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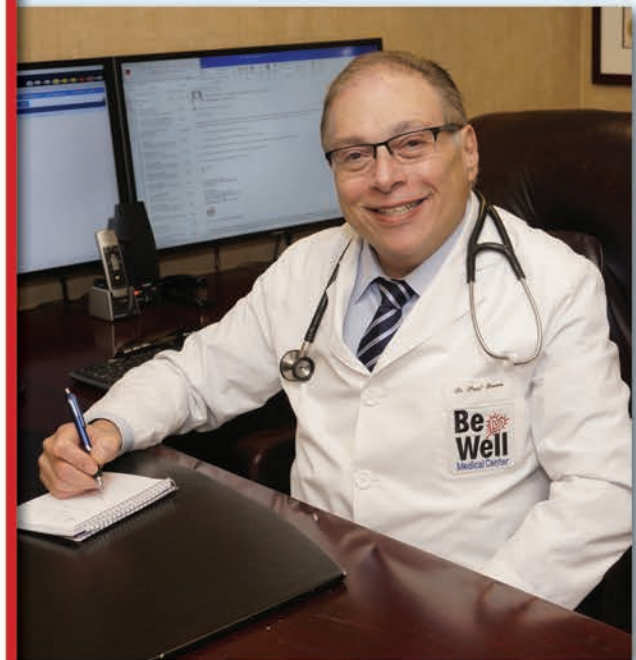
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**VOL. 2751 • DEC. 19, 2019 - JAN. 8, 2020**  
**ISSUE 1137**

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# 10 Ways the Trump Administration has Harmed LGBTQ Equality so Far



BY EVE KUCHARSKI

As 2019 winds to a close and the 2020 presidential election draws closer, many Americans will be shifting their focus to all things political. Within the LGBTQ community candidates who have pro-equality stances will be front and center for consideration. And while that is a regular trend for every election cycle, it's worth noting that the current administration's rollbacks in LGBTQ equality are unrivaled for a president who ran as an ally.

Because Donald Trump is running for a second term it is perhaps more important than ever to have a true sense of this administration's anti-LGBTQ actions during the past three years. Though this list is not an exhaustive one, *Between The Lines* has compiled 10 examples that point to a disturbing trend of rights reversals and outright denials for LGBTQ people under Trump's presidency.

## 1 Altering Policy to House Transgender Inmates Primarily by "Biological Sex"

On May 11, 2018, the U.S. Department of Justice changed an Obama-era guideline in its Transgender Offender Manual recommended by the Transgender Executive Council that inmates be housed "by gender identity when appropriate." The Council is a group of representatives from various prison-related organizations designed to properly identify, track and provide services to the transgender population. Under the changes, "The TEC will use biological sex as the initial determination

for designation."

Within the changes, the TEC is advised to consider whether "placement would threaten the management and security of the institution and/or pose a risk to other inmates in the institution."

Advocates say that these changes imply that housing transgender inmates with their gender identity will potentially cause harm to prison "security and good order." However, according to LGBTQ People Behind Bars, a 2018 report created by the National Center for Transgender Equality, transgender people are already disproportionately affected by violence and this change will only serve to cause more harm.

"Transgender people are nearly 10 times more likely to be sexually assaulted than the general prison population," the study said.

## 2 Banning Transgender People from Serving in the Military

It was on July 26, 2017, that President Trump tweeted his intentions to ban transgender people from service in the military. He wrote that after consultations with "generals" and "military experts" that the military "... cannot be burdened with the tremendous medical costs and disruption that transgender (sic) in the military would entail."

Since 2016, when transgender members of the military were officially allowed to serve, the Associated Press reported that less than 1 percent of military spending was allocated to transgender health care. According to a BuzzFeed News report on the matter, two

emails sent by Gen. Joseph Dunford — the highest-ranking military general in the U.S. — on July 27, 2017 to generals of the Air Force, Army, Marines, National Guard and Navy said the announcement was "unexpected" and that he was "not consulted" before Trump's announcement.

In 2017, Reuters interviewed Indiana National Guard reservist Cameron St. Andrew who is transgender and originally from Michigan. Despite serving more than a decade in the military, after Trump's election he resigned from full-time service, anticipating a change like the military ban. At the time of the interview, he said he was concerned about his transgender status.

"I try to be tough about it," he said, but added: "It breaks your spirit down."

In April of 2019 the ban went into effect, preventing anyone openly transgender from joining the military or beginning the process of transitioning.

## 3 Creating Pathways for Religious Exemptions in Health Care Via 'Conscience' Rule

As of July 22, 2019, the Trump Administration put forth a "conscience" rule that expanded legal protections for federally funded health care providers who refused to provide medical services due to moral or religious objections. Critics of this rule said that its broad definitions could reduce health care access for LGBTQ people who already struggle to find inclusive care because service providers could feel empowered to deny services.

"The Department does not dispute that people in such demographic categories face health care disparities of various forms. The Department does disagree, however, with these comments' conclusions that the rule will create any negative effect on access to care that cannot be otherwise addressed, or that is not outweighed by gains in overall public health, overall access to care due to the removal of barriers for providers, or the benefits of compliance with the law and respect for conscience and religious freedom," read the official response to this concern.

So far, this rule has been blocked by several federal judges. On Nov. 19 of this year, Judge William Alsup of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California said that the Health and Human Services Department exceeded its authority when it adopted this rule.

"When a rule is so saturated with error, as here, there is no point in trying to sever the problematic provisions. The whole rule must go," he was quoted as saying in a Bloomberg Law report.

## 4 Withdrawing a Regulation Aimed at Preventing LGBTQ Discrimination at Homeless Shelters

On March 10, 2017, the Department of Housing and Urban Development withdrew a September 2016 regulation that required federally funded shelters to notify all residents of their equal rights despite their LGBTQ identity, orientation or marital status.

"HUD strives to reduce burden by providing the content of the notice to be posted and estimates it will take about six minutes for owners and operators to print and post this notice," read the regulation. "All existing and new owners would be required to post the notice only once, and ensure that it remains visible to those accessing the shelter, housing or facility."

Additionally, HUD removed training and guidance resources from its website that advised emergency shelters on practices to serve LGBTQ people in need of housing and on complying with federal access and non-discrimination rules.

## 5 Siding with Adoption and Foster Care Agencies Against LGBTQ Adoptive Parents

The Department of Health and Human Services proposed a rule in November of 2019 to allow foster care and adoption agencies if funds to turn away potential care providers if they are LGBTQ.

"In the proposed rule, HHS would repromulgate most of the provisions of the 2016 rulemaking verbatim. HHS would revise two provisions of the 2016 rulemaking to

See **Trump Assault**, continued on p. 6



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Ginny Ruffner, American, born 1952, *Aesthetic Engineering Series: Inventing Flowers* (detail), 2005  
Lampworked, sandblasted and painted glass, 24 x 18 3/4 x 17 1/2 inches.  
Courtesy of the Isabel Foundation, L2017.106. Photo credit: Douglas Schaible Photography





## ► Trump Assault

Continued from p. 4

require grantees to comply with applicable non-discrimination provisions passed by Congress and signed into law, including legislation ensuring the protection of religious liberty, and to provide that HHS complies with all applicable Supreme Court decisions in administering its grant programs,” read the official press release.

This effectively was an announcement that the administration would reverse Obama-era regulation that prohibited HHS grant recipients from discrimination on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation. So far, it has affected child welfare programs and same-sex couples looking to adopt children. In Michigan, Attorney General Dana Nessel has been fighting to mandate that faith-based adoption and foster agencies receiving state funding do not discriminate based on the sexual orientation of potential parents. Though this issue extends beyond the federal rule, advocates say that the Trump Administration has made religious exemptions of this sort more common around the U.S.

## 6 Releasing a Statement Opposing the Equality Act

House Democrats introduced and passed the Equality Act this year, the first LGBTQ rights bill that includes protections for LGBTQ people in the U.S. in housing, employment, public accommodations, education and health care. So far stalled in the Republican-controlled Senate, The Washington Blade reported that the Trump Administration opposes the bill.

“The Trump administration absolutely opposes discrimination of any kind and supports the equal treatment of all; however, this bill in its current form is filled with poison pills that threaten to undermine parental and conscience rights,” a senior administration official said via email to Blade reporters.

This comes as a stance change for Trump, who in 2000 did an interview with The Advocate in which he said he would support an amendment to the 1964 Civil Rights Act. In order for the bill to be voted on in the Senate, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell would need to bring it up for a vote.

## 7 Reducing Civil Rights Enforcement for Transgender Students

The Department of Education confirmed to that it would no longer act on or investigate complaints filed by transgender students who were blocked from using restrooms or other school facilities that aligned with their gender identity.



Despite undergoing dialysis and struggling with breathing problems, Aimee Stephens is unwavering in the now six-year battle with her former employer R.G. and G.R. Harris Funeral Homes in Garden City. The case is now before the U.S. Supreme Court. BTL Photo: Andrew Potter

Buzzfeed News interviewed a department spokesperson Liz Hill on the issue. She said that the official position was that transgender students’ complaints were not covered by federal civil rights law Title IX, which says that no person on the basis of sex be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal funding.

“Where students, including transgender students, are penalized or harassed for failing to conform to sex-based stereotypes, that is sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX,” Hill said. “In the case of bathrooms, however, long-standing regulations provide that separating facilities on the basis of sex is not a form of discrimination prohibited by Title IX.”

This issue has appeared in cases across the U.S. In May 2017 a three-judge panel in *Whitaker v. Kenosha Unified School District* ruled that “policy that requires an individual to use a bathroom that does not conform with his or her gender identity punishes that individual for his or her gender non-conformance, which in turn violates Title IX.”

## 8 Removing Guidance on Supporting Transgender Federal Employees

The Office of Personnel Management removed federal agency manager guidance designed to help support transgender federal employees. It was replaced with new language that links to the Department of Justice’s interpretation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that does not include gender identity.

“Although federal law, including Title VII,

provides various protections to transgender individuals, Title VII does not prohibit discrimination based on gender identity per se. This is a conclusion of law, not policy. The sole issue addressed in this memorandum is what conduct Title VII prohibits by its terms, not what conduct should be prohibited by statute, regulation or employer action,” says the new guidance. “As a law enforcement agency, the Department of Justice must interpret Title VII as written by Congress. Title VII expressly prohibits discrimination ‘because of ... sex’ and several other protected traits, but it does not refer to gender identity. ‘Sex’ is ordinarily defined to mean biologically male or female.”

A similar case is currently being argued by the ACLU in the Supreme Court concerning Michigan woman Aimee Stephens who was fired from her position at a funeral home after she began transitioning. The ACLU asserts that she was fired on the basis of sex discrimination and that U.S. federal laws currently protect transgender people on that count. Though this case is not related to federally funded employment specifically, depending on the case’s outcome, the Supreme Court could rule to expand federal non-discrimination law to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

## 9 HHS Proposed Cuts to Information Collection on Sexual Orientation of Foster Children, Adoptive Parents and Guardians

The Obama administration added questions to an existing case database about the sexual orientation of foster children, adoptive parents and guardians in an effort to create a “data

collection system that provides comprehensive demographic and case-specific information on children who are in foster care and adopted.”

This year, HHS proposed to cut this information collection. A ProPublica report said that it was “making the change because of concerns that the information would be overly detailed, that it may be inaccurately reported, and that children’s answers may not be kept private.”

## 10 Removing Plans to Count LGBTQ People in the 2020 Census

After the Department of Justice decided to withdraw its request, the Census Bureau removed proposed demographic questions about sexual orientation and gender identity from the final 2020 American Community survey. According to Criminal and Economic Justice Project Director of the National LGBTQ Task Force Meghan Maury, this could have far-reaching effects on the ability of LGBTQ people to access federal funds for social programs.

“LGBTQ people are not counted on the Census — no data is collected on sexual orientation or gender identity. Information from these surveys helps the government to enforce federal laws like the Violence Against Women Act and the Fair Housing Act and to determine how to allocate resources like housing supports and food stamps,” Maury said. “If the government doesn’t know how many LGBTQ people live in a community, how can it do its job to ensure we’re getting fair and adequate access to the rights, protections and services we need?”



# Noteworthy LGBTQ News Moments of 2019

BY LISA KEEN

One might argue that 2019 was a pretty good year for LGBTQ people. An openly gay man rose to the top tier of a large field of Democratic presidential candidates. A second openly LGBTQ person was sworn into the U.S. Senate. A record number of openly LGBTQ candidates won office to Congress. Controversial or not, lesbian icon Ellen DeGeneres shared a box seat with former Republican President George W. Bush at a football game. And Republican President Donald Trump issued a statement to “celebrate LGBT Pride Month.”

