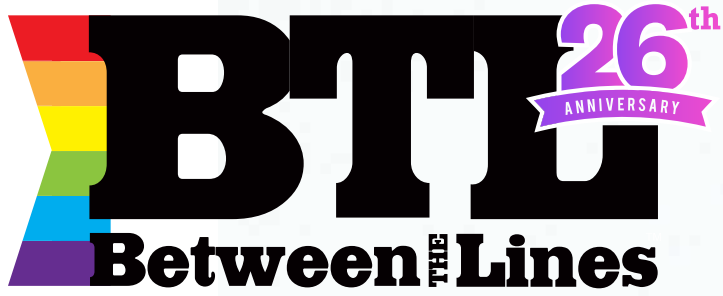


MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



Drag Syndrome Barred From
Tanglefoot: Discrimination or
Protection?

A Guide to the Upcoming
Democratic Presidential
LGBTQ Debates



BIANCA DEL RIO FLOATS TOO, **B*TTCHES**

The 'Clown in a Gown' Talks
Death-Drop Disdain and Why
She's Done with 'Drag Race'



Great Prizes!

**Including 5 Weekend
Getaways**

Free Brunch

Over 90 Equality Vendors



New Location The Henry • Dearborn
300 Town Center Drive **FREE PARKING**

Between THE Lines™

**THE ULTIMATE LGBTQ 9TH ANNUAL
WEDDING EXPO
HOME & LIFE**

*Join Us For An Afternoon Celebration with
Equality-Minded Businesses and Services*

Sunday, Oct. 13

Complimentary Continental Brunch Begins 11 a.m.

Expo Open Noon to 4 p.m. • Free Parking

Fashion Show 1:30 p.m.

2019 Sponsors

THE HENRY

300 Town Center Drive, Dearborn, Michigan

Comerica Bank

C&N PARTY RENTALS

B. Ella Bridal

\$5 Advance / \$10 at door

Family Group Rates Call 734-293-7200 x. 101

email: Jan@pridesource.com

Tickets Available at:

MiLGBTWedding.com



14 COVER: BIANCA DEL RIO

Our rate cards are available online. All material appearing in Between The Lines is protected by federal copyright law and may not be reproduced in whole or part without the permission of the publishers. Between The Lines is supported by many fine advertisers, but we cannot accept responsibility for claims made by our advertisers, nor can we accept responsibility for materials provided by advertisers or their agents.

Copyright 2019

www.PrideSource.com

NEWS

- 4 'A Life Well Lived'
- 6 Drag Syndrome Barred From Tanglefoot: Discrimination or Protection?
- 10 Crain's Detroit Business Highlights Affirmations Board President Mike Flores in '40 Under 40'
- 10 The Rev. Deb Cox to Retire From Ministry, Teaching
- 12 Guide to the Upcoming Democratic Presidential LGBTQ Debates

OPINION

- 8 Parting Glances
- 8 Viewpoint
- 9 Creep of the Week

LIFE

- 14 Bianca Del Rio Floats Too, B*tches
- 18 8 Proactive Ways Couples Can Face Down Their Debt Demons Together
- 22 Happenings
- 24 Deep Inside Hollywood
- 25 Crossword Puzzle
- 26 Gay-Owned Store UnTied on Woodward is Helping Men Discover Their Passion for Fashion With a Local Feel

COOL CITIES: ANN ARBOR

- 20 11th Annual Harvest Festival
- 20 Art and Brew Oct. 10
- 20 DJ Grind, Storm Area 51 Space Circuit Party at Necto
- 20 'Fleabag' at the Michigan Theater

VOL. 2737 • SEPT. 12 2019

ISSUE 1123

PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP

20222 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone 734.293.7200

PUBLISHERS

Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief

Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 102
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

Entertainment Editor

Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200 x 106
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

News & Feature Editor

Eve Kucharski, 734.293.7200 x 105
eve@pridesource.com

News & Feature Writers

Michelle Brown, Ellen Knoppow, Jason A. Michael,
Drew Howard, Jonathan Thurston

CREATIVE

Webmaster & MIS Director

Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

Columnists

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

Cartoonists

Paul Berg

Contributing Photographers

Andrew Potter, Andrew Cohen, Roxanne Frith, Tih Penfil

ADVERTISING & SALES

Director of Sales

Jan Stevenson, 734.293.7200 x 101
jan@pridesource.com

Sales Representatives

Ann Cox, 734.293.7200 x 103
anncox@pridesource.com

National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

MEMBER OF

Michigan Press Association
National LGBT Media Association
National Gay & Lesbian Chamber
Q Syndicate



"Between The Lines Newspaper"



Follow us @YourBTL



Email your op-eds to
editor@pridesource.com



Sign up online to receive our E-Digest

'A Life Well Lived'

Gay Artist Charles Alexander Talks About New Art Post-Stroke and Upcoming Exhibit

BY JASON MICHAEL

At this point in his life, Charles Alexander is a venerable institution in Detroit's LGBTQ community. A look at the 83-year-old artist and activist's achievements and the significance of his contributions to the community are clear: He has earned a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Pride Awards, the Jan Stevenson Award for service to the Affirmations LGBTQ community center, several Spirit of Detroit Awards and various other recognitions thrown in for good measure. Beyond those achievements, he's made his mark on *Between The Lines*, having written for the paper since day one and in total penned some 700 "Parting Glances" opinion pieces. A prolific artist as well as a renowned one – at times producing at least one fully formed artwork a day – Alexander has also given charitably, donating regularly to HIV/AIDS and LGBT causes.

So, as the news began to spread that Alexander had suffered a stroke and heart attack on Memorial Day of this year, many were shocked and saddened. Left weakened and somewhat visually impaired, Alexander spent three weeks recovering in the Detroit Receiving Hospital before doing another six in rehab at Henry Ford Village in Dearborn. Following rehab, Alexander, a fixture in the small Wayne State campus area in which he had lived for more than 30 years, moved into a small independent living unit in Henry Ford Village.

Now, as Alexander struggles to recover, a new show featuring pieces of his art prepares to open at the Pittmann-Puckett Gallery inside Affirmations. Proceeds from "A Life Well Lived: A Celebration of the Art and Work of Charles Alexander" will benefit The Charles Alexander Care Trust. In advance of the show, Alexander sat down with *Between The Lines* to talk about his art, his recovery and his life.



What's the last thing you remember prior to having your heart attack and stroke?

I was simply sitting on my porch and I decided I wanted to get something to eat. I wanted to get a banana and a cookie, and a block away is a gas station. So I went there and I got those things, but I also got something called Vanilla Coffee Mix. And I drank that and had this scary reaction to it, so scary that I got Dustin

Blitchok, who lived above me, to take me to the hospital. That's when they said that I had had a stroke and a heart attack.

And after?

I don't remember anything from Receiving Hospital. After that, I went through rehab here at Henry Ford Village and I will say this: the care that I received here was excellent. The therapy that I was given here was very good. There are two kinds of therapy. There is physical therapy, which is using weights, and occupational therapy, which is

doing things like standing and folding linen — things that you would be doing at home. And what was interesting was to see those adults who were in their 70s and 80s, maybe late 60s, doing their assigned exercises and it was a rather moving experience to watch how these older people tried to do everything they were assigned to do. They really worked at

it. And it eventually brought me to the final realization that the last coming out process is coming out to old age. Many of us think of ourselves as mentally 35 or 40, much younger, and I'm coming to the realization that old age happens. And that some of it's a real, real challenge because of what you have to go through following a stroke or difficulties with health and so on.

How has your life changed since your stroke and heart attack?

Prior to my stroke, about a year, I was bicycling on weekends, usually — sometimes 10 miles or 20 miles. I also bicycled in the Tour Detroit, which is 30 miles, and I did that twice. And as a teenager, into my 20s, I was a roller skating enthusiast. So, I have a lot of things I've done using my feet and so forth. So, not being able to do that is kind of frustrating. I have some difficulty walking, even with a walker. I went through the rehab center and I was making good progress, being able to do some walking with a walker and without a walker. But for some reason, recently, I slipped and kind of banged my side and so it's been difficult for me.

For those who don't know, you didn't drive. You were always walking and were well-known in your Wayne State neighborhood, a regular at Cass Café and Shangri-La and other spots. What has it been like to lose so much of your mobility?

It's a change not to be able to come and go as you once did. Not to have the freedom

SAVE THE DATE

A Life Well Lived Sept. 29

"A Life Well Lived: A Celebration of the Art and Work of Charles Alexander" is now up in the Pittmann-Puckett Gallery inside Affirmations. The exhibit was arranged in the Affirmations gallery by Scarab Club Gallery Director Treena Flannery. The official gathering will be on Sunday, Sept. 29 from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. Meet Charles and enjoy light refreshments. Affirmations is located at 290 W. Nine Mile, Ferndale

that you once had. You've become essentially a different person. You've left somebody behind that you could come and go with ease. It's difficult. It's difficult.

Let's talk about your art. It all started at Cass Tech, right?

I got good training at Cass Technical High School where I was a commercial arts major. One of the interesting things about Cass Tech is that art students and music students, we all shared the same floor. That's where I first made my early gay contacts, because there were other gay students there and we began to bond with each other.

Following high school you would go to work various jobs – as a stringer for the Free Press, a PR man for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and even as an operating room technician at Harper Hospital – before finishing college and going on to work for 28 years with the Detroit Public Schools. But you lost touch with your art and it wasn't until you got sober that you reconnected with it. Is this right?

It was 1981. I reconnected with my art at Cottage Hospital, where I went for rehab. Sometimes in the rehab programs, you're given assignments to make you think, to keep you occupied, to make you feel good about yourself. The assignment we were given was to go through magazines and cut out pictures indicative of our mood. In my haze, I misunderstood and instead of cutting out pictures I turned them into collages.

And I did several collages, cutting and pasting. One of the nurses even offered me money for one. Then, when I got out of rehab, I took and concentrated on my sobriety, cut down on my coffee consumption, started taking good vitamins and other things to help my rehab. And then, I had the collages that I did mounted and framed. I had a friend who was teaching art at one of the community colleges. He said, "These are good, take them down to the Detroit Artists Market for jurying." And so, I took three pieces down

and all three pieces got into the exhibit.

Then the next thing that came along was, of course, the AIDS crisis, so I began making art and donating art for AIDS fundraising. Overall, I raised with my art several thousand dollars for AIDS. And I've been going ever since then.

Your upcoming show features many pieces of your art –

Yes, and six of those pieces of art were done after the stroke. Jon Strand, a friend and well-known artist, gave me art supplies and encouraged me, saying, "It would be good therapy for you to do some art." It was difficult because I've had problems with my vision due to the stroke. But, nonetheless, I was able to create six or seven pieces of art, and they are in the exhibit and they're called "Stroke Rehab 1," "Stroke Rehab 2," etc., etc.

You haven't done anything since those initial pieces, though. Is there a reason you haven't done more?

Well, those pieces were challenging. And somewhat amazing for me is that in spite of the vision difficulties, that they actually came out with a freshness, an automatic-ness. If you read my column, "How I create My Art (see page 8)," it will give you an idea of how I do my art. It just really flows through me.

What was it like to see such a large collection of your work altogether?

There is a very special experience. The experience being: you've done a piece of art and you've forgotten about it and time passes by and somehow, by chance, you get to see that piece of art, and it's as though you're seeing it for the first time. And you think, "Wow, did I do that?" It's the same thing with writing.

What purpose has your art served over the years? What has it given you?

Well, I've been sober 38 years and what has happened is I've substituted one addiction for another, the addiction being my art. I don't think about it. I just do it. It unfolds. It happens. And what I try to do with my art is make it such that the person who views it gives their own interpretation to it. Brings their own feelings, brings their own insights, brings themselves into the picture. And I think if I've succeeded in doing that then it's successful. In other words: it's sharing your gift with someone else. I believe if you're given a gift, if you're born with a gift, [if] that gift is watched over and cared for over the years and shared, brought into fruition, then you've done your good.



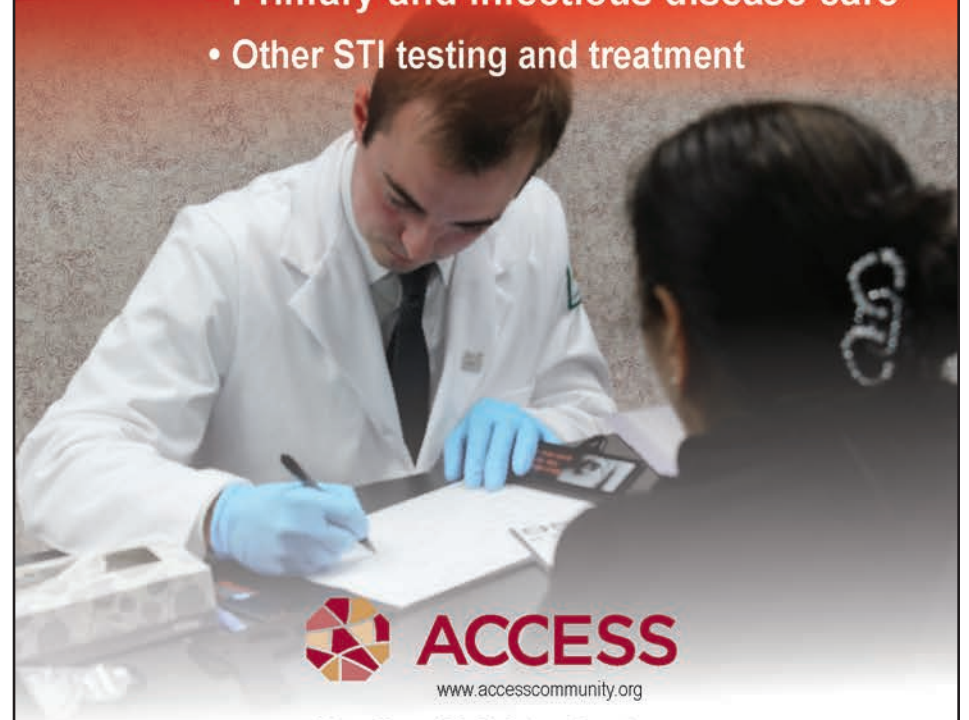
SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

Treatment and Prevention

**GET THE FACTS.
LEARN THE RISKS.
PROTECT YOURSELF.**

SERVICES INCLUDE

- Free same day HIV results
- Free Hepatitis B and C testing
- HIV education and testing
- PrEP education and referral
- Early intervention services
- Medical and non-medical case management
- HIV care for uninsured
- Primary and infectious disease care
- Other STI testing and treatment



 **ACCESS**
www.accesscommunity.org

Sterling Heights Center

4301 East 14 Mile Rd., Sterling Heights, MI 48310
586.722.6036

Part of the MetroCare Coordination Network

Drag Syndrome Barred From Tanglefoot: Discrimination or Protection?

