marahar Opioid Project Coordinator, and Carrie Rheingans, WHI Project Manager, Center for Healthcare Research & Transformation will be joined by a panel to discuss coordinating a community response to the opioid epidemic. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital

Education Center Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. 734-485-8725. dawnfarm.org.

Grace Jones July 1, 7 p.m. The legendary Grace Jones come to the Masonic Temple on July 1. Masonic Temple Theatre, 500 Temple St., Detroit. themasonic.com

THEATER

Anastasia June 11, 7:30 p.m. Anastasia, the new Broadway musical, comes to the Fisher Theatre. An event every day that begins at 7:30pm, repeating until June 23 Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-872-1000. broadwayindetroit.com/anastasia.

Detroit Repertory Theatre Presents

"Williston" June 14, 8:30 p.m. Three energy reps travel to Williston, ND to get mineral rights to the last big piece of undeveloped land. A scintillating exploration of how business corrupts people and the fine line between commerce and conscience. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. 313-868-1347. DetRepTh@aol.com. detroitreptheatre.com.

Barbu Electro Trad Cabaret – Cirque Alfonse June 20, 8 p.m. Part of the Ann Arbor Summer Festival entertainment series, Barbu Electro Trad Cabaret by Cirque Alfonse delves into the origins of the circus in Montreal. Power Center, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. 734-647-3327. info@at2sf.org. smt.d.umich.edu.

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Solution to puzzle on page 37

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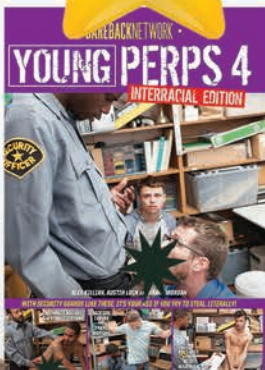
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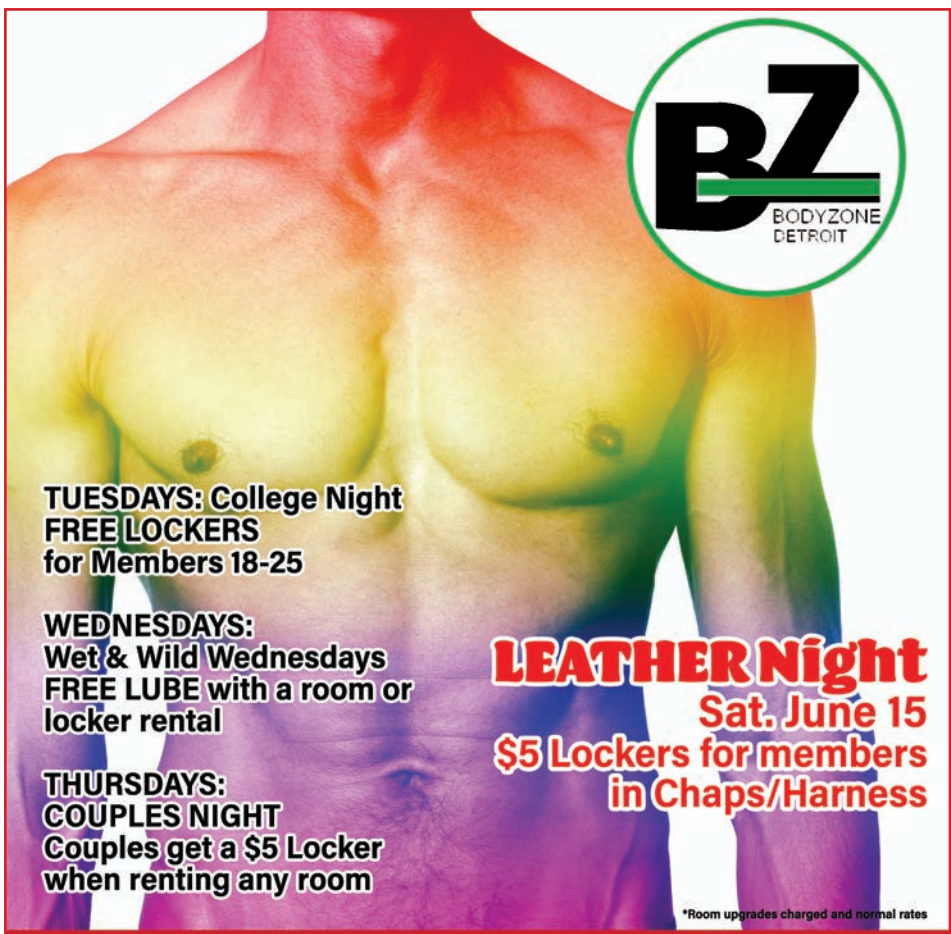
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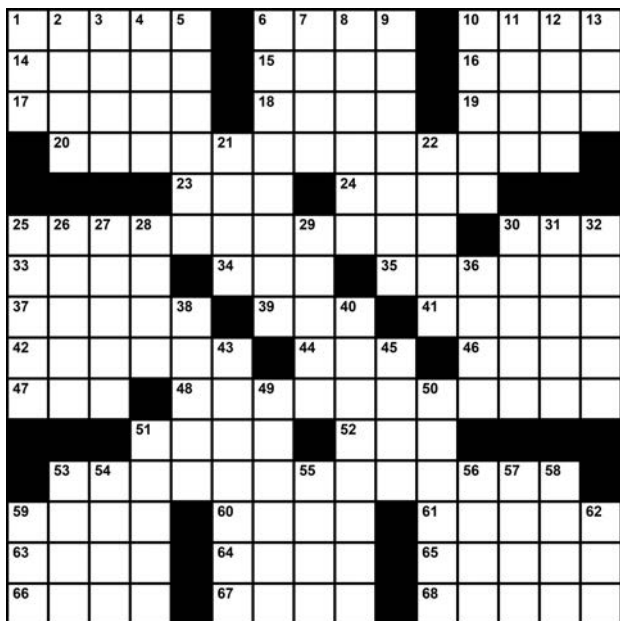
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I Rise