Others might argue that 2019 was a year of looming and unresolved battles over the heart and soul of American democracy and the harbinger of uncertainty about the future for the political and legal movements for LGBTQ equality. However one assesses the year in LGBTQ news, here are some of the year’s most headline-grabbing news stories to consider.

## Buttigieg Surges to the Top

Pete Buttigieg’s success with his long-shot bid to win the Democratic nomination for president could probably take up all 10 slots



Photo by Chris Johnson courtesy Washington Blade

of any “LGBTQ Top Stories” list for 2019. Not only did he become the first openly gay person to seek the Democratic presidential nomination but he raised enough support to participate in the first official Democratic debate. He quickly

surged to a top-five slot in a field of more than 20 viable candidates, and he held onto to that position while candidates who were much better-known fell away.

His success continued throughout the year,

helped by an early staking out of a moderate position just as progressive candidates were taking heat for appealing for dramatic changes, such as “Medicare for All.” Buttigieg pitched “Medicare for All Who Want It,” spoke openly about how his religious faith informs his views, and proved to be a respectful but formidable contender in debate.

By December, he held first place in Iowa polling, second place in New Hampshire polling and fourth place in national polling. But with success in any presidential bid comes additional scrutiny and challenge. In May, two Republican operatives tried to promote a false accusation that Buttigieg had sexually assaulted two men, but both of those men denied the claims. In October, he was criticized for being too straight-looking and derided as “Mary Pete.” And at year’s end, Buttigieg was still struggling to prove he could win support from African-American voters and fending off suggestions that his post-graduate work for a conservative management consulting firm, McKinsey & Company, included work that led to the loss of jobs for many.

So far, he has astutely navigated a daunting landscape and blown through a wall that most

See **2019 News Moments**, continued on p. 8

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## ► 2019 News Moments

Continued from p. 7

LGBTQ people expected would block a path to the White House for any gay person in their lifetimes. Win or lose, he could well become 2020's top story, too.

## The Supreme Court Tackles Title VII

The U.S. Supreme Court in October heard oral arguments about whether existing federal law — Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 — already prohibits discrimination in employment based on two things: sexual orientation and gender identity. The court's eventual ruling on each issue, expected by next June, will have profound consequences for LGBTQ people everywhere in the U.S. And it could be a mixed outcome: The court could rule one way for sexual orientation and a different way for transgender status. Conservative Justice Neil Gorsuch articulated that he was “really close” to seeing how the law already protects each category, but he said he was worried about the “massive social upheaval” that might take place if the court rules for either.

Because Gorsuch is seen as being part of the conservative five-person majority on the court, media attention was focused on him following oral argument. But even progressive Justice Sonia Sotomayor hinted she was concerned about what the court's ruling might have on the “raging” bathroom issue. Those who fear change will argue that a “No” from the Supreme Court on either or both questions will simply preserve the status quo. But that status quo prohibits discrimination based on an employee's LGBTQ status in only 21 states and provides little likelihood of passage for the Equality Act that seeks to provide protection nationwide.

## House Impeaches President Trump

The Democratically controlled U.S. House began impeachment proceedings late this year against President Trump and in the process unleashed a torrent of partisan fighting for the very soul of the country. The two charges are that: 1. Trump abused the power of his office to pressure a foreign government, Ukraine, to announce that it was investigating a rival 2020 presidential contender — lead Democrat Joe Biden — and 2. that he obstructed Congress by deliberately interfering with the ability of the House to interview crucial witnesses and examine documents.

There were a few openly LGBTQ players during the proceedings, including openly gay U.S. Reps. David Cicilline and Sean Patrick Maloney who serve on the key committees involved in the impeachment proceedings.



Photo: Matt Popovich, Unsplash

And Stanford law professor Pamela S. Karlan was a key witness before one committee, serving as an expert on constitutional law regarding impeachment. At deadline, the full House was expected to approve both articles of impeachment by Christmas, sending the charges to the Senate for trial. That Republican-dominated body is expected to address the issue in January and vote, along party lines, to acquit the president. That much is known and essentially predictable. What remains to be seen is how the U.S. voters will respond in next November's presidential election.

## HHS Seeks to Deny Health Care

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced in May that it would “substantially revise” language in the Affordable Care Act to eliminate protections against discrimination based on gender identity in health care. The announcement came just three days after HHS published a final rule that enabled health care providers to refuse to provide certain services by claiming they had religious or moral beliefs that compelled them to refuse. Such “Denial of Care” rules have been primarily aimed against women who seek an abortion or emergency contraception, terminally ill patients wanting to accelerate a painful dying process and LGBTQ people generally. But by year's end, three different federal district judges ruled that the finalized regulations were unconstitutional.

## Religious Storm Clouds Gather

The long-standing legal battle continues to escalate. Laws that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation are being continuously challenged by churches and business owners who claim the First Amendment to the constitution gives them a religious liberty to violate those non-discrimination laws. The U.S. Supreme Court dispensed with two such cases in 2019 — refusing to hear *Cervelli v. Aloha* and sending back *Klein v. Oregon* — but more have arrived. The latest is *Fulton v. Philadelphia*, which asks the high court to overturn a 3rd Circuit Court opinion that a local government can refuse funding to a Catholic-run foster care agency because it refuses to abide by a city ordinance that prohibits sexual orientation discrimination.

## Hate Crime Numbers Haunt

At least 22 transgender people of color were murdered in 2019, a statistic that has haunted the LGBTQ community and drawn the notice of many Democratic presidential candidates. It's not that the number itself was so different than in previous years, which averaged 22 per year, noted the Human Rights Campaign in its now annual report on violence against transgender people. It's that they are now seen to reflect “intersections of racism, sexism and transphobia” in the U.S. that is “sometimes ruthlessly endorsed and enforced by those at the highest level of our government,” according

to Alphonso David, HRC's new president.

The Hate Crimes Statistics report filed annually by the Federal Bureau of Investigation showed a 34 percent increase in the number of victims of anti-transgender crimes in 2018, compared to 2017. During that same time period, there was a 9 percent increase in crimes against gay, lesbian and bisexual victims but a decrease in hate crimes victims overall. The significance of these numbers is dependent in part on how well law enforcement agencies identify and report specific hate crimes. But there's no denying that, if there is any inaccuracy in the reporting, the true incidence of hate crimes against LGBTQ people is likely higher and increasing every year.

## Senate Confirms Gay Man to 9th Circuit

The U.S. Senate in December voted to confirm Patrick Bumatay, an openly gay prosecutor from San Diego, to a seat on the nation's largest federal appeals court. National LGBTQ legal groups said nothing, but Log Cabin Republicans hailed the appointment, noting that it makes Bumatay the “highest-ranking LGBT jurist in the nation.” The only other openly gay person on a federal appeals court is Todd Hughes who was confirmed to the Federal Circuit in 2013. Meanwhile, the confirmation of Bumatay in December and a lesbian, Mary Rowland, to a U.S. District Court seat in Illinois were overshadowed by confirmations of federal appeals court nominees vehemently opposed by LGBTQ



groups, including Steven Menashi to the 2nd Circuit and Lawrence VanDyke to the 9th.

## LGBTQ Presidential Forums

While LGBTQ issues were not an especially prominent topic during the nationally televised Democratic debates in 2019, there were two national presidential forums devoted to LGBTQ issues this year. Both involved Democratic candidates only, and one was nationally televised on CNN during prime-time hours. The first forum was livestreamed from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and most of the major Democratic candidates showed up. The CNN town hall in October was the first national television broadcast by a major media outlet of LGBTQ-specific discussion with presidential candidates. The latter was an opportunity for voters to hear how the candidates mostly agreed on a variety of LGBTQ issues and support equal rights and protection for LGBTQ people. It was also a chance for straight voters to see and hear from a wide diversity of LGBTQ audience members asking their questions, expressing their concerns and telling their stories.

## Trump v. LGBTQ Community

The Trump administration has continued apace in its efforts to undermine rights and protections for LGBTQ people through the federal government. In 2019 alone, the Department of Defense was able to put the transgender ban into effect while it is being challenged in court, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development proposed rules to allow homeless shelters receiving federal funds to turn away transgender people. In addition to HHS's rules to allow health care providers to deny care to LGBTQ people (See "Deny Health Care" above), the Department of Justice took sides against LGBTQ people in important cases before the U.S. Supreme Court regarding the reach of employment protections under the Civil Rights Act's Title VII. The Department of Labor this year proposed a rule change to "clarify" that religious organizations could require employees "share" their religious beliefs, a move that LGBTQ legal activists say gives a green light to discrimination against LGBTQ people. The list goes on and includes the departments of Education, Homeland

Security and State. It is a concerted effort to eliminate and/or diminish protections for LGBTQ people and it will almost certainly continue in 2020 – and beyond, should Trump be elected to a second term.

## Katie Hill Forced Out

Openly bisexual U.S. Rep. Katie Hill was a rising superstar among the first-term Democrats entering the newly minted Democratic majority in the U.S. House in January. She was one of only 14 Democratic members of the House to be voted by colleagues to the House Democratic leadership team, and she was designated vice chair of the House Oversight committee that was helping with the impeachment investigation against President Trump. But by October, a right-wing website targeted her with claims that she had sexual relationships with a former campaign staffer and a current Congressional staffer. The website illustrated its report with photos of Hill nude in private settings. And the House Committee on Ethics initiated an investigation into whether Hill had a prohibited relationship with a Congressional staffer. Hill denied the charge but resigned her seat within days, saying she believes the attack had been led by her estranged and "abusive" husband and "because of the thousands of vile, threatening emails, texts and calls that made me fear for my life and the lives of the people I care about."



Katie Hill

In an op-ed essay for the New York Times Hill made clear that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi did not force her to resign but rather "told me I didn't have to" resign. Hill said that, ultimately, she felt she needed to resign "for me, my family, my staff, my colleagues, my community." But in her farewell speech on the floor of the House, Hill vowed, "We will not stand down. We will not be broken. We will not be silenced. We will rise. And we will make tomorrow better than today."



Photo: Dennis Lawley Unsplash



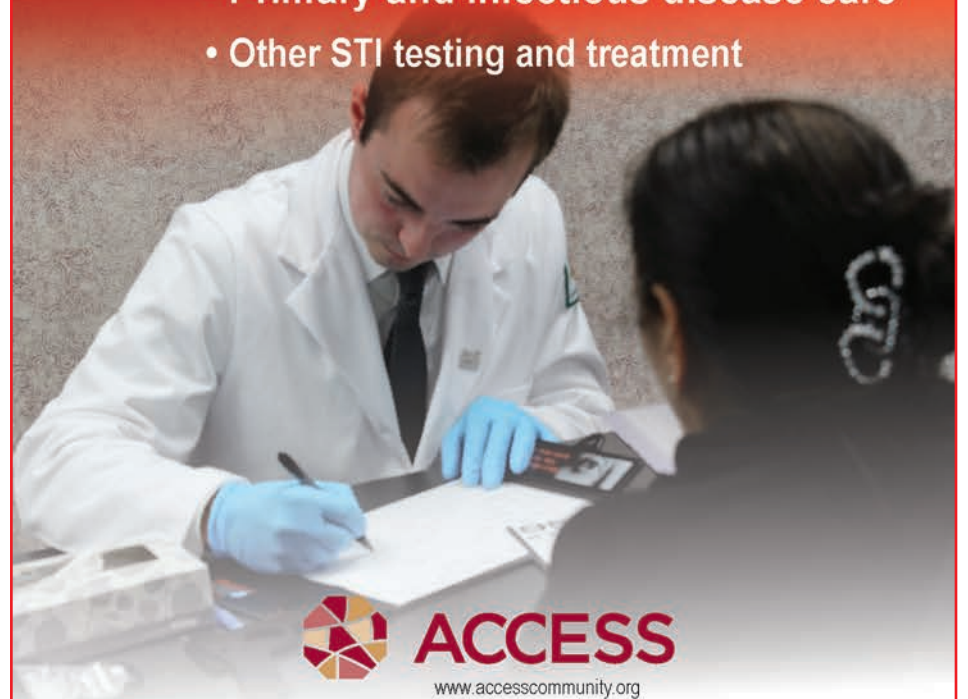
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# Proliferation of Pride in Michigan:

## Eastpointe City Council Says 'Yes' to Pride Month Resolution

### How Communities Find Meaning in Gestures Large and Small

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

Motor City Pride may be the oldest, largest and best-known Pride festival in the state, but celebrations in other Michigan cities have become well-loved, annual mainstays, too. And over the past several years, the LGBTQ community has seen many expressions of communal pride emerge in sometimes unexpected places. This June alone saw a first-ever Pride flag raising ceremony in Hazel Park, a Pride festival organized in Cadillac and a Pride Month resolution adopted in Calhoun County. Clearly, there's value and meaning to recognizing Pride month in some way in one's own community, something to which this writer can attest from being part of the planning committee for the inaugural Royal Oak Family Pride this past summer. Even if one's community doesn't host a parade or have so much as a non-discrimination ordinance, it's at least an affirming nod to its LGBTQ residents for community leaders to fly a rainbow flag above city hall for a month out of the year.