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

The Decision

What began in Grand Rapids as an effort to promote advocacy of, and conversation about, artists with disabilities has turned into a controversy that's gained national attention. At the center of the dispute are Republican congressional candidate Peter Meijer, who is also the grandson of the supermarket founder, and DisArt, a local group that planned to bring a troupe of professional drag performers who have Down syndrome to a performance space owned by Meijer. The American Civil Liberties Union became involved when Meijer banned the group from his venue.

"I knew that DisArt would be hosting performances," said Meijer, of what was planned as part of ArtPrize Project 1, and for which SiTE:LAB had built an installation in space donated by Meijer. "That I had known about for months. I had seen some of the work that they had done around advocacy for individuals with disabilities and I was excited to be part of that."

He was not aware that the disabled performers might have intellectual disabilities.

However, Meijer said that when, on Aug. 18, he learned of the nature of the performance — individuals with Down syndrome performing drag — he grew leery. After speaking to "over three dozen folks who I felt could know the issue better than I could," Meijer informed DisArt that Drag Syndrome could not perform at Tanglefoot. Stakeholders Meijer consulted included disability advocates, artists, parents of children with Down syndrome and individual members of the LGBTQ community. By and large, he said, "they shared my deep concerns around the perception of exploitation around this event."

In an Aug. 19 letter Meijer informed ArtPrize that he could not approve Tanglefoot's facilities for Drag Syndrome. He has said repeatedly that he didn't want this to be a political issue and attempted to handle the matter privately.

At the core of Meijer's concern, as he states in the Aug. 19 letter which DisArt leaked to the media, was that, "The differently abled are among the most special souls in our community, and I believe they, like children and other vulnerable populations, should be protected."

A response on DisArt's website reads in part, "Exclusion is discrimination, it is self-preservation, it is exploitation for political gain. It is not protection."



Drag Syndrome performer (left) and Peter Meijer. Photos: Screenshot

The Fallout

"They wanted the controversy," said Meijer, regarding DisArt's reason for leaking the letter.

Shortly after their dismissal, and attempting on their own to resolve the issue with Meijer, DisArt contacted the ACLU.

"We spoke with the organizers from DisArt, and looking at the facts and circumstances, certainly, his decision appears to be based on assumptions about people with disabilities, mainly people with Down syndrome," said Jay Kaplan, staff attorney for the ACLU of Michigan. "There also seemed to be that Mr. Meijer had concerns about the nature of the performance."

Further, Kaplan stated that DisArt spoke with Meijer and provided him with specific information about the drag performers on two occasions, making it clear that these individuals do understand what they're doing and have the capacity to consent. The Drag Syndrome performers have agents, have performed around the world, are paid for their work and so on.

Drag Syndrome is a project of a London-based experimental performance and dance company that works with individuals who have Down syndrome. As Artistic Director Daniel Vais explains in a Mashable article, "People with intellectual disabilities aren't supposed to be performers or artists or anything but 'cute.'" He says the performers have told him that people see them as childish, but they have the same desires, dreams and aspirations as anybody else.

Of their numerous and popular performances, this is Drag Syndrome's first in the U.S. and the first time they've experienced backlash.

DisArt's complaint filed with the Michigan Department of Civil Rights by the ACLU reads in part, "Mr. Meijer's actions in blocking Drag Syndrome's performance at Tanglefoot constitute discrimination in a public accommodation on the basis of disability (Down syndrome) and on the basis of sex (gender stereotyping) in public accommodations in violation of the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act."

"It's not to punish Mr. Meijer, but it's really to call attention to this, that there are some protections under our state civil rights law and when you have a performing space that you make available to the public that's considered to be a public accommodation, then you are subject to civil rights laws," Kaplan said.

Is Drag an Issue Here?

Meijer especially pushed back on the notion the alleged discrimination has to do with it being a drag performance. Further, he wasn't clear on the connection between "sex discrimination" and prohibiting a drag performance from Tanglefoot. When an explanation of the May 2018 Michigan Civil Rights Commission's interpretive statement was provided, he commented, "It just really seems like a five-step removed argument that I don't—I think it would be a different scenario if I said, well, 'No women can come in or nobody who's trans or non-binary,' right?"

"I don't view drag as the issue," he said. "I view any type of what I would describe as charged cultural or political performance. I insert anything else. Take drag out, I insert anything else that would fall into that ... framework."

Asked to provide examples, Meijer said it could be political speech or a hot-button issue.

"When you have the messenger, when you have the performers come from a group that's been a) historically subject to abuse, marginalization and exploitation and b) whose agency cannot be guaranteed," Meijer said.

However, asked to clarify whether he meant the "charged cultural or political performance" referred to any performance by people with intellectual disabilities, he replied, "No, that drag itself, in that case, is culturally charged. Drag in general I would consider culturally charged."

Meijer went on to explain that "charged" performance or expression to him means, "Anything that ... may be sufficiently controversial to incite a protest probably ... gets into a problematic territory, especially when you're dealing with individuals with Down syndrome."

As to the possibility of a protest, Meijer said that it was the ethical quandary that was first and foremost in his mind. Yet his responsibility as the owner of a private property with a commercial liability policy was not lost on him and when he became aware of the risks that exposed him to, those were "the nails in the coffin." (In fact, a peaceful protest was held outside Grand Rapids' Wealthy Theatre, where Drag Syndrome relocated their sold-out performances.)

Meijer sounded unsure whether he approves of any performance by individuals with Down syndrome at his, or any space, and how much of that has to do with drag.

See next page

“Let’s face it. The Drag Syndrome group was not really a thing when they were just a theater troupe,” Meijer said. “The reason why they’ve achieved fame, or infamy, depending on ... who’s describing them, is because of that combination. And it’s a shame. Because I’m sure that they’re talented individuals.”

Asked if the members of Drag Syndrome could be performers in some other context, Meijer replied that “where that line is drawn, is, frankly, an open question.”

Kaplan is skeptical.

“Let’s face it, if this were a group of people doing a violin concerto concert on stage he certainly wouldn’t be questioning whether they have the capacity to understand what they’re doing, whether they’re being exploited,” Kaplan said. “He wouldn’t even enter into that inquiry.”

When the question was posed a different way, Meijer seemed to confirm his position that it was indeed the performers, not the content at issue: If DisArt had brought drag performers who had disabilities that were not intellectual — for example, hearing impaired — would Meijer have permitted that at Tanglefoot? Although he did not respond with a resounding affirmative, Meijer didn’t seem to take issue with that. Though he was quick to add,

“It’s not really the type of performance I would have attended or sought out.”

Playing Politics

It seems that politics is part of the equation

in multiple ways. Meijer’s Republican primary opponent savaged him on social media for even pausing to reflect once he learned of the nature of the performance, which the rival mischaracterized as “sex acts.”

Meijer believes he’s being targeted from the other side because he’s a conservative.

“I don’t doubt that there was a political factor in DisArt leaking the letter to the media,” Meijer said. “I don’t doubt that there’s a political factor in the Michigan ACLU filing a complaint. I think if I was coming from the left, with the same sincere concerns, it would be a very different response. The headline of so many of these articles reads, ‘Republican Cancels,’ ‘Republican Bans’ ... and it plays into that stereotype, right?”

About that homophobic stereotype, on Meijer’s Facebook page, a post that appears on Aug. 28 is shared from the anti-LGBTQ group, Christian Constitutional Conservatives Who Stand for Life and Liberty. It is a mashup of images praising Meijer’s decision to ban Drag Syndrome under the banner: “Thank God That Such Men Live.” It also links to an article from Life Site News, an anti-LGBTQ online outlet, which refers to the performance pushing “an LGBT agenda.”

Meijer confirmed that he manages his own social media feed and did share that post from that group. He said he has received support for a range of reasons, and shared it because at the time it was the first affirming post of which he was aware.

If you were to die today, who would be in charge of your funeral tomorrow?

Although your partner may be aware of your wishes, they may not be legally entitled to advocate for you. By filling out a **Funeral Representative Declaration Form**, LGBTQ+ individuals can ensure their final wishes are met.

It’s *your* life. Call us to take this simple, yet crucial step toward peace of mind today:

734-783-2646

Michigan Memorial
Funeral Home • Park • Crematory

www.MiMemorial.com

Michigan Memorial Funeral Home, Inc.; Michigan Memorial Park, Inc.; Michigan Memorial Park Crematory Company, Inc. These companies are separately owned and operated. Daniel P. Dwyer, President / Owner of Michigan Memorial Funeral Home, Inc.

We are an Honest & Friendly Family Owned Business - Fair Prices Always!

Sears Lift-Master The Professional Line Garage Door Openers Clopay Garage Doors GENIE PRO

NEW ENTRY DOORS • MANY STYLES • GARAGE DOORS & OPENERS TOO!

SERVING WAYNE, OAKLAND, MACOMB & WASHTENAW COUNTIES

- Residential Experts
- We Sell New Doors
- Cable & Roller Replacement
- Openers Repaired & Installed
- All Types Of Garage Door & Opener Repairs
- Spring Replacement

NO Extra Service Charge For Evenings & Weekends

We Fix Broken Springs FAST 24 Hr Emergency Service

✓ Check Our Prices On Broken Spring Replacement

SNAPPED CABLE HIT DOOR BROKEN SPRING BROKEN OPERATORS TRANSMITTERS

TOWN & COUNTRY DOOR LLC

Over 450 Five Star Reviews

MasterCard VISA DISCOVER

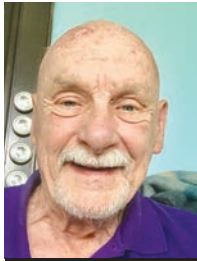
BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

If We Can't Fix It... Our Service Call Is Free

All Work Warranted In Writing

248-600-4683

WWW.TOWNANDCOUNTRYDOOR.NET



Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Artist's Statement

There is little conscious planning as I create my art. I work intuitively and rather quickly. I start with a geometric shape, a humorous or serious doodle, a fluid symbol fished from my subconscious, a newly minted hieroglyph or alphabet, sometimes a line expressive of energy and movement, and I proceed from there.

The process is closely akin to automatic writing or, to use a label in vogue, channeling. I become both a witness of and a conduit to creativity.

My work unfolds with its own inner logic (or lack of same), of which I am only dimly aware. The end product is an image or images that suggest rather than tell, probe rather than define rather than state outright.

My work is whimsical, satiric, metaphysical, convoluted and highly detailed. As much as possible I try not to censor my work but to let it flow from my psyche. Sometimes my work seems of a piece to me; at other times it seems disparate. Created by a multiple artistic self (or selves). My art can be rigid or fluid, masculine or feminine, insightful or trivial. Importantly, my art is energetic, bursting with color, line and movement.

I use my art as a kind of satori (illumination: spontaneous grasping) for each viewer. To this end I title my pieces with names that are koans (riddles with non-logic "answers") of sorts: "Waiting for the Light to Change," "Watching for Three-Minute Eggs," "Remembrance of Things Past Tense," "Two Steps Ahead," "Still Life in Motion," etc.

The result is art of a truly inner dimension, with its own dynamics and tensions, its own resolutions. I seek to bridge my intuitive world to that of those who experience visual creations.

My art is both familiar and alien. It keeps me alive and aware. It gives me much pleasure to share it.

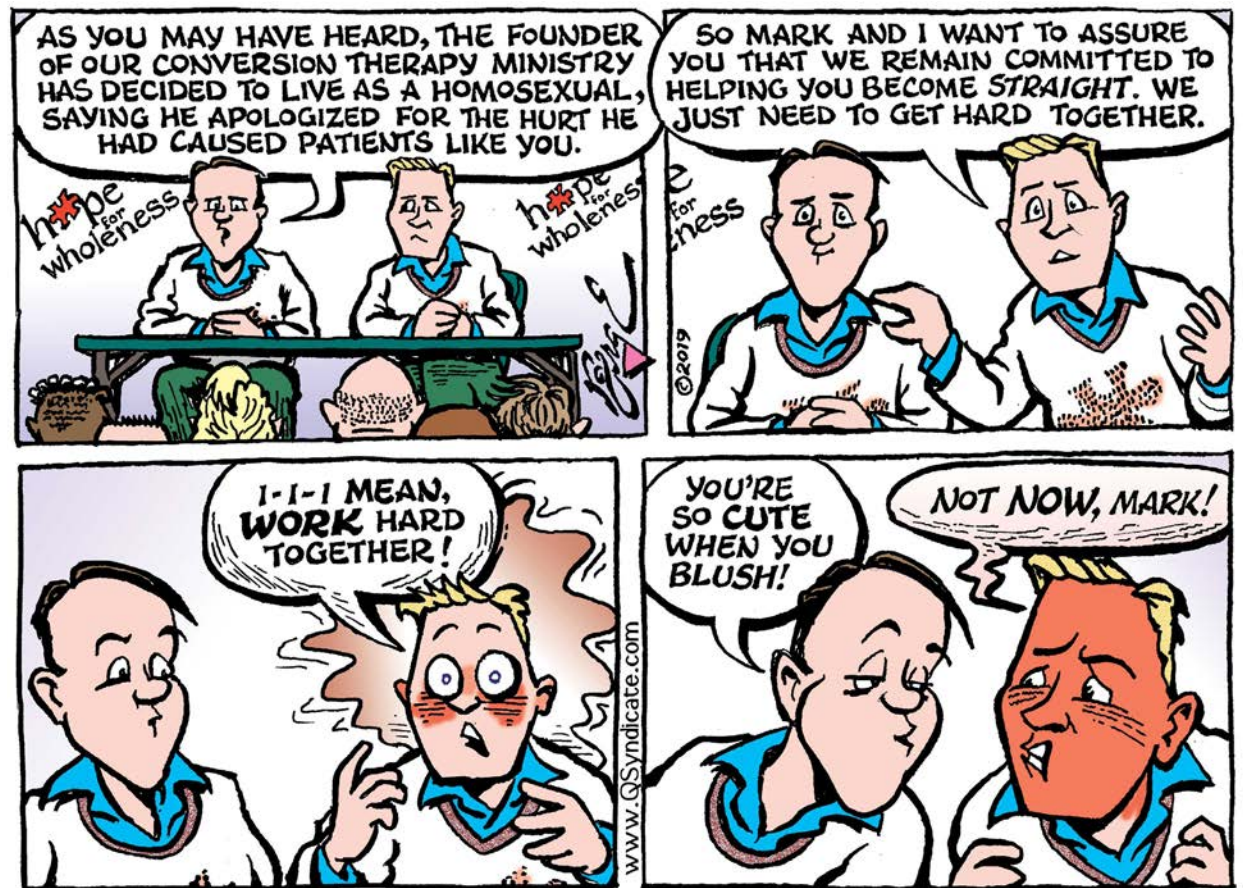
Editor's note:

Our beloved Charles Alexander suffered a stroke this Memorial Day that has left him physically weaker and with some sight deficits. Alexander has been a prolific writer, artist, muse and devoted supporter of the LGBTQ community for many decades. An exhibition of his art is currently on display at the Pittmann-Puckett Art Gallery at the Affirmations LGBTQ community center in Ferndale, and on Sept. 29 from 4 to 7 p.m. we will celebrate him, his art and his remarkable life and contributions to the fabric of the LGBTQ and artistic communities.