Across

- 1 Brooklyn dyke neighborhood Park ____
 6 Rubber vessel, perhaps
 10 Hand job, for one?
 14 "American Idol" judge Callow
 15 Falco of "The Sopranos"
 16 "I'm ____ your tricks!"
 17 Where a queen may rule
 18 Mandlikova of tennis

QPuzzle

- 19 Break under strain
 20 Start of a quote from Madonna's "I Rise"
 23 Danny to Rosie, for short
 24 Garr of "Tootsie"
 25 More of the quote
 30 Baudelaire's evil
 33 Humerus neighbor
 34 Unknown degree
 35 Canonized gay guy?
 37 Baked, to Buonarroti

- 39 Skeptical ejaculation
 41 Conger hunter
 42 Rex Reed, for one
 44 Straight line
 46 Part used in forking around
 47 Ending for lemon or lime
 48 More of the quote
 51 Starch source
 52 Cukor's "A Life of ____ Own"
 53 End of the quote
 59 Word before cock
 60 Film director Kazan
 61 Career option for Jack McFarland
 63 Like a slick head
 64 Split
 65 Garson of Hollywood
 66 "Don't leave me!"
 67 Bills stuffed in a stripper's G-string
 68 "Oliver Button Is a ____"
 Down
 1 The USA, perhaps, if Trump is reelected
 2 Willingly, to Shakespeare
 3 Barbra's "Funny Girl" guy
 4 A fireman goes down on it
 5 Put on some fishnet stockings?
 6 Vacation spot in Delaware
 7 Cukor's rib donor
 8 Subject to limitations
 9 They help show off your oolong
 10 Reagon of the Big Lovely band
 11 Girl who goes both ways?
 12 RBI to Glenn Burke
 13 Keystone figure
 21 Diva Celine
 22 Practiced Vidal's art
 25 Desert plant
 26 Prayer starter
 27 Release from bondage
 28 Women's suffrage leader Carrie
 29 She had her hand up Lamb Chop
 30 Sasha Obama's big sister
 31 "Looks ____ everything"
 32 The Greeks plucked around with them
 36 The M in SMU (abbr.)
 38 Gillen of "Queer as Folk"
 40 Glory hole inserts?
 43 Jockey Angel
 45 Put an edge on
 49 Like undies that scratch your nether parts
 50 Hate crimes, for example
 51 Bear type
 53 Vidal's "Rocking the ____"
 54 Scat queen Fitzgerald
 55 Baseball number
 56 Doctor Zhivago
 57 Vein contents
 58 Objectifies, sexually
 59 Network for "The Ellen Show"
 62 Trick's tail?

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 Walk-In

FRIDAY

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9 Seemingly Cheaper Travel ‘Hacks’ That Could Be Robbing You Blind

BY MIKEY ROX

Cutting costs on travel can be a boon for your vacay budget, but there’s a dark side to some of those “discounts.”

1. Flying budget airlines

Travel discounts apps and sites may populate your air travel search with lower-cost, no-frills lines like Spirit or Norwegian, but what you’re saving on the front end could cost you even more on the back end. Unlike slightly higher-priced traditional airlines, “budget” carriers charge for everything, from carry-on bags (and the fee is WAY more than traditional airlines) to food and water (yes, you have to buy your own water on Spirit), so if you don’t plan accordingly, you can end up spending a fortune to get there in a seat that’s been consciously designed to be less comfortable.