Macomb County Pride, slated for June, will be the first such event for that community and it's already generating buzz. For that reason, *Between The Lines* explored the changes that Macomb is experiencing as it relates to celebrating — or at least tolerating — the Pride of the LGBTQ community there. From a Pride parade and resource fair planned in Mt. Clemens to a Pride Month resolution in Eastpointe that was only narrowly adopted, we also got a bird's eye view from an anonymous elected official who both explained why there is resistance in Macomb and why there's promise for the future.

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

### Bravo, Eastpointe

In what may be a first for Macomb County, the city of Eastpointe adopted a Pride Month resolution this June. Cardi DeMonaco recalled how he responded to fellow city councilmember Ron LaForest's suggestion that they introduce it.

"Hey, that's a great idea," DeMonaco said. "Honestly, I had just never thought of it before, and I'm like, 'Yeah, let's do that. I'd like to support the LGBT community.' And so then I discussed it with one other councilperson, councilperson Klinefelt, who isn't currently on the council, and we decided to bring it up. He had come up with the resolution."

Before the vote, a number of people spoke out in favor of the resolution, with just a few opposed. It subsequently was voted on and adopted.

### A Narrow Victory

However, the Pride Month resolution received only three votes in favor from the five-member council in the city of 32,000 residents located at the southernmost edge of Macomb County. One "No" vote came from then-councilmember and current mayor Monique Owens and one abstention from then-Mayor Suzanne Pixley. Both Pixley and Owens prefaced their disapproval of the resolution with examples of how accepting they are of LGBTQ people. A video recording of the comments that preceded the vote was made available to *Between The Lines*.

"When this was put on the agenda, I didn't sleep for a couple days," Owens said. "Because I didn't know that we did not accept LGBTQ community. Because as a family town, we've always accepted everybody. I didn't know we had to make a distinction on what that is."

Owens pointed out that she had hugged an individual — present at the meeting — who was bisexual before that fact was known to her, and, aware of their sexuality now, she would still hug them. However, Owens said, she was opposed to treating anyone differently. As she campaigned for mayor, Owens remarked that a few people asked whether she would represent black people or white people in Eastpointe, whose population is around 46 percent black or African-American. Owens, who is the first African-

American elected mayor in that city, asserted that she represents the human race. She said she was opposed to making distinctions between people and that God loves everybody. Thus she would be voting "No."

Pixley's explanation was similar. She began by stating that she previously lived in an LGBTQ community, and "I cherish the people I've met along the way." She said after learning several people at the meeting are LGBTQ, "I will never treat you differently, now that I know it. My obligation as mayor is to treat everybody the same. I don't need any kind of resolution to make me give respect to anybody over and above what I've always done."

With that, Pixley said she would abstain from voting. To further her point, Pixley then added that in the past, she worked on political campaigns "with huge numbers of LGBT people," which she followed with a mention of her time as a nurse working on research to develop AIDS treatment. Pixley's final comment: "I don't need somebody telling me I need to sign a piece of paper telling me how to behave in an appropriate way."

### What's at Stake?

It should be noted that a resolution is simply an official expression of the opinion or will of a legislative body. It is nonbinding; it does not mandate special treatment of, or behavior toward, a group of people. Resolutions are distinct from ordinances or laws. A Pride Month resolution affirms that everyone should be treated equally, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. An inclusive nondiscrimination ordinance is a law that ensures the civil rights of LGBTQ and other protected classes of people. That is not what was being voted upon at the meeting.

The negativity from two of five councilmembers notwithstanding, DeMonaco said the meeting and overall mood in Eastpointe toward LGBTQ people was and is largely one of acceptance. "There were a ton of people in Eastpointe from the LGBT community, many of whom I've never met before [who] came to the



Cardi DeMonaco

meeting and spoke ... and I felt that overshadowed any of the comments of the city councilmembers that didn't vote in favor of the resolution," DeMonaco said. "I feel like 99 percent of the time in Eastpointe, even if we don't agree, we all just listen to each other and are respectful to each other."

### Welcome to Eastpointe

"I just want everybody to know Eastpointe welcomes everybody coming to Eastpointe," DeMonaco said. "We don't discriminate. I want to welcome the LGBT community, African-Americans, anyone that's not Christian." He then added that a number of years ago, there was discussion about removing the Christian cross from Eastpointe's city logo. However, as happens sometimes with such city affairs, the city ran out of money to continue debating the issue.

DeMonaco said that things like Pride flags and resolutions may be symbolic, but they make an important statement.

"I would completely agree we're not changing any law or anything," he said. "[But] if it wasn't important, or say if [it] didn't matter, people wouldn't have voted against it first of all, and of course we probably wouldn't be having this conversation if people were accepting LGBT folks like everyone else. I feel the same way at the federal level, or the state level: If something goes in a positive direction for a certain community, I'm very excited about it, because I know there are definitely things going on that are discriminatory. Just four years ago, the LGBT community couldn't marry. It's crazy to me."

As for Macomb County Pride, DeMonaco said he knows Phil Gilchrist, the executive director of the Anton Art Center in Mt. Clemens who's spearheading the effort, and that he thinks the Pride initiative is a great idea.

"I think it'll be a great event that they're throwing on New Year's Eve," he said of the drag show at the Emerald Theatre to raise funds for the parade and resource fair. "My wife and I will be attending."





## Macomb County Pride 2020: LGBTQ Community Cheers 'It's About Time'

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

### Fulfilling a Need

Detroit, Ann Arbor and Ferndale have long held Pride festivals. Marquette, Grosse Pointe and Ypsilanti celebrate the LGBTQ community each summer, too. And for the first time this June, Royal Oak and Cadillac held their own events. But nowhere in Michigan's third-most-populous county has there ever been a large-scale, communitywide Pride. Phil Gilchrist didn't just recognize the need for one, he chose to do something about it.

"What I've come to understand is that there is a gay community here, but there's not a real place and time for us to be able to coalesce or for allies and supportive people and organizations in this area to really show that in a particular way or place or time," said Gilchrist, whose day job is executive director of the Anton Art Center in Mt. Clemens.

"This whole idea sort of started as a conversation with a couple of friends of mine, and with that understanding that this community is fairly disconnected and not very visible," Gilchrist said. Thus, he decided to launch what he is calling a "Pride initiative" in Macomb County.

With the goal of developing it into an annual event, Gilchrist and his team are planning a parade and resource fair for the inaugural year.

"Given that it's our first time around, we want to make sure it's something we'll be able to keep manageable in terms of size and planning efforts," Gilchrist said. "There's currently maybe a dozen people that are working with me on a planning committee for the event and we're focusing on bringing this to downtown Mt. Clemens. That's the county seat and my own hometown."

Gilchrist's vision is first for the parade to

be a platform for community members to participate in the event. Then, the resource fair will provide an opportunity where organizations can highlight their support and share resources with the LGBTQ community.

### New Year's Eve FUNdraiser

To offset some of the costs the parade and fair will incur, a companion fundraiser, "DRAG-ing in the New Year," will be held at the Emerald Theatre on New Year's Eve. Featuring professional drag performers and produced by Kourtney Breeze, the show will also showcase Bentley James, Perry Dox, Kendyll Harding and Malibu. DJ Marquis will be there later in the evening as well.

A wedding giveaway is slated to be part of the fun at the New Year's Eve festivities in which the winning couple will receive a wedding package from the Emerald Theatre with Feb. 14 reserved as the big day. (The entry deadline for the giveaway will have passed by the time of this printing.)

### Supportive Communities

With regard to some of the smaller Pride celebrations that have sprung up in recent years, Gilchrist said he certainly sees value in those efforts. "I think it's really important," Gilchrist said. "In my mind, there's plenty of room for communities to hold these types of events. I mean, it shows they're supportive of the people that are living there and in the area. The more of these kinds of events that you can find around, I think, the more welcoming those areas will be to the LGBTQ community."

In a press release, Mt. Clemens Mayor Laura Kropp stated that the city strives to be inclusive and is proud of its diversity.

"Our city wants to be a leader in celebrating Pride this upcoming June in



Mt. Clemens, a first for Macomb County," she said.

Gilchrist said he's also approached the mayor about introducing a Pride Month resolution as well as an inclusive nondiscrimination ordinance for the city, which Kropp said she would discuss with the city commission.

### It's About Time

Although Gilchrist only recently announced Macomb County Pride in a big way, he said the response has already been very positive.

"Everybody has been excited to hear that the events are being planned and I've heard a lot of comments [like], 'It's about time.' I've been able to connect with a number of stakeholders in the area who are exceptionally supportive and really looking forward to being involved in this really significant new event here."

*Date and location to be determined. Follow: [facebook.com/macombcountypride/](https://facebook.com/macombcountypride/) For information about the events, including for volunteers, donations and sponsorships, visit [macombcountypride.com](https://macombcountypride.com) or email [macombcountypride@gmail.com](mailto:macombcountypride@gmail.com). Tickets for "DRAG-ing in the New Year" can be purchased at [TheEmeraldTheatre.com](https://TheEmeraldTheatre.com). 18 and over only. General admission: \$69, VIP admission: \$99. Doors open at 8 p.m. Full details can be found at [gaybe.am/45](https://gaybe.am/45).*

## Gay Elected Official in Macomb County Sees 'Slow Change'

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

### Not Out Publicly

"I'm an elected official who happens to be gay; I'm not a gay person who happens to be an elected official," said a city councilmember in Macomb County who was eager to share what the climate is like for LGBTQ people there, particularly for an officeholder. They did not wish to be identified.

"It's always been assumed," they said about being gay. "I never officially came out." They're out to friends and family but not publicly.

"I'd never deny it if someone were to ask," they said.

They're certain the other councilmembers are aware of their sexuality, but if it were widely known, they said they might receive additional backhanded comments, and perhaps they would experience bullying. But their overriding concern was simply that it could be "a distraction."

### General Prejudice

As they see it, it's not homophobia per se that plagues Macomb County, it's bigotry in general directed toward minorities.

"The culture in Macomb County is very – I hate to say it – prejudiced," they said. "Not just against LGBT, but black, minority, anything. It's just very closed-minded – not the people, the elected officials."

They said the attitude stems from the fact that it's largely an older, white, Catholic population with an old-fashioned mindset, resistant to the realities of shifting demographics – for example, the county's rapidly growing African-American population. "They don't like the change," they said.

Their fellow city councilmembers are resistant to progressive issues in general, the official said, such as marijuana sales, despite its potential as an economic boon. With liberal policies in mind, BTL asked about the fact that Macomb County leans Democratic, even if that wasn't the case in the last presidential election. The official was quick to set the record straight.

"A lot of Macomb County Dems are what we call DINO: Democrat in Name Only," they said. "Everyone in Macomb County runs as a Democrat, but if you start talking to them, you're like, 'Holy shit, how are you a Democrat? It doesn't make any sense!' When it comes to any social issue, Macomb County is extremely conservative."

### Planning to Stick Around

"I don't want you to get the wrong idea about what I'm saying," the official added. "I think the people in Macomb County are great people. They're loving people, they're genuine people. I just think that because of the history of their upbringing ... that they've never been exposed to black people or gay people ... so their natural instinct is just to react like, 'I don't want anything to do with it.' So don't think I'm bashing Macomb ... because I wouldn't be [on

See **Gay Elected Official**, continued on p. 12





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## Justin Trudeau Calls for Conversion Therapy Ban in Canada

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has called for a ban on so-called conversion therapy in his country.

Trudeau in a letter he sent to Attorney General David Lametti on Dec. 13 directed him to work with Diversity, Inclusion and Youth Minister Bardish Chagger “to amend” Canada’s Criminal Code “to ban the practice of conversion therapy and take other steps required with the provinces and territories to end conversion therapy in Canada.”

The Trevor Project Head of Advocacy and Government Affairs Sam Brinton applauded Trudeau.

“When state leaders like Prime Minister Trudeau prioritize the protection of LGBTQ youth on the global stage, it sends a message to young people around the world that they are not alone and that they should be proud of who they are,” said Brinton in a press release.

Trudeau on Oct. 21 won reelection, even though a picture of him in brownface that emerged before the election sparked outrage and tarnished his reputation. Trudeau’s Liberal Party lost its majority in Parliament.