Alexander will be at this opening Sept. 29 to meet and speak with his many friends and fans. All the artwork on display will be available for sale, to benefit the Charles Alexander Care Trust established to support him as he recovers from the stroke.

Since Between The Lines was founded in 1993, Alexander has written nearly 1,000 of his weekly "Parting Glances" columns. Each one has brought his unique perspective on Detroit's history,

See next page



BY DESIREE GUERRO

Positive Thoughts

Three Cheers of Victory for OI' U=U!

Sure Most HIV Advocates Have Heard of U=U, but How Do We Get the Rest of the World to Listen?

For about the past decade, activists and advocates have been working hard to educate the world on a very important scientific fact about living with HIV: that undetectable equals untransmittable (U=U). U=U is a now globally accepted scientific consensus that simply means when a person living with HIV reaches an undetectable viral load (also sometimes called virally suppressed) for six months or longer, they are virtually unable to transmit the virus to a sexual partner — even without the use of condoms.

Not only is this vital, life-changing information for those living with HIV, but certainly could be the key to ending HIV once and for all. Just think about it. If everyone on the planet currently living with HIV had access to today's highly effective antiretroviral drugs that can quickly get you to undetectable — and were aware that being undetectable means they *cannot* pass along the virus — would HIV continue to

spread as it does?

Bruce Richman, executive director of the Prevention Access Campaign, says of course not. Richman has fought relentlessly for nearly a decade now to share this groundbreaking, stigma-shattering evidence. He founded the U=U consensus campaign after discovering the little-known science after fearing he'd exposed a partner to HIV around 2010.

"I learned from my doctor that because I was undetectable, I couldn't transmit HIV," he told Plus magazine last year. "I couldn't pass it on. I was elated!"

His excitement soon turned to outrage when he realized "every HIV treatment site, media outlet, HIV/AIDS service organization, federal and state health department — just about everywhere — was saying that I was still a risk. And millions

See **Transmissions**, continued on p. 9

► Positive Thoughts

Continued from p. 8

of people with HIV were still a risk.”

“To clear up the confusion,” Richman added, “a group of us living with HIV collaborated with researchers on a [U=U] consensus statement and advocacy campaign.”

The simple, catchy and game-changing U=U campaign launched in July 2016. Within record time, the campaign has become a global movement lead by people living with HIV. Today, 500 organizations from 65 countries have signed the U=U Consensus Statement, which has been translated into 15 different languages and is endorsed by the principal investigators of the leading studies that proved the statement true.

The simple, catchy and game-changing U=U campaign launched in July 2016. Within record time, the campaign has become a global movement lead by people living with HIV. Today, 500 organizations from 65 countries have signed the U=U Consensus Statement, which has been translated into 15 different languages and is endorsed by the principal investigators of the leading studies that proved the statement true.

The biggest breakthroughs for U=U came when the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed that the consensus was “backed by science.”

Dr. Carrie Foote agrees and adds that U=U is also a human rights issue, as she recently stated at the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI 2019) in Seattle earlier this year: “All people living with HIV have a right to accurate information about their social,

sexual and reproductive health.”

Foote has been living with HIV since 1988, is a founding member of the U=U campaign and is an Associate Professor of Sociology in the School of Liberal Arts at Indiana University-Purdue.

“Stigma is killing us,” she added. “HIV stigma is a public health emergency and

U=U is an immediate and effective response to begin to dismantle stigma.”

Dr. Foote said that U=U is an incredibly significant finding, but this “amazing science” is not as well-known as it should be. Millions of people living with HIV are still unaware of the facts and implications of U=U and what it means for their lives. She says much of the responsibility lies on the medical community,

which needs to keep patients informed about U=U as well as update their HIV-related brochures, fact sheets and treatment guides to reflect this.

At CROI, Foote also shared some quotes from HIV-positive people from around the world, illustrating the impact of U=U. In the words of Mark from Baltimore: “When I finally internalized this message ... something suddenly lifted off of me that is hard to describe. It was almost as if someone wiped me clean.”

Desirée Guerrero is the associate editor of Plus magazine. This column is a project of Plus, Positively Aware, POZ, TheBody.com and Q Syndicate, the LGBT wire service. Visit their websites - hivplusmag.com, positivelyaware.com, poz.com and thebody.com - for the latest updates on HIV/AIDS.

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.

► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 8

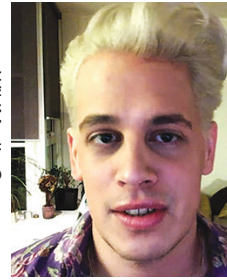
the evolution of the LGBTQ community and the ever-changing political/social landscape we all share.

All are invited to attend the opening reception Sept. 29 at Affirmations from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. For more information visit <http://gaybe.am/Yk>.

Creep Of The Week

Milo Yiannopoulos

First Twitter came for Milo Yiannopoulos, and I did not speak out because I was not a racist.



Wikimedia Commons

Then Facebook came for Milo Yiannopoulos, and I did not speak out because I was not a misogynist.

Then Yiannopoulos was broke, and I did not speak out because GOOD. Seriously, fuck that guy.

In case you didn't hear, right-wing gay-

provocateur Yiannopoulos is having a sad because he's been booted off of the biggest social media platforms because of his hateful, terrible self. It only took years, but Twitter and then Facebook slowly began to realize, “Hey, we're for-profit companies and we don't have to let people use our platform to incite hatred and violence against marginalized groups of people.”

Honestly, it's too little too late (Twitter is Trump's hate screed podium, after all), but I can't say I'm sad that folks like Yiannopoulos are finding it harder to spread their disgusting message far and wide online.

But, like I said, Yiannopoulos is sad, and that's good.

According to Vice, Yiannopoulos has taken to Telegram, an app that has apparently become a dumping ground for right-wing hater mongers rejected by bigger platforms, to complain that he just can't make a living these days and it's so unfair.

According to Vice, Yiannopoulos had 400,000 followers on Twitter, but has just 19,000 on Telegram, which Yiannopoulos called “a wasteland.”

“I spent years growing and developing and investing in my fan base and they just took it away in a flash,” he bemoaned on Telegram.

It's true. He did spend years growing his “fan base,” and I mean base in the, well, basest sense. And I suppose, technically, THEY did take it away, in that they (Twitter, Facebook) told him he couldn't use their stage for his one-man hate show anymore. But, really, he begged them to do it, violating their terms over and over again. You'll remember that Twitter said, “Boy, bye,” after his racist hatefest against actress Leslie Jones.

But if you listen to him it's like he got deplatformed because he dared to wear a MAGA hat. In reality, Yiannopoulos has worked very hard to alienate as many people as possible. He was just the grand marshal in the so-called Straight Pride parade, giving the event a hint of legitimacy since he, a gay man, was associated with it. Though one wonders if the people in charge of the parade were familiar with his public

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Yiannopoulos has taken to Telegram, an app that has apparently become a dumping ground for right-wing hater mongers rejected by bigger platforms, to complain that he just can't make a living these days and it's so unfair.

argument in favor of pedophilia (shrug emoji).

In short, he's not very popular right now. But he's still got a following.

“It's nice to have a little private chat with my gold star homies,” he wrote on Telegram. See? Yiannopoulos still appreciates the people who are still listening.

Or not. “But I can't make a career out of a handful of people like that,” he continued. “I can't put food on the table this way.”

Aww, he can't make a “career” as a troll anymore. Sad. Also, like anyone believes he eats at a table. He takes all of his meals in his crypt.

But wait, what about these people being his “gold star homies?”

“Holy fucking hell the base in America SUCKS,” Yiannopoulos said according to VICE.

Huh. I guess the gold standard really is bullshit.

“Frankly they deserve to lose their country,” he continued, “and if by some miracle we manage to save it, it'll be no thanks whatsoever to voters, readers, subscribers and ENTIRELY thanks to the few brave souls battling on the front lines, beyond all reason and hope.”

In other words, it's all up to Milo to save us all from ourselves. You know, I remember when somebody else said, “I alone can fix it,” and that dude is currently fucking up this country but good. No wonder Milo is such a fan.

Yiannopoulos complained about various other social media platforms while on Telegram, including Gab and Parler, basically saying that nothing comes close to Twitter or Facebook.

“Unless something monumental changes,” he warns, “we are just going to be driven off the internet forever.”

Lord knows the Trump presidency has felt like an eternity to the majority of us who didn't vote for him, so honestly forever can't come soon enough.

The bottom line is, Yiannopoulos has worked very hard to be one of the best-known trolls out there. But, in the end, he shouldn't be surprised to find himself where trolls belong: all alone and under a bridge badgering passersby for spare change.



Crain's Detroit Business Highlights Affirmations Board President Mike Flores in '40 Under 40'

BY BTL STAFF

Crain's Detroit Business selected business leaders across the state of Michigan to highlight in their "40 Under 40" program. Among the leaders selected was Southeast Michigan's own Mike Flores, who is currently running for Ferndale City Council and serves as the board president of the city's Affirmations LGBTQ community center.

Among his other successes, Crain's highlighted Flores for his work in helping the center stay open last during a period of financial uncertainty and extend its services beyond its 30th birthday.

According to the report, Flores' goals for Affirmations reach further than keeping it operational, he is working to increase the center's projected annual revenue from \$500,000 to \$1 million. That kind of success, he said, starts from partnerships. Regarding the work required to keep Affirmations afloat, he said it wouldn't have been possible without community support and guidance.

"Even though ... a lot of advancements and movements have happened in the LGBT community in the last 30 years, a lot more still needs to happen to achieve full equality within our community," he said. "To me it was very rewarding ... to be part of a community that really stepped up and said, 'Affirmations continues to be important and we want to keep Affirmations open.'"

To find out more about Affirmations visit goaffirmations.org.

The Rev. Deb Cox to Retire From Ministry, Teaching

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Before Deb Cox found the Metropolitan Community Church movement she, admittedly, wasn't very religious.

"I was a Christmas and Easter Christian," she said. "I was part of the Presbyterian church, [and] it has turned out that what I needed was something that allowed me to open up my faith a little more than their rituals allowed."

Cox, a native Ohioan, was born in Cleveland and first attended MCC in Columbus.

"My partner at the time was Presbyterian as well, and she kept [asking] me why would I want to be in a place if when I signed the welcome book and said I was a lesbian I was pretty sure I wouldn't be received well," Cox recalled. "That really resonated with me a lot."

So, Cox attended a spaghetti dinner at the church and soon realized she had found her spiritual home. She went on to serve the congregation in all lay positions except treasurer. She also served on the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches Governing Board for the Five State Region as well as the district committee.

"I was really super involved in the Columbus church," Cox said. "That's kind of where I got my footing. I just found so much energy from doing things in the church, whether I would organize carnivals or we would just have opportunities to interact with each other. We did dinners and I participated in a lot of the social stuff. Then, I got involved in Bible study stuff and worship stuff. Everything I approached and took on I found joy and peace and energy, and I think that's one of the things that tells us when we've found our niche because it doesn't drain us of our energy, but it gives us energy."

Cox said that soon after, she started feeling the stirrings of a spiritual calling, but she was hesitant to answer.

"In the Presbyterian church that I grew up in, which was wonderful, I learned many things, but I didn't learn to interact with God on a personal level. I didn't understand having that personal relationship with God. Yet, here I was in this church and I was experiencing a personal relationship with God and I didn't know what to do with it or how to grow it," she said. "And periodically people would say to me, 'When are you going into the ministry?' Those kinds of things kept happening. People saw in me leadership when I didn't really see it in myself."

Eventually, after some prodding from a MCC traveling evangelist Dolores Perry, who was known in church circles as something of a prophetess, Cox answered the call. She was ordained as an MCC minister in Cincinnati in 1997.

The following year, Cox and her partner Ann Cox relocated to Detroit when Deb Cox was asked to pastor Divine Peace MCC in Waterford.

"I totally loved pastoring as a solo pastor at

things. I got to help people embrace their own ministries."

The Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow took over as senior pastor and teacher at MCC Detroit in 2014.

"The qualities I appreciate most about Rev. Deb is her courage to be 'out' on her job with the Pontiac School District," he said. "I was also a teacher and administrator in the public schools and was timid about letting anyone know that I am gay. She and

I boldly married couples on the lawn of the Oakland County Courthouse during the window of opportunity for same-gender couples to wed. Over the next few weeks, our images were seen across the nation as we supported marriage equality. It's one thing to be quiet about your sexual orientation or gender identity while all of your co-workers know your truth. It is another to be an activist and Deb courageously let those in her school know which side she was on.

"Later, when she and her now spouse Ann Cox got married, she was a witness again to marriage equality and invited many of her co-workers to the ceremony," Stringfellow continued. "We at MCCD have benefited greatly from her bold preaching and ministry in our community."

The decision to retire from both ministry and teaching – she will deliver her last sermon as associate pastor on Sunday, Sept. 15 – was a somewhat difficult one.