And that’s assuming you get there...

I booked a flight to Paris from Dublin on Ryanair many years ago and the airline canceled the flight, ruined our New Year’s Eve, stranded us in the airport (we slept on the floor), only to send us to London a day later without so much as a sorry or a flight voucher.

2. Clearing your “cookies” to game the system

One misconception is that when you’re searching online for flights that you need to clear your search browser history before evaluating flights as the airlines have algorithms that will automatically increase flight prices if you continue searching for flights to the same destination. This may be counterintuitive as some airlines will reduce a flight price in the hope of securing your booking. Very often airlines will offer reduce rates to frequent flyers so browsing for flights in incognito mode could actually cost you money.

3. Being flexible with your flight time and duration to save money

You can save a lot of money by choosing to fly at an inconvenient time or booking a flight with a long layover. But at what cost to your vacation?

“Often times, it pays to spend more on a flight if it means you’ll get to your destination faster or at a better time,” says Calvin Iverson, travel expert at TravelPirates. “If you’re spending 10 hours doing nothing at an airport during a layover or arriving in your destination at three in the morning, are you really



The Frivolist

having a good vacation?”

Or you can do what I do – book the longest layover possible in a place you’ve never been. I took a 16-hour layover in Iceland from London about 15 years ago – because when was I ever going to go to Iceland – and I loved it so much, I’ve returned twice. It was the best part of my vacation by far.

4. Prebooking a vacation package deal before you leave

It’s important to understand when booking a vacay package that you’re not booking direct with the providers themselves and you will pay an inflated price to the booking agent as they need to make a margin too.

“The other inherent problem with ‘vacation package deals’ is that you will often end up with inconvenient travel times, poor rooms, and less than ideal rental cars,” adds Patricia Russell, a certified financial planner (CFP) and founder of the personal finance blog FinanceMarvel. “You will end up overpaying for each service and then receive a subpar service from each provider. You’re much better to book directly with each provider as they will generally match the rate from the ‘vacation package’ broker anyway.”

5. Booking a hotel outside of the city

It’s true that hotels farther from the city center or the airport are often less expensive than hotels closer to the action. “But before you book one of those hotels for the low price,” says Iverson, “look into how you plan to get from the hotel to the city center. Sometimes public transportation isn’t easy or inexpensive, and you end up paying more than you would have paid for a stay at a more conveniently located hotel.”

6. Saving money by booking a bus or train instead of a flight

Sometimes you can get from point A to point B much cheaper by bus or train instead of a flight. But time is worth

money too – are you turning one of your hard-earned vacation days into a travel day?

7. Being flexible with your flight dates to save money

Most people know that one of the easiest ways to save money on your vacation is to change your departure or return date. But before you adjust your dates to save \$100 off your flights, don’t forget to check your hotel’s rates for your updated dates – hotel rates can change dramatically from day to day, and you could actually end up saving money by choosing the more expensive flight if your hotel ends up being cheaper for those days.

8. Signing up for travel credit cards

Travel credit cards offer free points, miles and other rewards to get you to sign up. While these signup bonuses can be very generous, it’s easy to forget why they are so generous. These bonuses are so enticing because, on average, the company will make more money off of interest it charges. This makes it extremely lucrative for them to give out so many bonuses. If you aren’t responsible with a credit card, no matter what the signup bonuses are, you can easily end up paying much more than your signup bonuses and easily end up in debt and even damaging your credit score if you aren’t careful.

9. Waiting for prices to drop

Waiting for the price of a flight, cruise, rental, hotel or anything related to travel can cost you more if the prices increase. “For example, if you wait and the price goes up, you can’t go back and book at a cheaper price,” says personal finance expert Dustyn Ferguson, founder of the money-saving blog Dime Will Tell. “However, if you book as soon as possible and the price drops later, you can usually contact the company for a price match to their new offer.”

Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist. Connect with Mikey on Instagram @mikeyrox.



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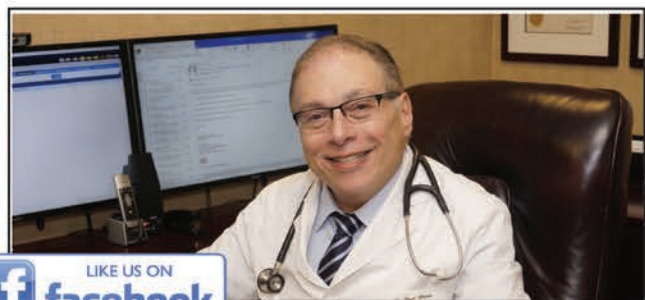
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