The conversion therapy ban is part of Trudeau’s government’s priorities for its second term.

Trudeau in 2017 formally apologized to those who suffered persecution and discrimination under Canada’s anti-LGBTQ laws and policies. Trudeau in a speech he delivered in the Canadian House of Commons also said the government agreed to settle a class-action lawsuit filed by those who were forced to leave the Canadian military and civil service because of their sexual orientation.

A law that added gender identity to Canada’s nondiscrimination and hate crimes law took effect in 2017. Canada the following year joined the Global Equality Fund, a public-private partnership the U.S. launched in order to promote LGBTQ rights around the world.

Canada would become one of a handful of countries to prohibit conversion therapy if the ban becomes law.

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

### ► Gay Elected Official

Continued from p. 11

city council] if I didn’t love the people. There’s just a lot of misinformation, a lot of old-style ways of thinking.”

They added that despite the outdated attitude of its residents and Macomb County’s lack of gay bars, “I love living where I live.”

“This is part of why I started running for office. And this is true: When I was 16, I had to go to Ferndale, ‘cause that’s where all the gay stuff happens, right? And I thought, ‘How inconvenient that I have to drive all the way to Oakland County to hang out at a cool café or hang out at a friendly-type establishment when I live in a community that has so much potential to do the exact same thing – maybe on a smaller scale – but the potential is there.’”

So overall, they’re hopeful. When it comes to the resistance of fellow councilmembers to fresh, new ideas, they said, “I’m sure it will change, and I’m sure I will outlive all of them. I really, truly enjoy what I do at a public level. I enjoy going to public events; I love hearing people’s opinions – it sucks though when these people’s opinions are oftentimes misguided. But that’s the one thing I really like about city politics is the partisan stuff doesn’t really exist. At the city level, we’re not approving gay marriage. We’re not approving school vouchers. It’s very local, what affects people directly.”

### Moving Forward

When asked, they were aware of the Macomb County Pride initiative, and they weighed in on that, too.

“I was very surprised to see that,” they said. “I was surprised because I didn’t think anyone would have the balls to do a Pride event in Macomb County. Because I guarantee you, if you’ve ever read the comments section of the Macomb Daily, whenever they start writing about it, there’s gonna be not a single positive post.”

BTL followed up by checking online whether the event had been covered in that paper. It had, on Dec. 10. Six days later, there was one comment, a negative one. But following a similar article posted Nov. 27 on the C & G website, a handful of comments were left, equally positive and negative. The first comment about the event, to be held in Mt. Clemens, read, “Another nail in the coffin of an all ready (sic) empty city.” The reply: “ok boomer (sic).” That reply and the likes it received perhaps signal the younger demographic in Macomb County is open to progress.

The city council member with which BTL spoke suggested things have changed since they first ran for office, when they were the target of homophobic slurs in the form of anonymous comments left following a newspaper article. They also noted that when they were in high school the principal wouldn’t allow a GSA because he called it “too political.” Now, GSAs and diversity clubs are common in the area.

“Going forward, since Eastpointe was able to do their [Pride Month] resolution last year, and because we’re having a Pride in Macomb County this year, I think that might be something I will definitely bring up to put on the agenda for next year,” they said, referring to the resolution. “Because I think at least in [my city] there is some slow change happening.”



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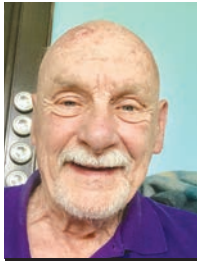
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## Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Originally published in December 2009

### Don We Now Our CENSORED Apparel...

I hate to play the Gay Grinch Who Stole Christmas, but there's a movement afoot by the Southern Comfort Baptists to do away with all suspected gay references in Christmas carols and holiday traditions. (Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Veterans Day are targeted next.)

Unless we act with a united front (and a well-padded backside), "Don we now our GAY apparel" is doomed. "God rest ye, MARY gentlemen" is a goner. Gold frankincense & myrrh (along with patchouli) are out. Mince pie and sugar plum you-know-whats are things of the past.

Rainbow ribbons and wrapping paper are taboo. Red stockings for the chimney will be minus silver belles or D&G designer fur trim. Dancer, Prancer and Cupid are dead ducks. (Substitute: Butch, Bouncer, Bimbo.)

Yes, Christmas may never be its gay old self again. And Mr. Gailey will forever be a delete from "Miracle on 34th Street." (How gay, by the way, is Kris Kringle? He even looks a bit, well, you know, suspect. And what's all this fascination with kids, anyhow? Has he ever had an authentic FBI security check?)

For readers who are in the dark about the Southern Comfort Baptists — a boisterous offshoot of gay-bashing, Disney-boycotting, 15-million-strong Southern Baptists — the Southern Comforters swarm like a plague of biblical locust. And they're two-fisted when it comes to minding other people's business and sampling other people's Texas Tea.

Every neighborhood has one or two Southern Comforters livening things up way into the wee-wee Sabbath hours. (I passed one leaning against a lamppost and singing the doxology to my neighbor's calico just the other morning. The cat has yet to return - saved or unsaved. Neutered or otherwise.)

Southern Comforters are headquartered in Myopic Flats Texas, home of the world-famous, batter-dipped, low-cal Gila Burger. ("The burger with a bite to die for!") They broadcast over radio station TPARTY-AM, and their TV program, "The Church Key Hour" is syndicated worldwide. (Sarah Palin, who likes peeking through an occasional narrow-minded keyhole, is thinking about converting. Again.)

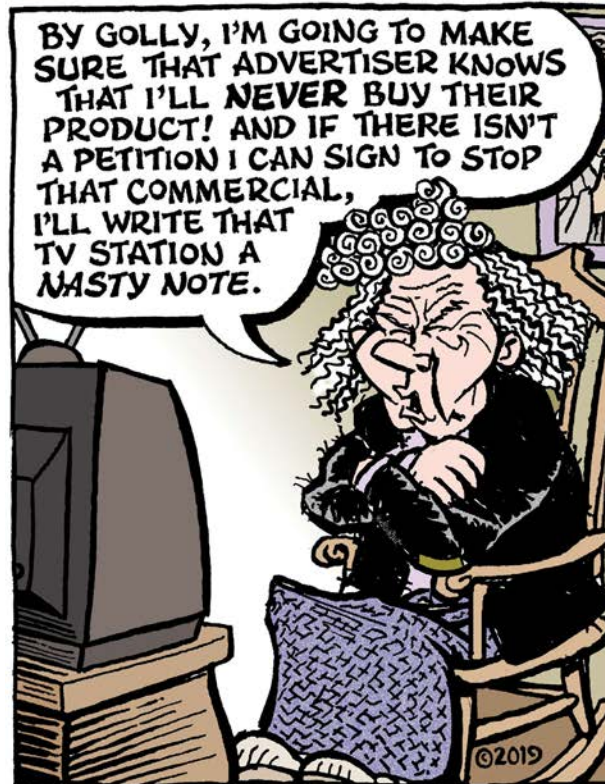
The Southern Comforters perform what they call brinkmanship baptism. ("We don't sprinkle. We dunk, count to 10 very slowly, and ask God for a miracle.") They don't smoke weed, boogie down, play bridge, skinny-dip, practice feng shui, eat kosher mayonnaise or play kissy face on the first and last date. Their motto: "One taste of 100-proof heaven goes a long, long way."

More than likely you've seen a controversial full-page ad the Southern Comforters took out in National Expirer tabloid recently (appearing next to Lady Gaga's 'candid camera cuties'). SANTA: A GAY AGENDA PLOT! Homos put the X in X-Mas! Are There 'Toys' Under Your Tree? Is Your Sock 'Hung' by the Chimney with 'Care?' Beware! The GAGs are coming.

In case you're too busy to speed-read the scandal sheets

See next page

**D**ID YOU SEE THE SAME-SEX COUPLE OR TRANSGENDER PERSON WHO WAS INCLUDED IN THE COMMERCIAL THAT WAS JUST ON TELEVISION?



## BTL Editorial

### Happy Holidays and Some News from BTL

BY PUBLISHERS JAN STEVENSON AND SUSAN HOROWITZ

As we approach the holiday season we are excited to share with you our plans for the coming year. After 26 years of continuous publishing we are going to take our first real holiday break! This issue dated Dec. 19, 2019, is the last issue for 2019. We will be back with a new format and a new look starting Jan. 9, 2020. And from then on, Between The Lines will publish biweekly.

As some of you may have already noticed, for some time now our editors and writers have been shifting

BTL's editorial design and focus to be more feature-oriented. Our website, pridesource.com, has increasingly been our outlet for breaking news, events, resource listings, contests and more. In 2020 we will build on this trend, continuing to enhance our online presence and functionality while using the biweekly print edition of Between The Lines for longer, more in-depth looks at issues, people and projects that are the most important and interesting to our LGBTQ community.

We also sought to restructure and prepare our media

See BTL Editorial, continued on p. 14



The end of the year and the holiday season gives us all a chance to have gratitude for all of our many blessings, to reflect and to take stock of where we are, where we've come from and where we think and hope we are going.

#### ► BTL Editorial

Continued from p. 15

assets — print, digital and social media — to be as effective as possible for the 2020 election season. The results of these elections will determine the future of LGBTQ rights and freedoms for the next generation, to say nothing of the viability of our very democracy. We've already begun working on the 2020 Progressive Voter Guide project to get out the vote and to engage our readers in the process. Stay tuned for updates and your chance to subscribe, share and participate in spreading the word.

The end of the year and the holiday season gives us all a chance to have gratitude for all of our many blessings,

to reflect and to take stock of where we are, where we've come from and where we think and hope we are going.

In the fast-paced world of print and digital publishing it is a must to keep looking at how best to serve our readers and stakeholders. We look forward to the coming year with hope, faith and huge appreciation for the strong support shown to Pride Source Media Group by so many from our beloved LGBTQ community. It means the world to us. Thank you!

From all of us at Pride Source Media Group – Happy Holidays!

#### ► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 15

at checkout counters, Santa really got a few below-the-belt punches from these burning bush holy rollers: "It's bad enough the Gay Agenda Gang (GAG) has shoved TV's Bert and Ernie and Tinky-Winky down our collective throats, but the real Trojan Horse is Old St. Nick himself!

"It's true. Santa, who wears a leather belt and boots, sports a beard and a big beer belly, is what GAGs call a card-carrying 'bear'. His red suit is color-coded to convey a deep-seated message. (Years ago, gay men wore bright red ties. And, those unmentionable hankies!) And while there may be a Mrs. Santa, a 'beard' of another kind, what grown man in his right mind breaks bread with elves, second cousins to hobbits, twinks and fairies?

"Be forewarned. Sitting on Santa's ample knee and telling him you're naughty or nice — when God knows you're a loathsome, rotten, stinking

sinner — is an invitation to disaster and damnation. Repent before it's too late. Santa, and all he stands for (which includes same-sex marriage), is anti-American, anti-family values, anti-Republican and a GAG plot to boot. Amen."

PS: The less said about Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, the better. Mary Christmas, PGers!

CHRISTMAS TIP: Instead of donating LGBT dollars to the Salvation Army this year, put a note in the little red kettle: "The Salvation Army's homophobic! No donation from me, my family, my friends. Get stuffed!"

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

## Creep Of The Week

### Donald Trump

This impeachment stuff is stressing me out. Donald Trump keeps screaming that this whole thing is very bad for the country. And he is right! Impeaching a president *is* bad for the country. Duh. Obviously. But even worse for a country is letting a corrupt and inept man keep leading it.

Trump has been complaining that the Democrats have wanted to impeach him since day one. Again, he's right. But only because he gave every signal possible that he was a corrupt moron in his personal and business life, which led a lot of people to suspect he might be the same bad person in office. Go figure.

Republicans are tripping over themselves to defend this jackass. He is indefensible. Full stop. But they don't care about having a leader with a heart or a brain. Republicans are thrilled that they have a president willing to do all of the bad and awful things they've always wanted to do. Take health care away from people? Check. Roll back environmental regulations? Check. Discriminate against LGBTQ people? Check. Stack the court system with unqualified right-wingers who will uphold the terrible laws they pass? Check.

It's exhausting. I need a nap. Wake me up after November 2020.

I'm kidding. That just what Republicans want people to do. Get overwhelmed and discouraged and check out. Checking out is a luxury and we can't afford it. We really can't.

There are Nazis in the White House! White Supremacists are running the fucking show. Everything you care about is on the line here.