"I'm honestly not sure," she said. "Between the things that have come up with Ann's health and some of my own, it's a struggle. I guess what summed it up for me is from the time Ann and I have been together ministry has been a big part of my life from the second year on. Right now, as we experience the effects of aging, I don't want to always be serving other people and not be there for my own spouse. I have been terrible at doing self-care and establishing boundaries and now I feel like I'm embracing that myself.

"She is the love my life," Cox continued. "I've never, ever been as whole as I am with her. I don't want her to be the second or third thing in my life. We both deserve this time now. And if I can do other types of ministry, or if I can continue to substitute teach my students, that will be a big bonus. But when her health journey or mine requires it, I will be ready and able to take time for us."



Rev. Deb Cox.

Divine Peace and having so much opportunity to do that," she said. "I truly have a pastor's heart and being able to be pastor for people was such an honor and privilege and it totally filled my heart. And we experienced some nice growth and that felt really good. It helped me to see myself in a more complete kind of way than I was seeing as a school teacher. I saw more dimension in myself."

Cox left Divine Peace after eight years and eventually began attending MCC Detroit, which at the time was pastored by the Rev. Mark Bidwell. Bidwell quickly began asking Cox to preach and assist with service. Soon, she was asked to join the staff as an associate pastor.

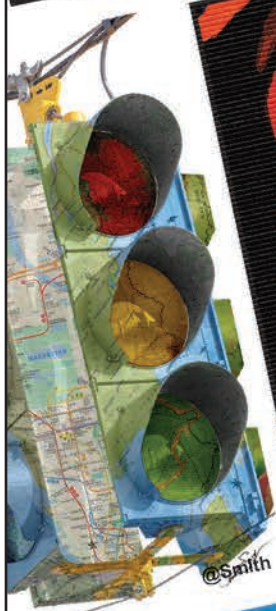
"Now then to settle into being an associate pastor, which to be honest I struggled with because it was less than being a solo pastor or senior pastor," Cox said. "But what I discovered is that it really gave me an opportunity to embrace the pastoral role without having to worry about am I giving the right leadership financially and structurally and all of those

TWICE AS FUNKY AS THE AVERAGE ART FAIR

FUNKY FERNDALE ART FAIR

Over 120 Juried Artists • Hands on Art Projects • Help Paint our Mural
Hair and Body Art • Food and Surprises • Plenty to See and
Do for the Whole Family

FUNKYFERNDALEARTFAIR.COM



Funky Ferndale Art Fair

SEPT 20-22
Nine Mile @ Woodward



SUPPORT THE ARTS- BUY ART!

FRIDAY - 3 PM - 7 PM
SATURDAY - 10 AM - 7 PM
SUNDAY - 11 AM - 6 PM
9 MILE RD. WEST OF WOODWARD

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Please visit our website for parking and shuttle information



A Guide to the Upcoming Democratic Presidential LGBTQ Debates

BY LISA KEEN

LGBTQ voters: Mark your calendars. Over the next month, there will be four Democratic presidential candidate forums — two of them devoted exclusively to LGBTQ issues. And one of those LGBTQ forums will be the first-ever to be broadcast by a major network.

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation is partnering with CNN to host a nationally televised LGBTQ presidential “town hall,” Oct. 10, similar to the climate change town hall CNN hosted Sept. 3. As with the climate change event, the LGBTQ forum will have each candidate on stage with a CNN moderator for a set period of time to answer questions from the moderator and members of the audience.

Lucas Acosta, HRC’s national press secretary, said some details are still being worked out, but any candidate who meets the Democratic Party’s threshold criteria for participating in the party’s debates will be invited to participate in the LGBTQ forum.

Acosta said HRC has already received indications from many of the top-polling candidates that they will participate: former Vice President Joe Biden; U.S. Sens. Elizabeth Warren, Kamala Harris and Amy Klobuchar; former U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro; and South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg.

This will not be the first HRC presidential candidate forum. The group staged similar forums during the 2004 and 2008 presidential campaigns.

The 2008 HRC presidential forum (held in August 2007) was broadcast live on MTV’s newly launched LGBTQ cable channel Logo. Six of the eight major Democratic candidates at the time participated, but then-U.S. Sen. Biden declined, citing a scheduling conflict. Republicans were invited in 2007, but none agreed to participate.

Acosta said HRC has decided not to invite Republicans this year.

“We’re dedicated to defeating Donald Trump,” Acosta said.

There are only two Republican candidates challenging President Trump for the 2020 Republican nomination, and polling shows the president garnering between 66 and 85 percent of support among Republican primary votes. The Republican challengers include former Massachusetts Gov. Bill Weld and former U.S. Rep. Joe Walsh of Illinois. Adding to the challengers’ obstacles, the Republican Party in South Carolina, Arizona, Kansas and Nevada is reportedly considering canceling Republican primaries in those states, according to Politico.com.

Acosta said the HRC-CNN forum in Los Angeles will have a different audience from the Sept. 20 LGBTQ presidential forum being organized by LGBTQ media organizations and

So far, LGBTQ issues have not gotten much air play in the Democratic Party debates, even though one of the top-tier candidates is openly gay South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg.

a local newspaper in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The Iowa-based forum is expected to be livestreamed over the internet and is being organized by the national LGBTQ media group GLAAD, the Iowa statewide LGBTQ group One Iowa, The Advocate magazine and a local Cedar Rapids newspaper called The Gazette. That forum will take place Sept. 20.

The two other national Democratic presidential candidate events during the four weeks are both Democratic Party national debates on an as-yet-unspecified range of topics.

So far, LGBTQ issues have not gotten much air play in the Democratic Party debates, even though one of the top-tier candidates is openly gay South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg. Recent national polls have shown support for Buttigieg slipping, but he is still hanging onto fifth place among the 20 remaining viable candidates and he is still garnering well above the party’s 2 percent minimum for qualifying for the debates.

But with the top three Democratic candidates in the double-digits, Buttigieg and U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris and others will be under pressure to perform well in upcoming debates in order to avoid being written off by political pundits.

Buttigieg has in recent days dramatically escalated his criticism of President Trump and his references to his religious beliefs.

During his time onstage at the Sept. 3 CNN Climate Change Town Hall, Buttigieg said, “it’s a kind of sin” to ignore the harm being done by climate change.

“Every religious and non-religious moral tradition tells us that we have some responsibility of stewardship” of the planet.

On a radio interview show Sept. 6, Buttigieg quoted the Bible as saying “life begins with breath” to argue that, no matter how various people interpret that passage, when it comes to a woman’s right to have an abortion “the most important thing is the person who should be drawing the line is the woman making the decision.”

Every time Buttigieg quotes the Bible on the campaign trail, he unleashes a flurry of retorts from conservative media, and that could increase the likelihood of a question regarding religion being posed to him during the national debates.



Here’s a quick guide on where to watch the upcoming forums:

Thursday, Sept. 12, 8 p.m. EST on ABC: The Democratic Party will host its third national debate. This time, only 10 candidates, including openly gay hopeful Pete Buttigieg, have met the party’s ever-increasing hurdle to participate: at least 2 percent of support in four national polls and at least 130,000 donors giving to their campaigns. In addition to Buttigieg, the 10 include U.S. Sens. Cory Booker of New Jersey, Kamala Harris of California, Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts. It also includes former Vice President Joe Biden, former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro, former U.S. Rep. Beto O’Rourke and technology businessman Andrew Yang. The debate will be nationally broadcast by ABC and Univision from the Texas Southern University in Houston from 8 to 11 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Viewers can also watch a livestream at one of several sites, including ABCNews.com and Facebook Watch. Four journalists will be moderating: George Stephanopoulos, David Muir, Linsey Davis and Jorge Ramos.

Friday, Sept. 20, 8 p.m. EST: The national LGBTQ media group GLAAD, the LGBTQ statewide group One Iowa, the national LGBTQ magazine The Advocate, and the local Cedar Rapids newspaper The Gazette are hosting the event. It will take place in Cedar Rapids in Iowa, the first state that will register its preference for a Democratic candidate during its caucuses Feb. 3. As of deadline this week, the confirmed participants include Biden, Booker, Castro, U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii, U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, former U.S. Rep. Joe Sestak of Pennsylvania and author Marianne Williamson. A GLAAD press release says the

organization believes LGBTQ issues have been “largely absent” from the 2020 presidential campaign so far. According to The Gazette, each candidate will be asked to present a statement regarding LGBTQ issues and take questions from three moderators: Advocate Editor-in-chief Zach Stafford, Gazette columnist Lyz Lenz and One Iowa policy director Kennan Crow.

Thursday, Oct. 10, 8 p.m. EST: CNN and the Human Rights Campaign Foundation are collaborating to stage a live nationally broadcast town hall for Democratic candidates on LGBTQ issues. The event, scheduled for the eve of National Coming Out Day, will take place in Los Angeles, and HRC says it has confirmations already from Biden, Buttigieg, Castro, Harris, Klobuchar and Warren. As the first-ever nationally broadcast LGBTQ presidential town hall, it will provide the general public with an unprecedented glimpse into the Democratic candidates’ positions on LGBTQ issues. CNN will broadcast and livestream the event live during prime time. Official estimates of CNN’s audience size for the climate change town hall averaged 1.1 million people during the seven-hour event. Viewership was up slightly — to 1.4 million — during the last three hours, between 8 and 11 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 15, Time TBA: The fourth nationally televised Democratic candidates’ debate will be held in Ohio. Campaigns have until Oct. 1 to qualify, using the same criteria used for the Sept. 12 debate. The 10 candidates from the Sept. 12 debate will be onstage, along with at least one new qualifier, businessman Tom Steyer. There is a possibility the candidates will be staged over two nights.

RON T. WILLIAMSON DDS



Dedicated to make our
community brighter
One Smile At A Time
248-399-4455

**Uninsured?
No Problem.
Significant Savings
with our Smile Club**

Nitrous Oxide (relaxing air)
Proud participants in the Ryan White Program
No charges for emergency examinations and consultations.



1964 W. 11 Mile Road, Suite 4,
Berkley, MI 48072
www.rontwilliamsondds.com

Find us on
facebook



2019 SUBARU IMPREZA 2.0i 5-DOOR

- Standard Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive + 36 mpg hwy
- EyeSight® Driver Assist Technology available
- Standard SUBARU STARLINK™ Multimedia with Apple CarPlay™ and Android™ Auto integration
- The longest-lasting vehicle in its class

Hodges...

We know that moving forward means remembering where you came from. That's why we're proud to say that Hodges is celebrating nearly 90 years in Ferndale, Michigan. We'll help you get where you're going, because you've helped us get where we are. Thank You!

\$249 PER MONTH LEASE/
36 MONTHS / 10,000
MILES PER YEAR
\$0 Security Deposit



KLB-01

0.9% Financing available on all Impreza
models up to **72 months***



*Must be approved tier one credit through Subaru Motors Finance. Valid until 9/30/19.

**HODGES
SUBARU**
Metro Detroit's "Subaru-Only Dealer"

21205 Woodward Ave • Ferndale • MI • 48220

248.547.8800 • www.hodgessubaru.com

HOURS: TUES, WED, & FRIDAY SALES - 9 A.M.-6 P.M. SERVICE - 7:30 A.M. - 6 P.M.

MONDAY & THURS SALES - 9 A.M. - 8 P.M. SERVICE - 7:30 A.M. - 8 P.M.

SATURDAY SALES - 10 A.M. - 2 P.M. SERVICE - 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

EVERYDAY!

EXCELLENT SERVICE • OUTSTANDING SELECTION • FANTASTIC PRICES....

*Tax, title, license fees extra. \$0 Security deposit. 10K miles/year. Must be approved tier one credit through Subaru Motors Finance. Valid until 9/30/19.

NOW OPEN!

Senior Health Clinic

for LGBTQ+ adults 55 and older

Primary and Specialty Care
Preventive and Support Services

Wednesdays from 10 AM - 2 PM

Call for an appointment

(313) 832-3300

1726 Howard Street

Detroit, MI 48216

www.corktownhealth.org



Age with respect, dignity and pride at Corktown Health Center

Sneathkamp
CHRYSLER • DODGE • JEEP • RAM

2019 Jeep Wrangler

\$299 PER MONTH LEASE/
24 MONTHS/10,000
MILES PER YEAR

Plus tax with employee price. Includes all applicable rebates. \$999 due at signing based on A or 1 tier credit.



2019 Ram 1500

\$299 PER MONTH LEASE/
24 MONTHS/10,000
MILES PER YEAR

Plus tax with employee price. Includes all applicable rebates. \$999 due at signing based on A or 1 tier credit.



At Sneathkamp
We Share Your Pride. **CALL 313-868-3300**
Ask for Alex Chernov or Mike Carter

Proud Sponsor of the 2018 Ultimate LGBT Wedding and Anniversary Expo
achernov@sneathkampcd.com www.billsneathkamp.net 16400 Woodward Ave. Highland Park, MI 48203

BIANCA DEL RIO FLOATS TOO,

B*TTCHES



Photo: Rene Koala

The 'Clown in a Gown' Talks Death-Drop Disdain and Why She's Done with 'Drag Race'

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Bianca Del Rio is in Stockholm on her "It's Jester Joke" comedy tour, still subject to the fraught human realities of traveling despite her top-tier queen status. And packing – don't remind her. "As a drag queen, you travel with so much shit," says Del Rio (aka Roy Haylock).

Famous for her tart candor, the Louisiana-born stand-up comedian's success is a result of saying what she thinks and not caring what you think. And you, of course, already know this if you witnessed the self-proclaimed "Clown in a Gown" reign over the other crown-pining contestants during season six of "RuPaul's Drag Race" in 2014.

Five years later, Del Rio, who has written

a book, "Blame It on Bianca Del Rio," and starred in her own film, "Hurricane Bianca," is still coming out on top. In June, New York magazine named Del Rio one of the top 100 "Most Powerful Drag Queens in America." Just before bringing her worldwide comedy tour stateside, Del Rio called to defend bachelorettes who celebrate at gay clubs, predict an inevitable Lizzo backlash and roast "Drag Race" queens who use emotional manipulation to get ahead in the competition.

What is the one thing you absolutely cannot leave home without?

I'm a drag queen – there are so many elements. I definitely need makeup. But a razor, I would assume. The problem is, with drag you have

to travel with so much stuff. You have to bring size 12 shoes, extra eyelashes; you can't really find that stuff just anywhere. Definitely not in Stockholm. So I have to pack *a lot* of stuff. A lot more than I usually would like to admit.

How many suitcases do you travel with?

Four suitcases. Three of those are drag, one of them is what I call my "boy bag." It's just to have options. The airport struggle – the security, the baggage, all that shit – really does start to wear on you.

And imagine if you went through airport security as – well, maybe you do go through as Bianca.

I've never had to fly in drag – thankfully!

As a self-proclaimed expert on nothing who has an opinion on everything, I need your take on John Travolta nearly giving Taylor Swift impersonator Jade Jolie a VMA because he mistook her for the actual Taylor Swift.

(Laughs) I mean, it's hysterical. Obviously he's got delusion problems. He's not dealing with a full deck right now. He also is a Scientologist, which goes to show it. And he had that Adele Nazeem moment. Either he's a drunk or he takes a pill or he just doesn't fucking care. I was just glad to see he was not wearing a wig. There's a rarity! So, you know, he's embracing his non-wig self. Next he'll admit that he's gay.

That he confused them – was it a compliment to Taylor or to Jade?

INFO

Bianca Del Rio

7 p.m. Oct. 12
Royal Oak Music Theatre
318 W. 4th St.
royaloakmusictheatre.com

To Jade, because she's a Taylor Swift impersonator. I think it's great. I think it's an honest mistake, because to be fair I can't tell any white girls apart.

As Bianca, do you ever confuse people?

I do meet-and-greets, and when you have meet-and-greets, people are always like, "Oh, I just saw you in Stockholm!" or "I saw you in London!" and I have to really think. You do 150 people a night as part of the meet-and-greets, so it's very hard to remember. There's usually some characteristic that gets me there, but on occasion I've been like, "Have we met before?!" And they'll say, "No." I'm like, "Oh... OK. Thought we did." So it can fuck with you, with that many people a night. But I really haven't mistaken anybody for anybody of importance, no.

If John Travolta met you, who knows who you might be mistaken for.

Who cares! I'm not interested! He's not high on my list.

Who is high on your list?

I think every gay man would say Dolly Parton. She's that rare one that is almost like some mythical creature. She's just one of those who I love not only because she's Dolly Parton and I've grown up with her, but also she's just so fucking funny.

Some people might describe you as a "mythical creature" too.

Emphasis on the word "creature," yes. But mythical? No. (Laughs)

This is very controversial in gay bars, so I wonder if this translates to your shows. But do you let bachelorette parties come to Bianca shows?

Oh, I don't care. Whoever buys a fucking ticket, I don't give a shit. Gurl, listen: I think people have lost their minds. The gays don't even wanna be in the gay bars anymore! They're all on a fucking app anyway. Nobody is even paying attention. And look, at least somebody's in the bar. Somebody has to buy a drink to keep gay bars open. You can't rely on gay men to do that. So look, let the girls come in, let them have a good time. Not like I've never told a bitch to shut up. You can do that, but you can't be offended. Who cares! As long as they're there having fun, fuck it.

Isn't the point of coming to a Bianca Del Rio show to be offended?

First of all, it's important to laugh at ourselves. I laugh at myself, and I laugh at everything

that I could possibly laugh at. But I think we've lost that because there's so much with social media warriors constantly saying, "You can't say this" and "I'm offended." Well, then, fuck off! If you're offended by me, then don't come and see me. It's very simple. I don't like Kim Kardashian, but I don't spend my life watching her on fucking TV or writing all over her Facebook or Instagram or Twitter saying, "I hate you, you're a piece of shit." I just don't care. You can live a successful life with someone not liking you.

Have you always been the kind of person who says what some people really want to say but are too scared to say? Has that always been your style?

Always. Yeah, yeah.

As a kid?

Yeah, as a child everything was always funny to me, and I would always try to find humor in all of it. It's just what you have to do. It was just my survival skills. Imagine being different, being artsy, being gay. All that definitely can either turn on you or you can find a way through it, and that was just my way through it, which is being blunt and upfront. And the people who got it – usually the smart ones – understood it.

When did you know you could get away with more if you put on a costume?

When I got paid. I always said it, but it wasn't until the packaging came with it. And it's not so much that I can get away with more – it's just what's easier for people to accept. For instance, with drag in particular, the average person would think, "I have nothing of interest with a drag queen." But when they see it, they're kind of fascinated by it. So, for me, it was just this evolution into it. I mean, I could totally live my life without being in drag and I probably will. I'm not doing this forever.

What do you think your post-drag life will look like?

That's the stupidest question! I have no idea! I know I don't want to be schlepping around the world in a wig and heels at 60, I can tell you that. It's one of those things where I'm like, look, it's been 24 years so far, I'm all right, but I know it's not forever. And I have no idea. I didn't plan this far. So I don't know what the fuck I'll be doing. But it'll be something fun, that's for sure.

You once said it's important to know your limits. What new limits have you set for yourself at 44?

I said I didn't want to do drag at 40 because at the time I think I was 37 and it was right before "Drag Race," and so I was working a regular job in New York City during the day making costumes for Broadway and then at night working in a club. So at that point, 18 years of working in the clubs and trying to stay afloat – and the bars were fading, not

See Bianca, continued on p. 16

SARA BAREILLES
AMIDST THE CHAOS TOUR
OCTOBER 5

WITH SPECIAL GUEST
Emily King

NEW ALBUM
OUT NOW
SARABMUSIC.COM

FOX
THEATRE

LIVE NATION
313PRESENTS.COM

SHERLOCK HOLMES
AND THE
Fallen Soufflé

A WORLD PREMIERE BY
DAVID MACGREGOR
DIRECTED BY
MICHELLE MOUNTAIN

SEPT. 19 - DEC. 21, 2019

the PurpleRose
theatre company
PurpleRoseTheatre.org

**COMMON GROUND'S 45TH ANNUAL
BIRMINGHAM STREET ART FAIR**
IN DOWNTOWN BIRMINGHAM'S SHAIN PARK
SEPTEMBER 14TH 10AM-6PM
SEPTEMBER 15TH 10AM-5PM
FEATURING THE ANNUAL SILENT ART AUCTION
TO BENEFIT COMMON GROUND

 **Common Ground**
helping people move from crisis to hope

BIRMINGHAMSTREETARTFAIR.COM

150 JURY SELECTED ARTIST
FREE ADMISSION PLUS...
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
DELICIOUS FOOD VENDORS!

Produced in association with




Fair Michigan 2019 Justice Reception

With Special Guests Governor Gretchen Whitmer,

Attorney General Dana Nessel, &

Invited Honorees Prosecutor Kym Worthly & Prosecutor Carol Siemon

At the beautiful and historic

Strand Theater

12 N Saginaw Street, Pontiac, MI 48342

September 26, 2019

VIP Reception 6 pm

Awards Ceremony & Drag Show ~ Seating 6:30 pm

Afterglow until 9 pm

Featuring Emcee Amy Lange of Fox 2 Detroit

& Drag Performance by Jadein Black of Boylesque

Host ~ All Access, Reserved Seating & Valet Parking \$500

Patron ~ Awards Ceremony, Afterglow, & Valet Parking \$150

Friend ~ Awards Ceremony and Drag Show Only \$50

Complimentary Bar Service and hors d'oeuvres at the VIP Reception and Afterglow

A Special Thank You to our Gold Sponsors:

DTE
Foundation

CHEMICAL
BANK
A Division of TCF National Bank

We also wish to recognize our Allies and Partners:

PACE
Pride Alliance
COUNCIL OF EASTERN MICHIGAN

BOYLESQUE
DRUG

Retro Girls

Wrigley's
Pharmacy

EO MI EQUALITY
MICHIGAN

► Bianca

Continued from p. 15

many people were coming out like they used to, so New York nightlife completely changed and I thought I could wrap this up at 40 and be OK. I'd had a great 20 years and that would've been that. But then at 38 – well, 37 is when I filmed “Drag Race” – it shifted everything, it elevated everything, and I was ready for the challenge. But I don't think I want to stay in that particular game. I mean, no one should. No one should stay in something just because you've been doing something. You have to trust your instincts and move on. I definitely know this is not something I want to do forever on this level. It's demanding – and by no means am I bitching about it. I'm being realistic here. Options! (Laughs)

After your controversial remark during Montreal Pride about “Drag Race” season 10 contestant Blair St. Clair in 2018, did that have you reconsidering how far to push the envelope?

First and foremost, I have a problem with, when you're watching a drag show and everybody has an ailment or an issue or loves to tug at your heartstrings to try to get people to like you. That's what I was discussing (during her set, Del Rio said, “You got the one going ‘Ugh, I'm fat.’ Then you got the other one going ‘Ugh, I'm a black queen,’” referencing season 10 contestants Eureka O'Hara and The Vixen. She then mentioned Blair St. Clair opening up about being sexually assaulted: “Then you got that other bitch, ‘I was raped!’ No, fuck you...”). I was discussing someone being left at a bus stop, somebody being sick.

All of that is part of the nonsense of being part of a reality show. And I'm entitled to an opinion when someone's about to lip sync for their life and they start pulling out all this fuckery. There's a time and place to discuss serious topics. So my joke was about people that find any way to bring up their heartache and pull on heartstrings, that's what I was discussing.

And so no, I refuse to change anything that I say and do because, like I said, the people who like it, like it, the people who don't, don't. But as they have an opinion about me, I can have an opinion about the ridiculousness of a drag show. It's my take on it. And I'm living proof that you can get through the show without fucking crying in every episode, for cripes' sake!

I laugh at the fuckery. I laugh at the stunts and gimmicks. It's no worse than somebody doing a death-drop. It's been done! Just fucking be entertaining! I'm so sick of all these sob stories! That's what that's about.

I'm guessing that even though you were named one of America's most powerful drag queens, it's not true that with great power comes great responsibility.

I think that's absolutely ridiculous. There's a

list that says I'm No. 1; there's another list that says I'm the worst drag queen. That's just how it works! None of that means anything. And what's this responsibility? I'm a fucking man in a wig making a living. I'm not a fucking superhero. And don't put me on a pedestal because I shouldn't be on a pedestal, because they love to put you on a pedestal and then tear you the fuck down. You cannot fool me. They love to say you're amazing. Like, look, this girl Lizzo is the one everybody loves right now. Just give her a year and there's gonna be something someone is gonna bitch about and pull out and say “she did this” and say “she did that” and CANCEL her. That's how they are. That's just the world. So look: I'm not looking for that type of acceptance. And you shouldn't be putting faith in fucking people that are on reality shows, for cripes' sake. That's ridiculous. People that idolize me or Snooki have problems.

Referring to the way the queens are depicted on “Drag Race” versus their actual persona, you said recently, “I've been behind the curtain. And when you're behind the curtain, it's kind of weird to watch.” Do people get a better understanding of who you are from your shows than they did from “Drag Race”?

Yes and no. The thing is you can only be yourself when you're on television, and of course if you say something they're going to use it. So the people that say, “Oh, it's the editing”? Well, if you didn't say it, they wouldn't have the footage. I've accepted responsibility for everything I said and everything I did, and sadly a lot of people don't do that when they leave the show. They have to blame someone, and it won't be themselves.

If you could have been on a different season of “Drag Race,” which season of girls would you have wanted to compete against?

I don't care. I don't have an opinion. (Laughs) I can't even remember who was on what season when! It's that much of a blur. It was six years ago, and I never watched the show when it was airing. I would watch marathons, but I would never watch it weekly, night after night after night. I never followed. The only seasons I'm familiar with are four and five; the rest of them have become a blur. And, I mean, a lot of them are my friends, but I can't remember which season they were on. I'm also a firm believer that it happened, it was great, I had a great experience and a great moment, but I wouldn't change any of it.

So if an “All Stars: Winners” season ever happens, would you be interested in competing?

Nope. Why? Would you go back to high school?

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



Wolverine
Human Services
Helping Children to be Victors

ANY CHILD, ANY PARENT, ANY TIME.

**FOSTER OR ADOPT WITH WOLVERINE HUMAN SERVICES
TEXT "PRIDE" TO 51555 FOR MORE INFORMATION**

AFFIRMATIONS

FALL *bling* 2019



The Wizard of Wine Party!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2019 - 7:00 PM

AFFIRMATIONS COMMUNITY CENTER

Enjoy Food/Drink/Wine/Entertainment and a 50-50 Raffle!

Admission: Two Bottles of Wine.
One to share, one for the wine raffle.

Please RSVP:
Website: GoAffirmations.org/fall-fling-2019
Email: ktaylor@goaffirmations.org
Phone: 248-398-7105



CAGE FREE 24 / 7

BOARDING IN COMFORT

HAPPY HOUNDS

Day & Overnight Care!



FOR DOGS

WHO DON'T LIKE TO BE TREATED LIKE ANIMALS

GROOMING
pet care extraordinaire
BOARDING

A SECOND HOME FOR YOUR FURRY FRIEND



1 ACCOMMODATIONS



Dog Day Care & Lodging

24/HR SUPERVISION

Call (734) 459-3647 or visit
www.HappyHoundsDayCare.com

673 S. Main, Plymouth, Michigan

The Long & Winding Road

a preaching series with Rev. Deb Cox

September 1st, 8th, & 15th
11:30am

After 12 years as Associate Pastor at MCC Detroit and 22 years of service to the UFMCC denomination, our beloved Rev. Deb Cox is retiring!

We invite you to join us for her final preaching series.





Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit
205 N. Main St, Clawson, MI 48017 | 248.399.7741

A diverse, inclusive Christian church serving the LGBTQ and ally community since 1972.



The Frivolist

8 Proactive Ways Couples Can Face Down Their Debt Demons Together

BY MIKEY ROX

Relationships are hard enough as it is, but throw money into the mix and it becomes a recipe for certain disaster. It doesn't have to go down like that though. Your relationship can survive a financial crisis – yes, even a menacing mound of debt – if you can both get on the same page and work together to solve the problem.

1. Avoid the Blame Game

Remember, it takes two to tango, and in most cases you didn't get into debt all alone. Before tempers flare and you both say and do things you regret, take a breather, regroup, and recognize that your current situation isn't the fault of one person. Even if a recent debt is the sole work of your partner – say, from a gambling addiction – getting angry and blowing your top won't help. Go through your emotions responsibly and concentrate on nipping the immediate issue in the bud – counseling may be necessary for this – before coming up with a plan of attack to get back in the black.