I just watched a clip from Meet the Press where Dante Chinni interviewed a group of Republicans in Kent County, Michigan, about impeachment. Do they care about it? No. Why? Because it's boring. OH HOW NICE FOR YOU WHITE UPPER MIDDLE CLASS BOOMERS. What's it like to never have to worry about your civil rights? What's it like to stare into the face of Nazis and yawn? HOW BRAVE. Thanks for the focus group.

People who stand against Trump are accused of being hysterical. These same people who believed that Hillary Clinton was running a child sex ring in the basement of a D.C. pizza restaurant have no problem with Trump literally taking children away from their immigrant or asylum-seeking parents and literally losing them in the system with no way for parents to ever see their babies again. It's not hysterical to think that is diabolical.

It is hysterical, however, to think that the impeachment is a "witch hunt" and some kind of Democratic coup. To think that this man is a good president. Trump is mean, dumb and petty.

How petty? Time magazine named climate-change activist Greta Thunberg as Person of

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

**There is a right side and a wrong side of history. When it comes to Trump you can either be someone who welcomed dictatorship or fought against it. Or you could just do nothing. Shrug your shoulders and call the impending end of American democracy a snooze fest.**

the Year.

Trump's response? "So ridiculous," he tweeted. "Greta must work on her Anger Management problem, then go to a good old fashioned movie with a friend! Chill Greta, Chill!"

Thunberg is, as you may well know, a 16-year-old who is fighting like hell to get the goddamn grownups of this world to act on climate change so that she and other children might have a chance at a future. But Trump, who doesn't believe in global warming, thinks she should just "chill."

In case you needed more evidence that Thunberg is amazing, in response to Trump's tweet she changed her Twitter bio to read, "A teenager working on her anger management problem. Currently chilling and watching a good old fashioned movie with a friend."

If you caught Thunberg on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" then you know that she doesn't see Trump as worthy of a meeting with her.

"I don't see what I could tell him that he hasn't already heard, and I just think it would be a waste of time, really," she said.

Thunberg is inspiring. Trump is embarrassing. His reelection campaign Tweeted out the Time magazine cover with Trump's head Photoshopped onto Thunberg's body. I mean, FFS.

By the time this comes out the House will have no doubt voted on impeachment and will get a majority in favor of removing Trump. Then it'll go to the Senate where Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has already said he fully intends to rig the process for Trump. Cool, cool.

There is a right side and a wrong side of history. When it comes to Trump you can either be someone who welcomed dictatorship or fought against it. Or you could just do nothing. Shrug your shoulders and call the impending end of American democracy a snooze fest. Though you should know, that puts you with the folks on the wrong side. The bad side.

Don't be a baddy. We already have enough of those.



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President Donald Trump requested an additional \$300 million in funds to fight HIV/AIDS (Screen capture via YouTube)

## Congress Agrees to Boost in Funds for Trump's HIV Plan

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

In a positive move in the fight against HIV/AIDS, the spending package Congress unveiled this week more-or-less meets President Trump's request for an additional \$300 million for his plan on the domestic front, but also rejects his proposed draconian cuts for research and global programs.

House and Senate appropriators announced a bipartisan agreement on Monday to keep the government in operation for fiscal year 2020. The deal was reached days before a government shutdown would occur without additional funds and with limited time before Congress is set to adjourn for the holidays.

With respect to the additional \$300 million Trump sought in February for his administration's plan to beat HIV by 2030, Congress just about the hit the request on the nose.

The minibus would provide the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention with an additional \$140 million to implement the plan as requested by the administration, as well as \$70 million for the Ryan White Health Care Act and \$50 million for the Health Resources & Services Administration.

Carl Schmid, deputy director of the AIDS Institute and co-chair of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, hailed the agreement to appropriate the plan as "very good news."

"It provides the necessary foundational funding to begin the work of the Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative as laid out by the administration," Schmid said. "But, in order for it to be successful, HIV prevention and treatment efforts will have to be scaled up dramatically, which will require both the administration and the Congress to support even greater funding

increases in the future."

Jennifer Kates, director of global health and HIV Policy at the Kaiser Family Foundation, said the funds are a good start, but additional money is needed in subsequent years to keep the plan going.

"As a first year installment, it represents a significant increase for these programs and should help to jump start the effort," Kates said. "But it will be important to see what future funding requests are made, to fully reach targets."

The administration had also sought an additional \$25 million as part of the HIV/AIDS plan for Indian Health Services. However, that money wasn't included as part of the spending package, according to the AIDS Institute.

Schmid said that omission is "not a good start by the Congress for ramping up Hep C and HIV efforts in Indian country."

Trump had requested the additional funds for HIV/AIDS programs as part of the initiative to beat HIV he announced at the State of the Union address this year. The plan, which fell on skeptical ears to those familiar with his anti-LGBTQ record, seeks to target specific places with high rates of new infections with prevention and treatment services, including free access to PrEP.

Under the plan, which targets 48 counties in the United States, D.C., and San Juan, Puerto Rico, as well as seven states where the epidemic is mostly in rural areas, the goal is to reduce new HIV diagnoses by 75 percent within five years, and by 90 percent within 10 years.

At the same time Congress approved an increase in funds to combat HIV/AIDS, lawmakers rejected proposed cuts in other areas, including research and the global fight.

For starters, the spending package rejects the draconian \$6 billion Trump sought for funding at the National

Institutes for Health, including a \$424 million cut in HIV/AIDS research. Instead, appropriations increased funds for the agency by \$2.6 billion, including \$25 million for HIV research.

Benjamin Corb, a spokesperson for the American Society for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, called the package "a praiseworthy piece of bipartisan legislation" based in part of the additional funds for the National Institutes for Health.

"As the details of spending plan come into focus, lawmakers should be commended for their commitment to investments in scientific research that ultimately will lead to breakthroughs that will improve the quality of life and well-being of not only Americans but also of populations around the globe," Corb said.

According to Corb, the minibus legislation would make FY-20 the fifth year in a row of multibillion-dollar increases for the National Institutes for Health's budget, helping it grow to a record \$41.7 billion.

In terms of funds for global programs, the agreement also rejects the major cuts proposed by the Trump administration.

PEPFAR funding at the State Department matches FY-19 levels, at \$4.37 billion, rejecting a \$1 billion cut Trump proposed in his budget. Additionally, the deal includes \$1.56 billion for the Global Fund, which is the first installment of a new three year pledge, and reaffirms the U.S. share of 33 percent of Global Fund contributions.

Votes in both chambers of Congress are expected this week. A senior administration official told the Washington Blade after the spending package was made public President Trump is expected to sign the legislation.



# Visionary Floral Sculptor Anthony Ward to Appear at FutureDream 3

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

A festival that will bring some of Michigan's best local music and art talent together on Dec. 21, FutureDream 3 is more than just an entertainment event. Sponsored by Michigan artist Tetra, its goal is to raise funds for the St. Clair Butterfly Foundation. Also in attendance will be Anthony Flowers Ward, a visionary floral artist and sculptor and the author of the 2017 book "Being With Flowers."

"I believe flowers have been a longtime partner in the advancement of human consciousness," Ward told Between The Lines. "Eckhart Tolle speaks of this in his groundbreaking book 'A New Earth.' His hypothesis is that they were the first thing humans really looked at deeply and enjoyed ... just because they were beautiful and inviting. This concentration on beauty lifted our species up in a revolutionary manner with feelings of love and joy that were until then not really explored."

To date, Ward has decorated spaces for visionary leaders including the Dalai Lama, Ram Dass and Maya Angelou. He has performed with a number of national touring acts, including Spearhead, STS9, Emancipator, Desert Dwellers and at the San Francisco Jazz Festival in 2002. At the event, Ward will be



doing a reading from his book and giving a demonstration earlier in the day at 2 p.m. at Armageddon Beachparty Lounge.

"If I am moved by the music it is possible that a wonderful co-creation can happen," Ward said. "These days, most of my on-stage

performance is done with electronic music producers. I am so excited to be creating with the amazing musical genius called Tetra for my first time in Detroit. I am also very grateful she invited me to share my art at Future Dream 3, a benefit for a very worthy cause."

Ward's own love of flowers stems from his childhood.

"When I was visiting my grandparents as a young child I was quite a bit scared of my maternal grandmother," Ward recalled. "It was obvious how much she loved us all, but she was quite bossy. She was often ordering people to do this or that, but in her garden she would immediately turn into this sweet, gentle person. I was fascinated by this change in her. I would follow her around just to be that energy."

Ward said he told this story to author Alice Walker, a personal mentor of his. Walker said that the change occurred in his grandmother because "she felt safe in her garden."

"As I followed my grandmother around, I noticed the flowers and began my own relationship with them," Ward said.

When Ward began writing his first book, he said that it took a while to finally get published. However, when it got picked up, its popularity and resonance with many made the project worthwhile.

"My book 'Being With Flowers: Floral Art As

Spiritual Practice' is a dream come true for me," Ward said. "Quarto Publishing actually reached out to me and were very open to creating the book that is out now. I worked with dear friends to create it. The great majority of the photos are by my dear friend John Felix. My editor was even a close friend and neighbor. The book was endorsed by Alice Walker, Jane Goodall, Julia Butterfly Hill, Alex and Allyson Grey and Gurmukh Khalsa. It is a joy to know that when I leave my body it will still be here lifting people up, helping people go deeper into their own love of flowers."

For now, however, Ward is using flowers to bring joy to those around him. Find his work at FutureDream 3 on Saturday, Dec. 21.

*FutureDream 3 will take place starting at 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21, at the Tangent Gallery in Midtown. Ward's demonstration will happen at 2 p.m. at the Armageddon Beachparty Lounge located at 1517 Putnam St., in Detroit. In addition to Ward's appearance, the evening will feature musical performances by Tetra Music Project, Pandora Love, Gyp\$y, Y-Not, Dancemyth, DosLopez, Approachable Minorities and others. Find out more online at [tetramusicproject.com/futuredream](http://tetramusicproject.com/futuredream).*

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INTERVIEWS BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

In 2019, out glam-rocker Adam Lambert encouraged us to keep fighting, out musician Ben Platt talked about authenticity, out actress Anna Paquin underlined how film and TV can change minds, and out “Schitt’s Creek” creator Dan Levy was in awe of his show’s resonance. Country music superstars Trisha Yearwood and Miranda Lambert also chimed in on LGBTQ issues, speaking out on their LGBTQ allyship. Meanwhile, A-list screen allies like Jamie Lee Curtis, Laura Linney, Amy Poehler, Charlize Theron and Laura Dern continued to show up for the community, discussing everything from their queer movies to their longtime activism. Here’s a look back at 2019’s most memorable quotes:



“To now be in the position that I am, getting to write what I find to be a really lovely queer romance that millions of people get to watch, it’s quite profound.”

– Dan Levy

“One of the wonderful things about the LGBTQ community is that they kind of throw caution to the winds and it’s a moment where people get together and celebrate the positive rather than the negative.”

– Anjelica Huston on Pride



“You know, no one’s coming up to me going, ‘Oh god, that was fantastic!’ I mean, it’s so far gone. It’s far in the past. Who cares! But it’s nice to hear and I hope somebody enjoyed it. It’s like, maybe Goldie enjoyed it. Or Bette! They’ve had more interesting lives.”

– Diane Keaton on “The First Wives Club” now

# 2019: A YEAR IN REVIEW...

“If you’re authentic, I think that’s the most attractive quality beyond just a beautiful voice, feeling like this is undoubtedly exactly who you are.”

– Ben Platt



“I think that people learn about people they don’t understand through entertainment. That’s one of our most powerful tools for bringing people out of their own bubble and their own world.”

– Anna Paquin

“I don’t even know what Twitter or twatter is! And I really don’t want to.”

– Dionne Warwick



“What if we could just stay in the place of being completely open?”

– Judith Light

“The older I get the more I realize I feel much more comfortable in menswear. I like the feel of it. I feel much more myself.”

– Amy Poehler



*“I hope they take away that I haven’t lost hope. That I still believe that people are good and that we’ll get through this.”*

– Wanda Sykes on her Netflix comedy special, “Not Normal”

*“The reason why I fight the good fight: to try to make people see it the way I’ve been seeing it my whole life.”*

– Carly Rae Jepsen on normalizing the LGBTQ community



*“ I think questioning yourself or questioning the context you’re in comes natural to this community, and for me that’s something that I feel connected to... ”*

– Robyn



*“ I don’t think it’s anybody’s business what people’s sexuality is, to be perfectly honest. I find it like a reverse discrimination. People’s private lives are their private lives and whether I’ve ever kissed a girl – have not – is irrelevant to whatever advocacy I participate in. ”*

– Jamie Lee Curtis

## WHAT THE CELEBS SAID

*“ The idea of just being present, it’s the way I approach the relationship with my son, the not judging. I’m not going at it trying to make him into something he doesn’t want to be. ”*

– Kyle MacLachlan



*“ I know it’s still not easy in certain circles, but I like where we are and where we’re going. We preach ‘love one another’ and that’s what we’re supposed to do. ”*

– Trisha Yearwood

*“ I am letting her know that she should be free to love who she wants. I think it’s very clear that that mother is letting her know that she knows she needs to be her true self and whatever that looks like for her is incredible. ”*

– Laura Dern on playing Mrs. March in “Little Women”

*“ Keep going, keep pushing. And when the opposition is stronger, we have to push back stronger. ”*

– Adam Lambert





## Moss Statement of Support for Work Opportunities in Gaming Bill

LANSING – Sen. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield) issued the following statement after the Michigan Senate passed a bill last week that would provide employment opportunities for people with prior criminal convictions to work in the gambling industry:



“I worked on this bipartisan, bicameral legislation for the past several years as the leading Democrat on both the House and Senate Regulatory Reform Committees,” Moss said. “I think one point that must be underscored with the passage of House Bill 4307 today is that it continues our collective efforts in the 100th Legislature to create a more fair criminal justice system.”

He went on to say that this legislation’s intent is to provide “an avenue” for those with prior criminal convictions to find work in Detroit’s casinos “if they don’t pose a threat to the integrity of gaming.”

“Someone who has paid their debt

to society and has been successfully rehabilitated should be welcomed back into the workforce with open arms — and this includes the gaming industry,” Moss said. “House Bill 4307 started last year as part of a bill package I worked on with Chairman Iden to redefine ‘good moral character’ when applying for a job license with LARA so that someone’s criminal conviction cannot, in and of itself, be held against them in the initial review process. Our work is not yet done, and I’m looking forward with my colleagues to push forward the remaining bills in the gaming and ‘good moral character’ packages.”

## LGBTQ Abilities Meeting at the Salus Center

BY BTL STAFF

A peer support group for LGBTQ people with disabilities and their allies, the LGBTQ Abilities Meeting is a group that meets monthly at Lansing’s Salus Center — an LGBTQ community center that focuses on centering LGBTQ people. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 18, at 6 p.m. This month’s theme is Food for Thought.

“Let’s stand up to stigmas and stressors together!

Feel free to share (demonstrations are welcomed) and learn about important coping skills as we celebrate our achievements and mental health goals!” write event organizers. “Feel free to bring a snack to share!”

TAGLINE The Salus Center is located at 408 S Washington Square in Lansing. Find out more about this event online at [gaybe.am/Qs](http://gaybe.am/Qs).

## ‘Wicked’ Returns to East Lansing in April, Tickets on Sale Now

The Broadway hit and “East Lansing’s most popular musical” “Wicked” will return to Wharton Center’s Cobb Great hall on Wednesday, April 1, lasting through Sunday, April 19, 2020. A look at what happens in Oz long before Dorothy arrives, “Wicked” follows another young woman “born with emerald-green skin, who is smart, fiery, misunderstood and possessing an extraordinary talent.”

“Wicked’s” score includes hits like “Defying Gravity,” “Popular” and “For Good” that has earned the 16-year-old performance rave reviews by both The New York Times and Time magazine.



To find out more about the musical and to buy tickets visit [wickedthemusical.com](http://wickedthemusical.com).



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# GAY FOR LAURA DERN

## Actress Talks #GayTwitter Fans, 'Little Women' Queerness and Embracing the 'Other'

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

#GayTwitter icon Laura Dern's queer cultural contributions – being the first to hug Ellen DeGeneres after she came out publicly, the Renata Klein memes, the belted khaki shorts in “Jurassic Park” – are bountiful fodder for social media hyperbole. Every big and little thing Dern does – a new pair of glasses! Baby Yoda! – is met with great, dramatic exaltation from queer Dern-heads on Twitter. Once, I even read a tweet that asked us to imagine what the gay world would be like if gay men treated other gay men like they treat Laura Dern.

She is beloved for a vast filmography that includes parts in, of course, “Jurassic Park,” “Twin Peaks,” HBO's gone-too-soon “Enlightened,” and on DeGeneres's sitcom “Ellen,” where she portrayed DeGeneres's out lesbian love interest, Susan. More recently, she's acquired International GIF Fame thanks to her scenery-chewing performance as one of the messy Monterey Five on “Big Little Lies”: the aspirational “I will not *not* be rich” Renata Klein. Surely, too, #GayTwitter hasn't forgotten that Dern also played one half of a lesbian couple trying to conceive in the 2005 indie comedy “Happy Endings.” Your straight mom who doesn't even know what Twitter is loves Laura Dern too, but not like you love Laura Dern. Actually, on #GayTwitter, Dern *is* your mom.

Her four-decade career, which began in the early '70s, continues its upswing, where the

52-year-old actress can be seen in two of this year's best movies: as Scarlett Johansson's steely divorce lawyer in director Noah Baumbach's Golden Globe-nominated “Marriage Story,” currently on Netflix, and in writer-director Greta Gerwig's contemporary take on Louisa May Alcott's classic novel “Little Women” as Marmee, the March sisters' mother. In Gerwig's richly moving update, the mother-of-two shares at least one obligatory parenting principle with her onscreen matriarch: they both love their children unconditionally.

A safe place for her daughters, Beth, Meg, Jo and Amy, she is wise, tender and merciful – so understated Dern tells me she thinks she would make a really boring meme for the gays. But watch the Oscar-nominated actress ruminate on how she's angry “nearly every day of my life” and how she's “not patient by nature,” as she explains to Jo that she wants only the best for her, and then watch Dern demolish her husband's prized room full of pricey collectors items in “Big Little Lies” with a baseball bat. In other words, Laura Dern will not *not* have range.

In conversation, Dern is everything #GayTwitter already knows her to be: gracious, warm, thoughtful and generous (like a mom, she tells me “lots of love” before we part). Get her talking about sexual identity in film, and like her career as of late, she's an unstoppable force – six minutes over our scheduled block of time, I was the one ending our talk. Her voice bubbles and bursts as she giddily reacts to the mere existence

of a Laura Dern Gay Twitter. In between those moments, Dern traversed talking points like how her famous actor parents, Bruce Dern and Diane Ladd, raised her in a household that embraced otherness; the gratitude she received from parents of LGBTQ kids for doing “Ellen,” and how her own coming-of-age may have been different if she were growing up with the gender and sexual fluidity of our modern era.

**One of your first lines in “Little Women” is “Call me mother.” Just making sure that you're well aware that that's exactly what every gay man on Twitter wishes you'd say to him.**

(Gleefully shrieks; enthusiastically laughs.)

**That's going to be a meme.**

But here's the only thing we have to change in the meme: I don't know that they want Marmee to say that. I think they want Renata Klein to say that! (Laughs.)

**I think they want their memes to say whatever Laura Dern says.**

Oh my god, that's adorable. I feel very honored. (Laughs.)

**How has social media changed your awareness of gay culture's affection for you? I mean, I see it. You must.**

Awww. Well, let's just start with social media in general: I think I'm very lucky to be over 40

and discovering social media, because it gets to be a deep place of connection and instant information about the world and culture and the needs of the world. So as a woman, as an activist – and to connect me to other people and, yes, gay culture, as you say (laughs) – it's the greatest thing in the world.

But I'm not discovering who I am and being defined by it, and I don't know how my children's generation is handling it. It seems incredibly overwhelming, and I think I would've been way too insecure to navigate it well. So I just get to be in the fun of it. And in that way it is just the best time ever. Particularly, with “Big Little Lies,” to see the joy that is being had, to play dress up as our characters – well, even with “Star Wars” too – I did start to discover the fun of memes and just, you know, I never laughed so hard or had a better time or made more great new friends.

**Have you ever sent a Renata Klein meme in a text?**

(Reflects.) No, I have never sent (one). In fact, I send memes of other actors sometimes to people, which is really fun. I always send Oprah memes, because you look up Oprah and it's always the perfect meme for something. I think Noah and Greta texted me something recently that really made me emotional in an overwhelming way and I sent what I'm told is a meme of myself crying in “Blue Velvet.”

**Which is the meme Greta wore on her sweater**



recently at the Gotham Awards, where they presented you with the 2019 actress tribute.

She did! They've hit the hip-hop world, and I think it's time because they're amazing. Raf Simons (who designed the coordinated sweaters she and Baumbach wore as part of his 2019 fall collection) is a genius, and any designer that also pays homage to ("Blue Velvet" director) David Lynch makes me so happy.

**I'd like to talk to you about your devoted LGBTQ following. How do you explain this connection you have with LGBTQ fans, Laura? Where did that start? When were you aware?**

I'm pausing, frankly, because I probably need your help with this answer.

**Well, I guess I wonder if it was before you did "The Puppy Episode" on "Ellen" in 1997 or after that.**

I mean, I would say I feel privileged to have been raised by independently minded, radical artist parents, and I think that they have lived their lives relating to and feeling like and understanding the other, as actors, as humanists. My home was never *not* filled with people who might have categorized themselves as the other. There was never a conversation or a sit-down that happened in my childhood that involved same-sex relationships or quote "people of color" or disability. My upbringing was being raised by *everyone*.

My mother's assistant, starting from when I was age 6, was the most wonderful man in the world, and when my friends were being dropped off by a really perky, cute, blonde babysitter, I had this most amazing man, Tony, and he would babysit me. Sometimes we'd go to his apartment after school if my mom wasn't home. I met his partner, who was the most amazing man, and they were the sweetest, most loving and maternal people in my childhood, and this amazing couple. And I remember being 7 and them explaining to me, when I was like, "Are you guys married?" – as a 7-year-old would ask, when two people loved each other – that they weren't allowed to.

That was such a huge part of my childhood, not understanding that. And I am just so grateful to my parents that I got to be a kid who, at 7, wouldn't understand that, instead of being confused by a same-sex couple. And I'm raising biracial children, and it's not part of their life's conversation, but it certainly is part of their story. So I don't know. I feel like it's just always been my life, and I feel very lucky for that.

**You've said doing "The Puppy Episode" shaped and continues to shape you as an activist, advocate and parent. How did it affect you in those ways?**

I would say, yes, that that moment was pretty profound. And you could feel the gratitude of the moment for everybody involved – and the consequence. That's part of what made it so amazing, that I was so thrilled (DeGeneres) asked me, and I got to be part of that experience.

And then after it aired I did not work.

**But still, you seem to have gratitude for being a part of that moment. What kind of acknowledgement did you get from the LGBTQ community at the time?**

There were a lot of threats and challenges in the immediate, and then, suddenly, after some weeks passed, the letters started coming in. The thank-you letters from parents and grandparents for being part of something that gave them more understanding around their loved one coming out was what just really hit me hard.

**I watched that episode when I was a teenager with my mom and it helped me to eventually come out to her.**

Aww. Literally top three moments of my entire life: staring into (DeGeneres's) eyes and feeling her shake as I was holding her hands, the tears welling up as she said those words for the first time in her life, out loud. So I just feel so lucky to have been on that journey with her, and then in and around the tragedy of the loss of Matthew Shepard for (human rights organization) Amnesty International we did a lot of fundraising concerts.

Melissa Etheridge, who is one of my best friends in the world, and I did these presentations and rock shows to raise awareness, and we had our intro. She'd be like, "My name's Melissa Etheridge, and I'm a lesbian," and I'd go, "My name's Laura Dern, and I play one on TV" (laughs) and just from that Amnesty tour we had so much fun meeting so many people who were so grateful for that show. It was an amazing moment. So yeah, definitely that was a shift. But I guess (regarding) my previous comment: It never occurred to me it was a community; it was a part of my childhood. And that's why I forever am grateful to my parents to have raised me that way.

**Let's shift to "Little Women," which is essentially a story about identity.**

Absolutely.

**And we see that particularly with Jo (portrayed by Saoirse Ronan), who, as a rebel spirit, has been sort of a literary queer icon. More than any of the other films, this version strongly alludes to Jo's queerness. How might this particular version of "Little Women" resonate with the LGBTQ community more than previous iterations?**

I would say particularly held in Greta's work, in the adaptation, in the spirit of the film, but also in not only Saoirse's performance but in the relationships between myself and Saoirse and between she and Timmy's characters (Timothée Chalamet plays Jo's neighbor, Laurie). I think that there's a real gender fluidity between she and Timmy's characters: role play, a real comfort in self, a real clarity about longing and different kinds of love and redefining what love looks like in

See **Laura Dern**, continued on p. 25

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## ► Laura Dern

Continued from p. 23

their relationship. It's my interpretation and I believe Greta's, because (Saoirse) and I have a scene where we are talking about love, that I am letting her know that she should be free to love who she wants. I think it's very clear that that mother is letting her know that she knows she needs to be her true self and whatever that looks like for her is incredible.