2. Pay Off Your Worst First

Once you have a handle on your debt and resolve yourself to proactively eliminate it, go hard. Debt won't dwindle away if you're passive about it. Attack the problem head on to keep it contained.

“Pay off your worst first,” says Steve Anzuoni, financial expert at Fairway Financial. “Sit with each other and gather your statements and pay down the higher-

interest cards first.”

Financial expert Harrine Freeman suggests a similar approach. “Set up payments plan with creditors,” she says. “Pay off old accounts first, then focus on paying down current debt. Keep credit card balances at 20% or less of the credit limit.”

3. Steer Clear of Financially Stressful Situations in the Future

Hindsight is 20/20 as they say, and this adage should absolutely apply to your finances. If you've gotten yourself in a hole, start digging yourself out and don't look back. Also be wary of new situations that can affect the hard work you've done to get back on track. Your relationship can only handle so much stress, and it's not fair to either of you to go into situations – even ones that seem like good moves financially – that will put the whole arrangement in jeopardy.

“I coach couples that financial stress can bring out or aggravate problems in a marriage that would not have otherwise have arisen,” says Elliott Katz, author of *Being the Strong Man a Woman Wants: Timeless Wisdom on Being a Man*. “They should avoid getting into financially stressful situations even if it will be profitable in the long term but will cause stress to them in the short term.”

4. Reduce Your Spending – Stat!

It may seem like an obvious tip to cut back your spending considerably when you're in debt, but you'd be surprised at how many people keep swiping those cards even when there's

a problem. Freeman suggests reducing the overall household spending by 30% to increase your monthly cash flow to pay off debt. It'll be a sacrifice for a while, but desperate times call for desperate measures if you want that debt burden off your back.

5. Accept That You're Not the Joneses, and That's OK

A lot of the time, couples go into debt trying to keep up with friends, family and neighbors – perhaps even more so for queer couples. You may be able to keep up for a while, but if you're spending money on things you can't afford just to *look* like you can, it'll come back to bite you eventually. Try to be happy with what you have or else work harder to improve your financial situation (picking up side gigs, furthering your education, asking for a promotion at work, getting a better-paying job, etc.) so that you can actually afford the things you want to buy as status symbols. Or, ya know, finally convince yourself that money doesn't buy happiness.

6. Set Up Payment Alerts to Stay on Track

If you have trouble remembering to pay bills, use technology to help you. Set reminders when bills are due and to be notified when account balances are low. Also set up overdraft protection if you're prone to overdrawing your account so you can at least cut back the fees you're charged.

7. Make It Clear Who Handles What Financial Responsibilities and When

Nobody *wants* to accept the responsibility of handling the relationship's finances – especially with all that can go wrong – but somebody has to do it. Make it clear which one of you that will be and create a budget and bill-paying schedule together so you can hold one another accountable and stay on track.

“Discuss who will manage the finances, who pays what bill, what finances will be joint, where finances will be managed, when finances will be managed, how finances will be managed currently and in the future, and how expenses and bills will be paid,” Freeman advises.

8. Enlist the Help of a Financial Planner If You're In Too Deep

If you're already in debt, the last thing you need is another expense. However, if the expense is to help you get out of the red, you get a pass. Sometimes you need help, especially if you have zero idea what you're doing with your money or how to manage it. Just make sure you're hiring a reputable financial planner. You don't need some hack all up in your bills charging you an arm and a leg for advice and planning that has no merit.

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



Ann Arbor Advertisers

- Abracadabra Jewelry & Gem Gallery 1
- Anderson, PLLC, Mary K. 2
- Ann Arbor City Club.....19
- Ann Arbor Civic Theatre..... 3
- Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra..... 4
- The Ark..... 5
- /aut/ Bar 6

- Brookside Veterinary Hospital* Bassett & Associates..... *
- Common Language 6
- Delux Drapery *
- Dependable Collision Center.* Esquire Interiors..... *
- First Unitarian Church of Ann Arbor..... *
- Gail van Langen Ph.d. 9
- Greene, LMSW, ACSW, Marge.....10

- HIV/AIDS Resource Center (Harc)..... *
- Humane Society of Huron Valley..... *
- Iglesia Martell Law11
- Jim Toy Resource Center 6
- Lewis Jewelers.....12
- Lord of Light Lutheran Church* Merkel Carpet One *
- Michigan Theater12
- Necto.....15

- People's Food Coop.....16
- PFLAG Ann Arbor..... *
- Rock Shoppe *
- Spectrum Center19
- Three Chairs Co..... 20
- Tios Mexican Cafe.....21
- Trillium Real Estate..... 6
- UMHS Comprehensive Gender Services Program ... *
- University Musical Society ...22
- * Not shown on map

BTL Cool Cities Ann Arbor



IGLESIA MARTELL

Law Firm, PLLC

Holistic Law - Practicing From The Heart.

Angie Martell, Partner

Experienced attorney and mediator with over 23 years of legal experience.

Specializes in:
 Divorce & Family Law • Criminal Defense
 Estate Planning & Elder Law
 LGBT Issues • Mediation • Civil Litigation
 Civil Rights • Business Law • Litigation
 Employee Rights





117 N. First St., Suite 111, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
www.iglesiamartell.com | 734-369-2331




Castle Remedies

**Homeopathy • Herbs • Quality Nutritional Supplements
 Essential Oils • Flower Essences • Books • Gifts • Jewelry**

www.CastleRemedies.com | Ann Arbor, MI | 734-973-8990

We value diversity in the City of Ann Arbor, and take pride in being **different from the rest.**



The City of Ann Arbor is an Equal Opportunity Employer

We are proud of our diverse workforce and our commitment to equal opportunity. We do not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived age, arrest record, color, disability, educational association, familial status, family responsibilities, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, height, HIV status, marital status, national origin, political beliefs, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, source of income, veteran status, victim of domestic violence or stalking, or weight in any aspect of our hiring or employment process. The City of Ann Arbor has earned a perfect score on the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's Municipal Equality Index (MEI), which assesses lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer equality in more than 500 cities across the nation.

a2gov.org/jobs

Dependable Collision Center



FREE loaners on any job
(subject to terms and conditions)

We are committed to providing the highest quality precision service.



5133 Carpenter Road, Suite A
 Ypsilanti, MI 48197
 Phone (734) 528-9581
 Fax (734) 528-9593
www.dependablecc.com

We work with all insurance companies!

National Theatre Live

Live **10** years on screen

BY EXPERIENCE HD
Supported and funded by the ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



FLEABAG

PHOEBE WALLER-BRIDGE

THU. SEPT. 26 7:30 PM

BUY TICKETS AT MICHTHEATER.ORG/FLEABAG

ANN ARBOR'S DOWNTOWN CENTER FOR FINE FILM AND THE PERFORMING ARTS
603 E. LIBERTY ST. • ANN ARBOR • (734) 668-8397 • MICHTHEATER.ORG

BTL Cool Cities Ann Arbor

Brookeside Veterinary Hospital 10% off ENTIRE BILL

(734) 761-7523

3010 Warren Rd.

Ann Arbor, MI 48105

www.BrookesideVet.net



Like us on Facebook!



11th Annual Harvest Festival

BY BTL STAFF

The annual Pittsfield Township Harvest Festival is a way for attendees to enjoy live music, learn lost arts like spinning and woodcarving, experience guided history at the Sutherland-Wilson Farmhouse, eat local food and more. Held on Sunday, Sept. 22 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Sutherland-Wilson Farm, guests can enjoy family friendly fun like a petting farm, lawn games and a hay ride.

Located at 797 W. Textile Road, Ann Arbor. Free parking and shuttle is available from Harvest Elementary (1155 Campus Pkwy). Handicapped parking and bike parking available on-site at the Sutherland-Wilson Farm. Visit pittsfield-mi.gov/harvestfestival for more information.



DJ Grind, Storm Area 51 Space Circuit Party at Necto

On Friday, Sept. 20, Pride Night at Necto Nightclub welcomes DJ Grind to a space-themed circuit party, even if you don't intend on storming Area 51. Necto Pride brings gay circuit DJs from around the world each month to Ann Arbor.

"DJ Grind (Stephen Massey) is one of the most sought-after DJs and producers on the gay circuit," write event organizers. "With a sound firmly anchored in uplifting house, DJ Grind's sets blend circuit, tech-house and tribal beats with strong melodies, progressive synths and euphoric vocals. This year, DJ Grind was the featured performer at the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras Main Party, the world's largest LGBT dance music event."

Cover all night is \$5 for those 21 and up and \$10 for those 18 through 20. Find out more online at necto.com.



'Fleabag' at The Michigan Theater

"Fleabag," the award-winning show called "witty, filthy and supreme" by the Guardian, is coming to the Michigan Theater on Thursday, Sept. 26, at 7:30 p.m.

"Fleabag" is the hilarious, award-winning, original one-woman play that inspired the BBC's hit TV series, written and performed on-stage by Phoebe Waller-Bridge," write event organizers. "In just 67-minutes, audiences can expect a rip-roaring look at some sort of woman living her sort of life."

Lauded by many reviewers, perhaps The Atlantic summarized it best: "Never has being a modern woman seemed so painfully funny, brutal and hopeless all at once."

Find out more about "Fleabag" online at michtheater.org. Tickets start at \$18.



Art and Brew Oct. 10

Art & Brew is the Art Center's annual fall fundraiser – a one-night beer and bite tasting tour across downtown Ann Arbor. Local favorite bars, restaurants and breweries compete against each other to create the best food and beer pairing of the night. Attendees will be able to enjoy food and drinks from Arbor Brewing Company, Avalon Cafe and Kitchen, The Grotto, Sava's and more. This event is presented by Old National Bank in partnership with O & W, Inc.

"Each participating venue will have two delicious craft beer and food pairings for you to try. Your Art & Brew ticket gets you 10 tasting tickets ... one ticket gets you a 3-ounce pour and a bite-sized taste," write event organizers. "Besides the tasting, you can vote for your favorite pairing and join in fun art-making activities along the route. Afterward, join us at Alley Bar for the official Art & Brew after-party – a special PBR edition of Straight Up featuring a DJ set and PBR specials."

Attendees must be 21 or older by Oct. 10, 2019, to enjoy the fun. Find out more online at annarborartcenter.org.



BASSETT LAW

Legal Services
for Life's Changes

Elder Law - Adoptions
LGB & Transgender Law
Assisted Reproduction Law - Estate Planning

www.bassettlaw.com 734-930-9200

MASSAGE MECHANICS

Accessible. Inclusive. Exceptional.



734.408.1648

7 S. WASHINGTON. YPSILANTI
YPSIMASSAGEMECHANICS.COM

TIOS TEQUILLA BAR!



OVER
100
DIFFERENT
TEQUILLAS!
TASTE OUR
SPECIAL
HERRADURA
PRIVATE RESERVE!
**OUR BEERS,
LIKE OUR
FOOD, ARE
THE BEST OF
MICHIGAN
& MEXICO**

THURSDAY LATE NIGHT SPECIAL

1/2 OFF
ALL TEQUILLAS - 10PM-2AM
**HAND-CRAFTED
MEXICAN FOOD & DRINKS
IN ANN ARBOR**

You can now enjoy one of our
Classic Margaritas or Sangria Especial
along with your scrumptious Mexican meal.

Taste the difference!

HOME OF
ADAM RICHMAN'S
MT. NACHEESMO CHALLENGE!
Open Mon-Sat 10 am - 2 am



401 E. LIBERTY · ANN ARBOR MI
761-6650 · WWW.TIOSMEXICANCAFE.COM



Norton's 
FLOWERS & GIFTS

**SERVING WASHTENAW AND
WESTERN WAYNE COUNTIES**

Largest Florist Serving All of Washtenaw and Western Wayne Counties · One of America's Top 100 Florists · Let our talented, experienced staff design the perfect arrangements for your weddings and special events. We're equally ready to help you make everyday occasions extra special with our flowers, plants, gifts, cards, keepsakes, chocolates and unique home decor items.

Established in 1892. We Deliver the WOW!
Visit or call us at one of our three locations:



YPSILANTI STORE
Open 7 Days a Week!
2900 Washtenaw Ave.,
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
734-434-2700

ANN ARBOR - WEST SIDE
2558 W. Stadium Blvd.,
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
734-769-9100

ANN ARBOR - DOWNTOWN
Chelsea Flower Shop
203 E. Liberty St.,
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734-662-5616

800-682-8667 - WWW.NORTONSFLOWERS.COM

Supporting the Community Since Before it was Cool.

100% Local Agents. 100% Client Focused.
Trillium Real Estate Helps People
Make Good Decisions.



Sandi & Linda
www.trilliumrealtors.com

323 Braun Ct. Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734-302-3011



Happenings



070 SHAKE AT EL CLUB

Danielle Balbuena is a singer and rapper who is best-known by fans as 070 Shake. A part of the musical collective 070, Balbuena contributed to the mixtape “The 070 Project: Chapter 1” and has since released her debut EP “Glitter.” She’s also collaborated with artists like Kanye West, DJ Khaled and Kid Cudi. On Friday, Oct. 4, she’ll make her way to El Club in Detroit. Find out more about the show online at elclubdetroit.com.

Stand with Trans Support Groups – Livonia – Wayne County 7:30 p.m. Free to all. Parent Support Group Facilitators Karen Sessler, kssesse@yahoo.com or 734-673-3590. Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 7 Mile Road, Livonia. standwithtrans.org.

Thursday, September 26

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Farmington Hills – Oakland County 8 p.m. All youth are welcome to attend this FREE group. This group meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month @ Orchard United Methodist Church.

Tuesday, October 1

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Lake Orion / Oakland County 7 p.m. Free and open to the community. For parents of transgender kids. St. Mary’s In The Hills Episcopal Church, 2512 Joslyn Court, Lake Orion. 248-391-0663. stmarysinthehills.org. standwithtrans.org.

Thursday, October 3

Pride Night at Thunderbowl! 8 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. Thunderbowl Arena, 4200 Allen Road, Allen Park. 313-928-4688. thunderbowl.org.

Saturday, October 5

Grupo Corpo 8 p.m. The phenomenal Brazilian dance company Grupo Corpo makes its third UMS appearance with a double bill of Bach and Gira, two wildly different works that showcase the 21-member group’s extraordinary range. One event on October 6 at 4 p.m. Power Center, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. 734-647-3327. smt.d.umich.edu.