### **So you think Marmee would be accepting of a queer Jo.**

What's incredible is when I was growing up – and I don't know if it was this way for you – it was like, are you straight or are you queer? And my kids don't define it like that at all. Love is love. And it's so gender-fluid that none of them are being defined. They don't identify as anything but loving people, and I feel like Jo is an even more modern icon in that she loves men, she loves women, she loves being alone, she loves her own independence, she doesn't want to be tied down by relationships, she feels attracted to everybody. That is Jo.

### **Do you think having less restrictions at Jo's age would've changed the way you explored your own sexuality? I think about that sometimes.**

I do too. I think certainly removing stigma from our own childhoods would make us all wildly different. And I say that not just in sexuality but as artists: If shame had been removed we wouldn't have had to define, like, "OK, well, you're a writer, and you're an actor and you're straight and you're gay." "And if you like dresses" ... I mean, my son (fashion model Ellery Harper), who has an amazing girlfriend, spent his childhood so comfortably – like, literally his entire childhood – loving to be in dresses, loving manicures; he loves fashion, he wants to design, he's always painting his nails, he's always wearing rings, he loves to explore. And he doesn't need a definition. Ahh!

### **You sound so inspired by him.**

I really am. I do believe that it would have shaped me differently. I don't know what my choices would've been, but they definitely would've been different, without question.

### **Regarding your role in "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," I want to ask you what it's meant to you to have Holdo celebrated by the queer community for her interspecies lust?**

(Excitedly, boisterously laughs.)

### **Is that the most accurate way to describe her sexuality?**

I think that's genius! (Laughs.) And I know there was lots of very interesting speculation about her sexuality. It's so exciting to play a character in that world that also will not be defined. I praise both (writer-director) Rian Johnson for his creativity, and I praise Oscar Isaac (who portrayed Poe Dameron) for playing up his sexism toward what a leader *should* look like. And so it is not just a character

on a page, and it is certainly not me as an actor bringing that to it; it's me only as one of the participants in creating an iconic character based on what everybody invested in it.

It really was exciting what they wanted a hero to look like. I mean, all the way to having the privilege of ("Star Wars" composer) John Williams – I mean, such an icon – come up to me to say, "Do you like your theme?" And I said, "What?" He goes, "Laura, it's the first time, ever, that it was such a profound moment that I just took score out and went silent." Isn't that beautiful? She was like the ultimate badass that even John Williams went, "No, there should be no sound." I'm like, amazing.

### **What did you think of the fan-fiction that said Holdo and Princess Leia were lovers? Did you read any of it?**

I did! And Rian was like, "God, that sounds fantastic." I can't say it's true, or that was in our minds, but I love that we live in a world where it's all possible. How gorgeous that, if we think of the resistance as an advanced species, that we might consider fluidity as one of their traits, as opposed to the less-evolved being the outsider or the outliers. I don't know. I like our club, guys. I like that the other – whatever that looks like – are now the popular kids.

### **It's invigorating and inspiring, and I could talk to you more about sexuality and identity, but I know you have a busy day of press.**

But I am thrilled to talk to you, and I am thrilled to talk about what it means to think differently about everything. I'll share that, for example, when I'm trying to understand who I am as a woman at this moment in my life and what that looks like, I have the privilege of meeting a lot of different writers to say, "I need someone who's gonna get me." One muse was ("Enlightened" co-creator/writer/producer) Mike White, and more recently I had the great, good fortune – the person I'm currently collaborating with on an idea is ("Slave Play" playwright) Jeremy O. Harris because I feel like he's gonna get what it is to be a woman in her late 40s trying to understand her sexuality. So you know, we all are figuring it out together. It's an exciting time. So my love affair is equal to anybody's who's willing to be a part of this party. It's a really exciting time, and I feel privileged to talk to you.

### **Thank you. I admire the choices that you make and continue to make. To end, let's bring this back to the beginning: What are your parting words for all of Laura Dern Gay Twitter?**

(Laughs hysterically.) Oh my GOD!

### **Because you know, they're gonna read this, Laura.**

Um... (ponders deeply, committing wholeheartedly to the question like the professional #GayTwitter icon she is). Let's see: May we never again read or hear the quote, "I'm gay and I'm proud," 'cause, girlfriend, if you're gay, you already know you're proud! It's redundant! I'm over that!



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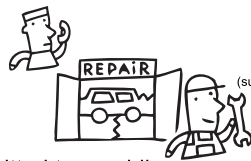
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**Royal Oak Farmer's Market**

BY BTL STAFF

The Royal Oak Farmer's market is a weekly event that allows visitors to enjoy fresh produce, specialty food items, an antiques market and much more every Saturday morning from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Located at 316 E Mile Road in Royal Oak, this event is indoors and open regardless of weather.

Find out more online at [romi.gov](http://romi.gov).

**Christmas Eve Eve Eve Eve  
Celebration Dec. 21 Royal Oak**

BY BTL STAFF

Because Michigan By The Bottle Tasting Room keeps "adding 'eves' to keep the party on a Saturday night," it's hosting a Christmas Eve Eve Eve Eve Celebration at its Royal Oak location on Saturday, Dec. 21. Guests are invited to come

and celebrate with MBTB at their signature holiday celebration.

This event includes \$7 big pours, a free selected wine sample, an ugly christmas sweater contest, live holiday music, treats from Love & Buttercream, holiday sales and much more.

"Spontaneous Christmas song singalongs welcomed and encouraged!" write event organizers. "Just drop in to participate!"

Michigan By The Bottle Tasting Room-Royal Oak is located at 29932 Woodward Ave. Find out more on the event's Facebook page [gaybe.am/Ka](http://gaybe.am/Ka).



**Onesie Bar Crawl in Royal Oak Jan. 25**

BY BTL STAFF

Grab your favorite onesie and gear up to join Detroit Crawls as it hosts its winter Onesie Bar Crawl on Saturday, Jan. 25, from 1 to 6 p.m. across Royal Oak.

"Winter is usually the time where all we want to do is sit inside in our Onesies, stay warm and wait for spring to come," write event organizers. "Well not anymore! We want everyone to get up off that couch and join us in your onesie as we mingle through multiple bars enjoying exclusive drink specials!"

Tickets to this event start at \$25 and include an LED pacifier, flashing LED glasses, a surprise gift, drink specials and much more. A portion of the proceeds from this event will go to benefit the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Onesies are not required but encouraged.

Find out more about the event online at [onesiebarcrawl.com](http://onesiebarcrawl.com).





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# Happenings

## CHAKA KHAN AT MOTORCITY CASINO HOTEL'S SOUND BOARD JAN. 26

Dubbed the Queen of Funk by fans around the world, Chaka Khan has certainly earned that title selling 70 million records worldwide, winning 10 Grammy Awards and earning a platinum-selling album, among many more achievements. On Sunday, Jan. 26, she'll make her way to MotorCity Casino Hotel's Sound Board venue. Find out more online at [313presents.com](http://313presents.com).

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## OUTINGS

### Saturday, December 21

**Queer Conversations** 11 a.m. Saturday LGBT Chat is an on going social discussion group meets every week to discuss issues LGBT people face. Coming out, dating and much more. Come join us every Saturday at 11 am. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. [redbellysenegal90@gmail.com](mailto:redbellysenegal90@gmail.com).

**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 some activities. Hazel Park Community Center, 620 West Woodward Heights, Hazel Park.

248-632-8274. [redbellysenegal90@gmail.com](mailto:redbellysenegal90@gmail.com).

### Sunday, December 22

**Catholic Weekly Liturgy for LGBTQI Community** 6 p.m. Dignity Detroit meets every Sunday evening at The School at Marygrove (formerly Marygrove College). Although the College is closing, the campus remains open. The Mass begins at 6 p.m. and is open to anyone interested. The School at Marygrove, 8425 W. McNichols, Detroit. [dignitydetroit74@yahoo.com](mailto:dignitydetroit74@yahoo.com). [dignitydetroit.org](http://dignitydetroit.org).

### Monday, December 23

**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](mailto:redbellysenegal90@gmail.com).

### Tuesday, December 24

**Strand with Trans Support Groups - Ann Arbor - Washtenaw** 6:30 p.m. Trans Support group. Parent Support Group Facilitator - Yma Johnson, [ymaj1968@](mailto:ymaj1968@)

[gmail.com](mailto:gmail.com) or 734-780-4092. Trans Youth Support Group Facilitator - Joy Cavanaugh, LPC Journey of Faith Christian Church, 1900 Manchester Road, Ann Arbor. [standwithtrans.org](http://standwithtrans.org).

### Thursday, December 26

**Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups - Farmington Hills - Oakland County** 7 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.

### Friday, January 3

**Michigan Tobacco-free Coalition for People Living with HIV (MiTCH+)** 10 a.m. A new community-led organization comprising community stakeholders, including People Living With HIV (PLWH) and people who use tobacco products. Forest Community Health Center, 2316 S Cedar, Lansing. 517-887-4597. [cwheeler@ingham.org](mailto:cwheeler@ingham.org).

### Sunday, January 5

**Stand with Trans Wyandotte Support Group for Trans Youth and Parents of Trans Individuals** 4 p.m. This free group meets the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 2803 1st St., Wyandotte. 734-747-4363. [standwithtrans.org](http://standwithtrans.org).

### Wednesday, January 15

**Transgender Support Group - Westland** 6 p.m. Free adult support group held on the third Wednesday of each month at the Westland Public Library Meeting Room B, 7-8:30pm. All trans, non-binary and GNC people and allies welcome. Westland

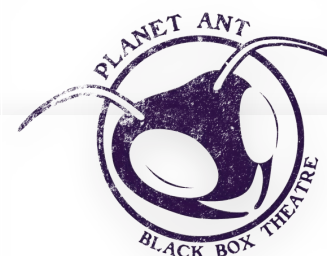
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PUZZLE P. 31

## Editor's Pick

### MONDAY NIGHT IMPROV AT PLANET ANT

Planet Ant is home to "the longest-running improv show in all of history, ever" and invites fresh and new comedians to take the stage. At the end of the night, the show ends with the Ant Jam where "you come up and play." Doors open for this event a 7 p.m. and cover is \$5. Find out more online at [gaybe.am/du](http://gaybe.am/du).

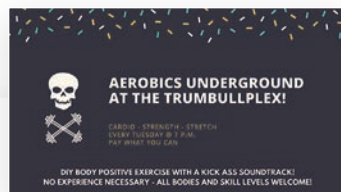




## Editor's Pick

### AEROBICS UNDERGROUND AT THE TRUMBULLPLEX

Those interested in a "weekly aerobics party" should visit the Trumbullplex every Tuesday at 7 p.m. There, each class features warm up, cardio of varying impact levels, bodyweight and strength training, and a yoga-style stretch and cooldown. Find out more about this pay-what-you-can event online at [gaybe.am/tv](http://gaybe.am/tv).



Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. 734-326-6123. [westlandlibrary.org](http://westlandlibrary.org).

### MUSIC & MORE

**Moscow Ballet's 'Great Russian Nutcracker'** December 22, 12 p.m. Coming to Detroit's Fox Theatre for three performances, the "Great Russian Nutcracker" will stun with hundreds of costumes, sets and more. Tickets start at \$29. [gaybe.am/wN](http://gaybe.am/wN) Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-471-6611. [gaybe.am/wN](http://gaybe.am/wN).

**Toastmasters International SpeakOUT! LGBTQ Meeting** December 26, 7 p.m. LGBTQ Toastmaster Club focusing on Professional and personal communication

skills development. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. [lawrencemoeb@gmail.com](mailto:lawrencemoeb@gmail.com). [speakout.toastmastersclubs.org](http://speakout.toastmastersclubs.org).

**The Believers Are But Brothers** January 22, 7:30 p.m. An electronic maze of fantasists, meme culture, 4chan, the alt-right and ISIS. We live in a time where old orders are collapsing: from the post-colonial nation states of the Middle East to the EU. Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. 734-764-2538. [ums.org](http://ums.org).

### THEATER

**Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Souffle** December 21, 7 p.m. A world premier by David MacGregor and directed by Michelle Mountain, it's Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Souffle. Purple Rose Theater, 137 Park St., Chelsea. 734-433-7673.

[purplerosetheatre.org](http://purplerosetheatre.org).

**National Theatre Live in HD: All My Sons** January 19, 7 p.m. Academy Award-winner Sally Field (Steel Magnolias, Lincoln) and Bill Pullman (The Sinner, Independence Day) star in Arthur Miller's blistering drama. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397. [ums.org](http://ums.org).