Friday, October 11

Voices of Freedom Annual Gala 6 p.m. MotorCity Casino Grand Ballroom, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 248-803-0645. freedomhousedetroit.org.

Sunday, October 13

BTL’s Ultimate Wedding & Anniversary Expo 12 p.m. Between The Lines once again presents the Ultimate Wedding & Anniversary Expo. This year, the annual event moves to The Henry in Dearborn. The Henry, Fairlane Plaza, 300 Town Center Dr., Dearborn. 313-441-2000. donelle@pridesource.com. behenny.com. MILGBTWedding.com.

OUTINGS

Friday, September 13

Mission Equality Fall Reception. Held at Roostertail, 100 Marquette Drive, Detroit. Cocktail Hour 6 p.m., Plated dinner 7 p.m. with keynote speaker Attorney General Dana Nessel. Purchase tickets at www.equalitymi.org/missionequality.

Saturday, September 14

An Evening with Ozone House. Cocktails

6 p.m., program 7:15 p.m. Celebrate the 11th Annual Fall fundraiser and 50th Anniversary. Seated family style dinner, live and silent auction, youth speakers and entertaining MC, at Domino’s World Resource Center, Lobby F, 30 Frank Lloyd Wright Drive, Ann Arbor. Tickets at ozonehouse.org

Sunday, September 15

Stand with Trans Wyandotte Support Group for Trans Youth and Parents of Trans Individuals 5 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.

LGBT Social Meet Up 6:30 p.m. Lgbt social meet up group is a group for all lgbt people who want to meet have lighthearted discussions and social activities. Hazel Park Community Center, 620 West Woodward Heights, Hazel Park. 248-632-8274. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com.

Monday, September 16

LGBT Game Night 6 p.m. LGBT Game Night is an opportunity for all LGBT people and allies to come play a board game, drink coffee, bring your own drinks and socialize with other LGBT individuals. All are welcomed. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com.

Wednesday, September 18


Affirmations Senior Koffee Clatch! 2 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.

Editor’s Pick

PATTI SMITH AT THE ROYAL OAK MUSIC THEATRE

On Monday, Sept. 16, and Tuesday, Sept. 17, Patti Smith will perform at the Royal Oak Music Theatre. The internationally known and Grammy Award-winning artist has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and is scheduled to tour through the end of this year around the world. Find out more about the show and her history online at royaloakmusictheatre.com.





Transcendence
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Therapists
Caring for Our
Community Since 2001

248.259.1991 Royal Oak • Livonia • Grosse Pointe
LGBTQIA, Individual, Couples, HIV+, Depression, Anxiety, Trauma, Grief
BCBS • Medicare • Medicaid • Sliding Scale • Out of Network

Stephanie Williams, Ph.D, Licensed Psychologist
tbhpsychologists.com

Editor's Pick

BARKTOBERFEST SEPT. 15 IN ROYAL OAK

A fall festival for dogs and dog-lovers alike, Barktoberfest also features locally brewed craft beer and music. Happening on Sunday, Sept. 15, the festival encourages attendees to bring their dogs, a friend and enjoy the food, music and drinks. Find out more online at royaloakchamber.com.



Monday, October 14

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Macomb County 7:30 p.m. Come and meet other trans* youth and teens and support each other through your journeys. Dakota High School, 21051 21 Mile Road, Macomb. 586-723-2700. chippewavalley.schools.org.

Wednesday, October 16

Isango Ensemble – The Magic Flute 7:30 p.m. Isango Ensemble is a South African theater company that draws its artists from the townships surrounding Cape Town. The company reimagines classics from the Western theater canon while finding new context for the stories within. Power Center, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. 734-647-3327. smt.umich.edu.

Friday, October 18

Isango Ensemble – A Man of Good Hope 8 p.m. Experience the riveting true story of a Somali refugee with a painful past, miraculous good luck, and a brilliant head for business, told through roof-lifting songs and dance accompanied on marimbas. Power Center, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. 734-647-3327. smt.umich.edu.

Saturday, October 19

50 Years After Stonewall Symposium 9:30 a.m. Join AARP and SAGE Metro Detroit in celebration and reflection of the 50th anniversary of Stonewall at the 50 Years After Stonewall Symposium. For free lunch reception, registration is required. WSU Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, 259 Mack Ave., Detroit. info@sagemetrodetroit.org.

MUSIC & MORE

CATS 1 p.m. CATS, the record-breaking

musical spectacular by Andrew Lloyd Webber that has captivated audiences in over 30 countries and 15 languages, is now on tour across North America and is coming to Detroit! Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-872-1000. broadwayindetroit.com.

Amadeus – Film with Live Orchestra 2 p.m. Winner of eight Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Actor, the 1984 motion picture Amadeus makes its UMS debut projected on a large screen, with Mozart's celebrated works performed live by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 734-764-3464. ums.org.

K. Flay September 20, 7 p.m. Singer, songwriter, rapper and musician K. Flay was nominated for two awards at the 60th annual Grammy Awards. The Crofoot, 1 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. 248-850-9333. thecrofoot.com http://thecrofoot.com.

All About Eve – National Theatre Live in HD September 22, 7 p.m. Gillian Anderson (X-Files) and Lily James (Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again!) star in All About Eve, the story of Margo Channing. A legend and true star of the theater, the spotlight is hers and Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397. ums.org.

Come From Away October 1, 8 p.m. Broadway's COME FROM AWAY is a Best Musical winner all across North America. Written by Tony® nominees Irene Sankoff and David Hein, and helmed by this year's Tony-winning Best Director, Christopher Ashley. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-872-1000. broadwayindetroit.com.

Sara Bareilles October 5, 8 p.m. Sara Bareilles is a Grammy, Tony and Emmy Award-nominated singer, songwriter, actress and author. On Saturday, Oct. 5, she'll be visiting Detroit's Fox Theatre with Emily King. gaybe.am/ls. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-471-6611.

gaybe.am/ls.

Dionne Warwick October 6, 7:30 p.m. On Sunday, Oct. 6, Dionne Warwick will come to the Sound Board at MotorCity Casino Hotel. Find out more online at gaybe.am/ TM Motor City Casino Sound Board, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 313-309-4700. motorcitycasino.com.

Robyn October 8, 6:30 p.m. The Swedish pop singer will perform at Detroit's Masonic Temple as part of her Honey Tour with special guests ESG. Detroit Masonic Temple, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., #1100, Detroit. 800-854-2196. templedetroit.com. aegworldwide.com.

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center October 11, 8 p.m. This concert celebrates the intrepid American spirit by featuring two pairs of composers that shaped the course of American music. Harry T. Burleigh was Dvořák's star student at the National Conservatory in New York. A Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor. 734-764-8572. rackham.umich.edu.

Rent 20th Anniversary Tour October 11, 8 p.m. The Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning musical "Rent" will play at the Fox Theatre on Friday, Oct. 11, and Saturday, Oct. 12. Relive the 1996 classic production by Jonathan Larson. Tickets start at \$35.

National Theatre Live in HD: The Lehman Trilogy October 13, 7 p.m. Academy Award-winner Sam Mendes directs Simon Russell Beale, Adam Godley, and Ben Miles, who play the Lehman Brothers, their sons, and their grandsons. On a cold September morning in 1844, a young man from Bavaria. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397. ums.org.

Isango Ensemble – The Magic Flute October 16, 7:30 p.m. Isango Ensemble is a South African theater company that draws its artists from the townships surrounding Cape Town. The company reimagines classics from the Western theater canon while finding new context for the stories within. Power Center, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. 734-647-3327. smt.umich.edu.

Isango Ensemble – A Man of Good Hope October 18, 8 p.m. Experience the riveting true story of a Somali refugee with a painful past, miraculous good luck and a brilliant head for business, told through roof-lifting songs and dance accompanied on marimbas. Power Center, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. 734-647-3327. smt.umich.edu.

Dennis Matsev October 18, 8 p.m. After his triumph at the 11th International Tchaikovsky Competition in 1998, Denis Matsuev has become a virtuoso in the grandest of Russian pianistic traditions and has established himself as one of the most prominent pianists Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 734-764-3464. ums.org.

New Location The Henry • Dearborn

Between THE Lines™

THE ULTIMATE LGBTQ WEDDING EXPO 9th ANNUAL HOME & LIFE

Join Us For An Afternoon Celebration with Equality-Minded Businesses and Services

Sunday, Oct. 13

Complimentary Continental Brunch Begins 11 a.m.
Expo Doors Open at Noon • Free Parking

2019 Sponsors



300 Town Center Drive, Dearborn, Michigan



\$5 Advance / \$10 at door

Family Group Rates Call 734-293-7200 x. 101

Tickets Available at:

MiLGBTWedding.com

A	B	A	S	H	A	B	B	A	L	O	B	O	
L	O	U	I	E	B	R	E	L	Y	U	R	I	
L	O	T	T	A	B	O	L	L	E	T	A	L	
I	N	H	O	L	L	Y	W	O	O	D	R	N	S
		N	E	O	S	L	U	R	P	E	D		
C	L	A	I	R	O	L	O	T	I	S			
C	A	N	T	S	T	O	P	P	I	T	A	S	
E	M	O	S	O	A	P	S	T	H	E	O	R	
D	A	N	C	E		T	H	E	M	U	S	I	C
		A	G	O	G	S	N	A	P	S	A	T	
G	O	T	O	P	O	T	O	R	S				
P	A	C	N	E	W	Y	O	R	K	C	I	T	Y
I	R	E	D	R	E	P	S	O	A	S	I	S	
E	B	A	Y	A	S	E	A	F	L	A	R	E	
D	O	N	E	S	T	A	Y	F	E	W	E	R	

Solution to Q Puzzle p. 25

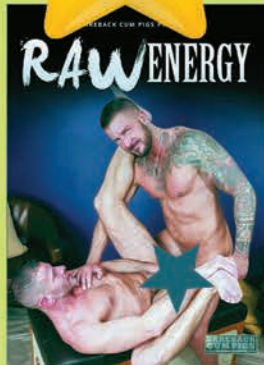
www.PrideSource.com

THE FINEST IN ADULT ENTERTAINMENT AT THE BEST PRICES!

BUY
ADULT DVD'S
STARTING AT
\$5.95

EVERY TUES & FRIDAY
NEW
RELEASE
DAY

ALL XXX
DVD RENTALS
AS LOW AS \$1.25
EVERY DAY!



UPTOWN SALE
\$10 OFF
ANY \$50 PURCHASE
\$20 OFF
ANY \$100 PURCHASE
REG. PRICED MERCHANDISE
SEP 28 - OCT 3 2019

SPECIAL 50% OFF
BUY ONE DVD AT REG. PRICE
& GET THE SECOND DVD AT 1/2 PRICE
SECOND DVD MUST BE THE SAME PRICE OR OF
LESSER VALUE! RED STICKER ONLY!
SEPT-12-15, 2019

Rush - Jungle Juice - Maximum Impact -
Swiss Navy - Amsterdam - ID Glide - COLT-
Butterfly Kiss Pink - The Womanizer

UPTOWN
BOOKSTORES
ADULT VIDEO
2 LOCATIONS
WWW.UPTOWNADULT.COM

16541 Woodward Ave.
at McNichols next to "Deja Vu"
Highland Park
313.869.9477

16401 W. 8 Mile
Between Greenfield & Southfield
Detroit
313.836.0647

Hours:
Mon-Sat 9am - 10pm
Sun Noon - 8pm

Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

This is not a drill: There's a new 'Matrix' movie on the way

Neo and Trinity! The red pills that those unpleasant internet dudes keep going on and on about (incorrectly)! Very cool outfits of the cyberfuture! It's all coming back around again with a fourth "Matrix" installment, officially a go at Warner Bros. Lana Wachowski will direct and is co-writing the film alongside Aleksandar Hemon ("Sense8") and David Mitchell ("Cloud Atlas"). Keanu Reeves and Carrie-Anne Moss are also back on board. Now, we have no idea what it will be about because the Wachowskis are legendarily quiet about content until it's ready to be seen. And really, who needs spoilers? We've watched the growth and flowering of Wachowski World from the time of "Bound," through "Speed Racer," and up to the unfairly maligned – and also quite extravagantly weird and wild – "Jupiter Ascending" and the fact is that we are here for every new twist and turn in the spaced out journey. At the moment, Lilly Wachowski seems to have no involvement in this, but we assume she's going to be hovering around doing... something? Cameras roll in 2020, so you'll probably get to re-enter the Matrix sometime in 2021.

Julianne Moore is a 'Mothertrucker'

If you saw Julianne Moore's appearance with Billy Eichner on his show "Billy on The Street," you'll recall him saying, "For a dollar she'll do something understated!" And that is how the moviegoing public generally thinks of the Academy Award-winning actress. But we also know she has range, and it'll probably come in handy when she stars in the upcoming Jill Soloway ("Transparent") film "Mothertrucker." Moore will play Instagram-famous personality Joy "Mothertrucker," America's lone female ice road big rig trucker. Joy is also the subject of Amy Butcher's memoir of the same name, about the relationship formed between them when Butcher went to Alaska to ride along on a dangerous drive. The book will be published by Amazon in early 2022, probably around the same time as the film's release. Meanwhile, the role of Amy is still in the casting process, but expect one of the current crop of young A-listers to attach herself soon.

'Euphoria' gets a second season

Is the HBO series "Euphoria" good or bad? Is its dominant narrative revolving around a group of cisgender female and trans femme teenagers progressive? Or does it engage in exploitation when its characters suffer in grand, frightening ways? Does its harrowing depiction of drug use,



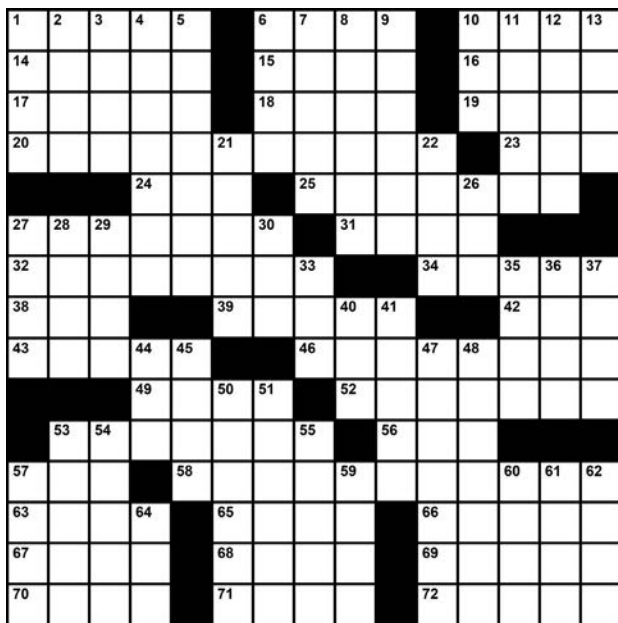
Julianne Moore. Photo: Denis Makarenko

sexual violence and other trauma make it honest or irresponsible? Sometimes it's difficult to sort out. But we do know that its cast, led by the impressive Zendaya, is giving it their all, and the dreamily hazy music video qualities it possesses make it seem highly attractive even as it depicts a fairly brutal vision of adolescence. And now there'll be a season two – thank goodness, because all its story lines ended in cliffhangers – so when we gather up our courage to dive back into the relentlessly grim teenage tragedy, it'll probably already be waiting for us. We'll be on board in the anticipation of a hopeful, if not necessarily happy, ending for these kids. They deserve it.

Twenty years of 'Merrily We Roll Along'

The classic Stephen Sondheim musical "Merrily We Roll Along" is the story of friends whose show business careers span 20 years. When the action begins they are middle-aged, successful, estranged and unhappy. And then the story moves back in time, little by little, ending with a powerfully moving final act that sees them all headstrong young comrades full of hope and belief in the power of that friendship. Well, who better to film this sort of years-spanning saga than Richard Linklater, the man who shot his adolescent epic "Boyhood" over the course of 12 years with the same actors, allowing his main character to grow up before the audience's eyes. This time, though, the shooting schedule – already in progress – will last two decades, and twentysomething stars Ben Platt ("Dear Evan Hanson"), Beanie Feldstein ("Booksmart") and Blake Jenner ("Glee") will shoot the beginning of the film sometime in the late 2030s, when they've reached actual middle age, for a theatrical release sometime close to 2040. Now let's hope that there are still theaters in 2040 and that climate change has been adequately addressed so that there's still an audience. Happy waiting!

Romeo San Vicente is voting for whoever likes the Green New Deal.



Remembering Henri

QPuzzle

Across

- 1 Embarrass with porn, perhaps
- 6 "Dancing Queen" band
- 10 WNBA star Rebecca
- 14 Nephew of Donald Duck
- 15 Jacques of song
- 16 Doctor Zhivago
- 17 Young girl of old comics
- 18 Cotton pod at Tara
- 19 And others, for Caesar

- 20 Village People song with the line "Everybody is a star"
- 23 They work under 5-Down
- 24 Keanu's role in "The Matrix"
- 25 Went down on loudly
- 27 Big name in hair care
- 31 Elevator pioneer Elisha
- 32 With 46-Across, Village People song about invincible songs
- 34 Pockets stuffed with meat
- 38 Alt-rock genre

- 39 "The L Word," and others
- 42 Rough stuff underground
- 43 Fosse field
- 46 See 32-Across
- 49 With mouth wide open
- 52 Bites the head off of, perhaps
- 53 Hit the skids
- 56 Places for Dr. Kerry Weaver
- 57 D.C. lobby group
- 58 Village People song about the Big Apple
- 63 Steamed up
- 65 Muscle Mary stat
- 66 Wet spot on a blanket of sand
- 67 Auction web site
- 68 Sailing the Pacific, e.g.
- 69 Flaming queen's quality
- 70 Ready to be eaten
- 71 Choose not to come
- 72 Not as many

Down

- 1 Weight loss product
- 2 Big asset
- 3 Rita Mae Brown, e.g. (abbr.)
- 4 Advice to a bottom who wants to be on top?
- 5 Dr. Kim, and others
- 6 Name on a column
- 7 Nags beat them
- 8 Village People producer Henri (1936-2019)
- 9 Closet-emptying cry?
- 10 Tough cleaner
- 11 Really queer
- 12 Burn on the rear of a steer

- 13 Lubricates
- 21 Rifles
- 22 Plumbing problem
- 26 Greek consonant
- 27 Reproduced without sex, for short
- 28 Teacher in "The King and I"
- 29 Soon, long ago
- 30 Orton's bathroom
- 33 Butter portion
- 35 Love yourself, with "off"
- 36 "Aida" solo
- 37 Religious splinter group
- 40 Acidity nos.
- 41 Lorca's guy
- 44 Tin roof animal of Tennessee?
- 45 Ghostbusters role
- 47 Set boundaries
- 48 Like some pricey items at Barneys
- 50 Britten's "Billy Budd" and more
- 51 Village People song with a Horace Greely quote
- 53 "Queen Christina" star
- 54 Rehoboth Beach setting
- 55 Aggressive sort
- 57 Like a Piper in a fairy tale
- 59 Anthem starter
- 60 Voyeur's confession
- 61 Kind of jack
- 62 North Sea feeder
- 64 Head job?

Find solution on page 23 and at www.pridesource.com

Coming Sept. 19



For info: Call 734-293-7200 ext 101

PRIDESOURCE.com
CHOOSE EQUALITY-CONSCIOUS BUSINESSES

Sexual Assault Survivors

We believe you. Need to talk?

SAFEHOUSE
CENTER
Building communities
free of domestic violence
and sexual assault

(734) 995-5444

24 Hour • Free • Confidential

www.safehousecenter.org

PrEP Clinic


Now Open
Tuesdays
10:00am-3:00pm

3011 West Grand Blvd
Suite 230
Detroit, MI 48202
313-446-9800

UNIFIED
My health and beyond
LIFE CONTINUES. LIVE HEALTHY.
In partnership with
Sinai Grace Hospital

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

WWW.MIUNIFIED.ORG


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

PrEP must be taken every day to be most effective

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

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

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

Community Connections

Gay-Owned Store Untied on Woodward is Helping Men Discover Their Passion for Fashion With a Local Feel

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

A mix of denim, leather goods, swimwear and boldly printed tops, Untied on Woodward is a menswear boutique that encourages shoppers to ditch the formalities and embrace a sleeker take on the laid-back look. It's even in the name.

"It's called Untied because you're taking your tie off to wear casual clothing. I used to work at a lot of department stores where we were forced to wear suits and ties, and I hated all that," said owner Erik Miller.

But being easygoing certainly doesn't mean sloppy; Miller is adamant that "dressing nice" doesn't mean forsaking stylish options. In keeping with that theme, shoppers looking to attend a business casual work meeting could comfortably choose from Untied's array of clothing alongside someone going to a concert. Having opened its doors barely a year ago, Miller said he got the idea for the shop while at work at one of his former retail jobs several years ago.

"I've always worked in retail and the department store I worked at went out of business and filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy, and they shut down all of their stores nationwide," he said. "... I worked in the Ralph Lauren department, and the people from Ralph Lauren were literally coming in and pulling merchandise off of the shelves because they hadn't been paid in months. I thought, 'If they're not getting paid, then I'm not going to get paid. I should just open up my own store.'"

Thus Untied was born. Asked about any changes coming up with the store's impending anniversary, Miller said he's looking to expand the style options available, and he's starting with sizing.

"When I first opened, I didn't have as much of a size range and I've gotten a lot of requests for bigger sizes, because people want to look fashionable even though they have to wear say like an extra, extra, large or something," Miller said. "So, in fall, we have all bigger sizes coming in a lot of these brands. So, it's styles and fits for everybody to make everybody feel beautiful and comfortable."

Being an openly gay business owner



Untied owner Erik Miller. BTL Photo: Eve Kucharski

himself, Miller pointed to the fact that inclusivity of all kinds is important to him. He said that at first he was nervous about being open about his sexuality, but was able to find a comfortable niche in the Birmingham market. Miller said that his draw to clothing has in part always been about self-presentation.

"I do find it empowering," he said. "I feel like people can have their own expression with clothing."

Beyond shifting to provide more accessible sizing, an expansion into womenswear is potentially on Miller's radar, too. However, he said that he already has many female customers coming in to shop, too.

"I get a lot of different people shopping in here, too, like women come in here to buy shirts and stuff. Everybody wears it. I'd love to get women [coming in more], it's just a really tight market in Birmingham here; everywhere you look there's a women's store, and there's not too many men's stores. So, I don't want to step on anybody's toes," Miller said.

But Miller is certain he wants to expand his reach to locally made fashion. He said he especially prides

himself on carrying bolder patterns than one would find in traditional department stores and he makes sure to carry local brands that create unique styles.

"There's this really cool local Detroit brand I just got in touch with. They're called First Class Committee and everything's handmade here in Detroit, and they have factories where they make all the shirts and they have these really cool flannels that are dyed. I'd love to work with more Detroit-based companies. I sell Detroit Grooming Co., which is made in Ferndale, and all the Detroit T-shirts I sell here are made locally, and I'm all about supporting the local community," Miller said.

Asked why local is his focus and Miller's answer was simple: "Just to help with the local economy, keep everything local and especially, I try to work with gay-owned businesses as well, which is very important. ... I'm always looking to change things up, mix it up and keep it interesting."

To learn more about Untied on Woodward visit Untied-on-woodward.shoplightspeed.com.

Prism of Possibilities Psychotherapy

Christine Cantrell, PhD
Fully Licensed Psychologist

Give yourself an extreme
self makeover ...

- ▼ Speak Your Truth
- ▼ Discover What You Want
- ▼ Create Your True Self
- ▼ Heal Old Hurts, Find Wholeness

Located in Royal Oak
www.christinecantrell.com
christinecantrellphd@gmail.com



CALL NOW! 248-591-2888

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

AIDS/HIV

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

Metro Care Coordination Network

Free, comprehensive services for those living with HIV/AIDS.
877-931-3248
248-266-5545
Metrocarenetwork.org

UNIFIED - HIV Health & Beyond

3968 Mt. Elliott St.
Detroit MI 48207-1841
313-446-9800
www.miunified.org
Michigan HIV/STED Hotline
800-872-2437

Matrix MAC Health

429 Livernois St.
Ferndale, MI 48220
888-226-6366
248-545-1435
<http://www.matrixhumanservices.org/programs/matrix-mac-health/>

Macomb County STD Clinic

27690 Van Dyke
Warren, MI 48093
586-465-8440
<http://health.macombgov.org/Health-Programs-HPDC-HIVAIDSCounselingTesting>

Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLSHA)

196 Cesar E. Chavez Ave.
Pontiac, MI 48343
248-209-2647
www.olhsa.org

Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Service (ACCESS)

Sterling Heights Center
4301 East 14 Mile Rd.
Sterling Hts., MI 48310
586-722-6036
www.accesscommunity.org

Advocacy

Equality Michigan

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

Campus

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

U-M Ann Arbor

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

Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center

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

Eastern Michigan University

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

The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center

ltu.edu/student_affairs/lgbt.asp
Wayne State JIGSAW
[Facebook.com/groups/WayneStateJIGSAW](https://www.facebook.com/groups/WayneStateJIGSAW)
wsujigsaw@gmail.com

Community Centers

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

Jim Toy Community Center

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

LGBT Detroit

Detroit
www.lgbtdetroit.org
[@LGBTDetroit](https://www.facebook.com/lgbtdetroit)
20025 Greenfield Road
Detroit, MI
Phone: 313-397-2127

Affirmations

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

248-398-7105

Legal

American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

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

Fair Michigan

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

Know Your Rights Project

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

Older Adults

SAGE Metro Detroit

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

Political

The LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party

[Facebook.com/TheLGBTACaucusoftheMDP](https://www.facebook.com/TheLGBTACaucusoftheMDP)
CaucusoftheMDP
Stonewall for Revolution
www.facebook.com/stonewall4revolution

Professional Groups

Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

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

Ties Like Me

Professional networking events
third Weds. 5:30 - 8 p.m.
TiesLikeMe.org
Suits And The City
Lansing, MI
suitsandthecity@gmail.com
www.suitsandthecity.org

Transgender

FtM Detroit

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

Get Listed, Promote Your Events

You can add or update any listing by going to www.PrideSource.com and clicking on Yellow Pages. Once you submit your listing, our staff will contact you to confirm your information.

You can add your event to the Pride Source Calendar online and in print by going to www.PrideSource.com and clicking on Calendar, then "Add Event." Send any press releases and announcements to editor@pridesource.com



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

FtM A2 Ypsi

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

Transgender Michigan

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

Trans Sistas of Color Project

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

Youth

Ruth Ellis Center

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

Ozone House

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

Stand With Trans

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

Find these resources online

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

Your Best Choice in Healthcare For All the Right Reasons

Dr. Paul Benson's

Be Well
Medical Center

1964 Eleven Mile Rd
Berkley, MI 40872

(248) 544-9300

doctorbewell.com



Most Experienced and Knowledgeable

Established in 1980 as the first Primary Care Medical Clinic in the Detroit area specializing in our LGBTQ community.

Board Certified in Family Practice & Designated Patient-Centered Medical Home

by Blue Cross Blue Shield as a Center of Excellence.

We're a Recipient of the Peter M. Fox Excellence in HIV Credentialing Award from the American Academy of HIV Medicine. Also, Dr. Benson was one of the first physicians credentialed and has maintained the AAHIV-S specialist designation since.

Certified Clinical Research Professional by the Society of Clinical Research Associates. A Principle Investigator in Clinical Trials since 1989 providing early access to life-saving HIV Medications.

Extensive Network of Sensitive Specialists

with an ongoing relationship to refer as necessary.

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

He leads our team of professional and talented Providers:

There is a difference. We're a patient-friendly Private Practice small enough to individualize care by a staff that knows you and large enough to manage all of your Primary Care Needs.

- HIV Prevention (PrEP), Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP), STI testing & treatment
- Hormone Affirming Therapy for HIV positive and negative transgender individuals
- Evening Clinic Hours Monday-Thursday, most Saturdays, and Same Day Appointments
- Full-time Patient Navigator/Advocate Social Worker on site
- Most Insurances accepted
- Ryan White Provider
- Medcart Pharmacy on Premises
- Group Medical Appointments (available soon!)
- Tele-Medical Visits (available soon!)



Caleb Youngblood, PA-C, AAHIV-S



Mark Rosen, PA-C



Leon Bullough, NP-F



Keyuna Nance, MSW