**A Bronx Tale** January 21, 8 p.m. Three years ago, Academy Award nominee Chazz Palminteri teamed up with Academy Award®-winner Robert De Niro, Tony® Award-winner Jerry Zaks and Tony® Award-nominee Sergio Trujillo to create this streetwise musical. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-872-1000. [broadwayindetroit.com](http://broadwayindetroit.com).

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# Deep Inside Hollywood

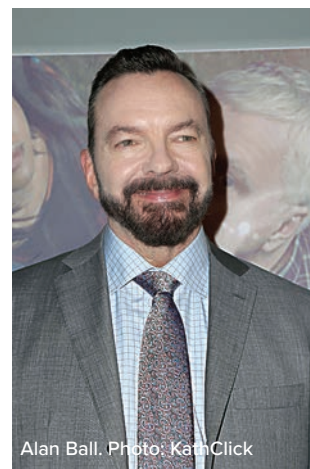
BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

## The Go-Go's documentary of your dreams is here

The Go-Go's were among the first punk rockers in Los Angeles, but when the time came to choose Black Flag-style hardcore (they used to play shows with those guys) or bouncy pop punk, the tightly-knit band of women opted for the latter and became superstars. Over 40 years later comes a suitably legend-status documentary about them called, simply, "The Go-Go's." Directed by Alison Ellwood ("American Jihad") and covering the origins, burst of '80s fame, controversies, breakups and reunions, the doc promises full access to the stories of Jane Wiedlin, Belinda Carlisle, Gina Schock, Charlotte Caffey and Kathy Valentine, the women behind the most successful all-female rock band of all time. We're not sure if their queer icon status will get a lot of play, but any Gen X fan will tell you the band was always a favorite of so many queer boys and girls in their heyday (and that queerness has always been part of the band, too, since Jane is bisexual and Gina is... well, Gina is the quiet sort). In other words, we want to watch this thing yesterday, but will have to wait until its premiere at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival.

## 'Uncle Frank' rides along on a gay 1970s road trip

Alan Ball, the man who created "Six Feet Under" and shepherded "True Blood" to television, has written and directed a new queer-themed road-trip film. It's called "Uncle Frank," it's set in 1973, and it follows an 18-year-old woman (Sophia Lillis, "It") and her gay uncle (Paul Bettany) as they drive from Manhattan to South Carolina for the funeral of the family patriarch. Along for the ride is Uncle Frank's partner (Peter Macdissi, "Six Feet Under"), a relationship that we're going to guess provides some of the early-'70s-queer-in-the-South tension when that funeral goes down. The logline says it's a film about family and forgiveness, which sounds very heartwarming. Of course, we're also hoping for some righteous post-Stonewall rage thrown in for emotional accuracy, but knowing Alan Ball's track record with queer characters we're not at all worried about it going too soft and mushy. The film premieres at Sundance 2020 before hitting some sort of arthouse theatrical window later in the year; it co-stars Steve Zahn, Judy Greer and Margo Martindale, and we're looking forward



Alan Ball. Photo: KariClick

to the ride.

## 'Bad Hair's brush with terror

In 2017 when we last spoke of "Bad Hair," a horror comedy from "Dear White People" creator Justin Simien, there was only a goofy intention to create a film about a haunted hair weave that troubles the existence of an aspiring pop music singer in 1989 (peak New Jack Swing, and we have deep hopes for a Karyn White-meets-Keith Sweat soundtrack). Now

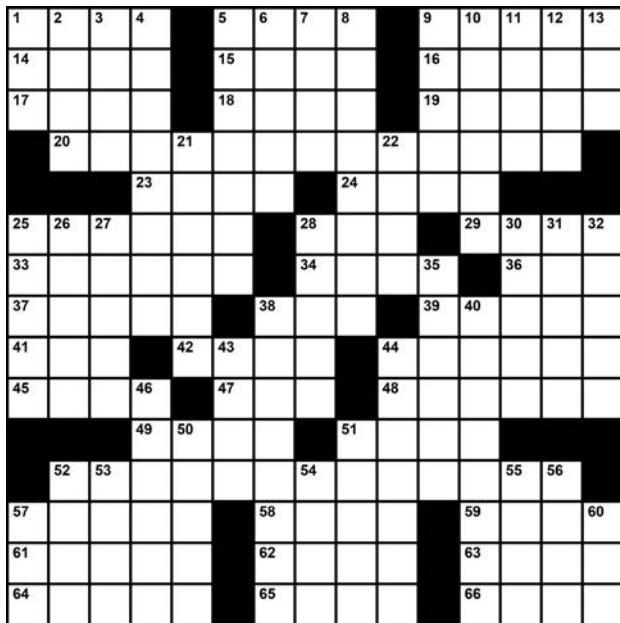
there's a finished feature and it's hitting 2020's Sundance Film Festival. It cannot hurt this movie's prospects that since 2017, the British film "In Fabric," a horror comedy about a murderous red dress, has drawn praise from critics and paved the way for more entries in the cinematic subgenre of The Haunted Item. Loving the cast, too: Elle Lorraine ("Insecure"), Vanessa Williams, Jay Pharoah, Lena Waithe, Blair Underwood and Laverne Cox. We're extremely ready for this one to flip our wig.

## The International Male catalog will find you again

If you are, let's say, a younger queer Baby Boomer or any age in the Gen X spectrum, it is almost a certainty that you once (or many, many, *many* times) laid eyes on the International Male catalog. Before you ever had the nerve to come out, somehow that catalog found its way to your home. It knew your name. It knew what you wanted. Even if you never dared buy a mesh thong or fluffy pirate blouse or screaming orange jump suit, it knew that the image of very attractive male models wearing those clothes (especially the underwear, where no bulge was left on the editing room floor) was going to appeal to you in some spiritual way. Over three decades the IM catalog was, as much as any Calvin Klein underwear billboard, a window into queer male aesthetics. And now it's a film. "All Man: The International Male Movie," currently in production, from directors Bryan Darling and Jesse Finley Reed, will explore just what it meant to be an iconic part of the male-on-male gaze's impact on mainstream culture. Interview subjects so far: Carson Kressley, Jake Shears, and former IM models Brian Buzzini and Steve Lyon. We're sure more will follow. And we'll be following this project's progress until it's ready for its place in the horny nostalgic sun.

Romeo San Vicente wore the International Male mesh bikini brief because he wanted to and because he looked amazing in it.





## Original Cyndi

## Q Puzzle

### Across

- 1 Bushy do
- 5 Just right
- 9 "Desperate Housewives," and others
- 14 Navratilova, for one
- 15 "That smarts!"
- 16 Belief statement at Metropolitan Community Church
- 17 Menu option

- 18 Load of money
- 19 Ban targets
- 20 Start of a song title of 44-Across
- 23 Future queen of "Star Wars"
- 24 Type of sci, in college
- 25 Penetrating path
- 28 Type of top
- 29 Trojans' org.
- 33 More of the title
- 34 Unit of flagellation
- 36 Lubricant

- 37 Start of a Sappho title, perhaps
- 38 End of the title
- 39 \_\_\_ Cologne
- 41 Airport in Israel
- 42 Abercrombie & Fitch event
- 44 Cyndi, who was awarded the 1st Human Rights Prize for work with LGBTQ youth
- 45 Anthem starter
- 47 California's Big \_\_\_
- 48 Wilde man
- 49 "Yeah, right!"
- 51 Bottomless
- 52 Another song by 44-Across
- 57 "Don't Cry \_\_\_ Argentina"
- 58 Make money
- 59 Features of Disney's Dumbo
- 61 Ready to shoot off
- 62 Lacking manners
- 63 Do a nocturnal activity
- 64 Wet-eyed
- 65 Direction from Susan Feniger
- 66 William of "Edmond"

### Down

- 1 Symbol of Tammy Baldwin's party
- 2 Rainbow banner, e.g.
- 3 Singer Norah's father
- 4 Excessive ejaculation?
- 5 On deck, on a pirate ship
- 6 Board type
- 7 Sometime defender of gay rts.
- 8 Woman or man of parts
- 9 Grinch's look
- 10 Raise to the status of Carter Heywood
- 11 Long, long time
- 12 Like boobs that don't sag
- 13 '60s radical org.
- 21 "\_\_\_ of Grass"
- 22 Todd Oldham designs
- 25 Prefix for Da Vinci's land
- 26 Failure to accept others, and others
- 27 Mary's "MTM" girlfriend
- 28 More sad about having no porn movies?
- 30 Sedan alternative
- 31 Senatorial staffers
- 32 Ready for anything
- 35 "Citizen Kane" model
- 38 They help porn stars stand erect
- 40 Dorothy Gale lived with her
- 43 Bangkok continent
- 44 Pupil of composer Loewe?
- 46 Talk too much
- 50 Like a nocturnal emission?
- 51 "Aida" composer
- 52 Went lickety-split
- 53 Shirley's la Douce role
- 54 Having no play
- 55 One of the Three Bears
- 56 Actor McCormack
- 57 Target for Richard Simmons
- 60 Oink pen

Find solution on page 28 and at [www.pridesource.com](http://www.pridesource.com)

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## AIDS/HIV

There are dozens of AIDS/HIV organizations and resources listed at [www.PrideSource.com](http://www.PrideSource.com). Here are just some of them:

### Metro Care Coordination Network

Free, comprehensive services for those living with HIV/AIDS.  
877-931-3248  
248-266-5545  
[Metrocarenetwork.org](http://Metrocarenetwork.org)

### UNIFIED - HIV Health & Beyond

3968 Mt. Elliott St.  
Detroit MI 48207-1841  
313-446-9800  
[www.miunified.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.accesscommunity.org)

## Advocacy

### Equality Michigan

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

## Campus

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

### U-M Ann Arbor

Spectrum Center  
[Spectrumcenter@umich.edu](mailto:Spectrumcenter@umich.edu)  
<http://spectrumcenter.umich.edu>  
734-763-4186

### Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center

[gsc@oakland.edu](mailto:gsc@oakland.edu)  
[www.oakland.edu/gsc](http://www.oakland.edu/gsc)  
248-370-4336

### Eastern Michigan University

LGBT Resource Center  
[emich.edu/lgbtrc](mailto:emich.edu/lgbtrc)  
734-487-4149

### The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center

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

## Community Centers

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

### Jim Toy Community Center

Ann Arbor  
[www.jimtoycenter.org](http://www.jimtoycenter.org)  
[www.facebook.com/jimtoycenter](https://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](http://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/](https://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](http://www.aclumich.org)  
313-578-6800

### Fair Michigan

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

### Know Your Rights Project

Outlaws U-M student group  
[outlawslegal@gmail.com](mailto:outlawslegal@gmail.com)  
734-995-9867

## Older Adults

### SAGE Metro Detroit

290 W. Nine Mile Rd. Ferndale, MI  
313-578-6812  
[sagemetrodetroit.org](http://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)  
Stonewall for Revolution  
[www.facebook.com/stonewall4reolution](https://www.facebook.com/stonewall4reolution)

## Professional Groups

### Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 32446  
Detroit, MI 48232  
[detroitlgbtchamber.com](http://detroitlgbtchamber.com)  
1-800-DET-LGBT

### Ties Like Me

Professional networking events  
third Weds. 5:30 - 8 p.m.  
[TiesLikeMe.org](http://TiesLikeMe.org)  
Suits And The City  
Lansing, MI  
[suitsandthecity@gmail.com](mailto:suitsandthecity@gmail.com)  
[www.suitsandthecity.org](http://www.suitsandthecity.org)

## Transgender

### FtM Detroit

<https://www.facebook.com/FtMDetroit/>  
[ftmdetroit@gmail.com](mailto:ftmdetroit@gmail.com)

## Get Listed, Promote Your Events

You can add or update any listing by going to [www.PrideSource.com](http://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](http://www.PrideSource.com) and clicking on Calendar, then "Add Event." Send any press releases and announcements to [editor@pridesource.com](mailto:editor@pridesource.com)



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### FtM A2 Ypsi

[ftmannarborypsilanti@gmail.com](mailto:ftmannarborypsilanti@gmail.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/ftma2ypsi/>

### Transgender Michigan

23211 Woodward Ave.  
Ferndale, MI  
[info@transgendermichigan.org](mailto:info@transgendermichigan.org)  
[www.transgendermichigan.org](http://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](mailto:info@tscopdetroit.org)  
[www.facebook.com/TSCOPD/](https://www.facebook.com/TSCOPD/)

## Youth

### Ruth Ellis Center

77 Victor Street, Highland Park, MI 48203  
[info@ruthelliscenter.org](mailto: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](http://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



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